

**CENTRAL BUCKS REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION**

**Minutes**

**March 27, 2017**

The monthly meeting of the Central Bucks Regional Police Commission was called to order by Chairman John Abbott at 7:30 PM. All Commission members were present with the exception of Mr. Ron Strouse. Also present were Chief James Donnelly, Captain Karl Knott, Captain Pat Penecale, and Mr. David Sander. Captain Knott led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CHANGES, ADDITIONS, DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:** None.

**CONSENT:** A motion was made by Ms. Marilyn Becker to dispense with the reading of the minutes from February 28, 2017 Commission meeting and approval to disburse \$93,930.46 from the general fund to pay invoices from February 24, 2017 to March 24, 2017; seconded by Mr. Det Ansinn. Motion approved.

**SPECIAL ITEMS:**

***Commendations*** – Officer Joshua Albillar was presented a Merit Commendation for his effort and diligence in pursuing a struck pedestrian report to its conclusion resulting in arrest. Officer Michael McAllister was presented a Merit Commendation for his diligent efforts preventing a theft suspect from fleeing Pennsylvania and subsequent arrest. Officer Andrew Hochmuth was presented a Merit Commendation for his diligence to duty by stopping two suspects in the act of criminal mischief and criminal trespass. All three officers were commended for their actions bringing credit to Central Bucks Regional Police Department.

**MONTHLY REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS:**

***Budget Report*** – Chief Donnelly reported expenses for February 2017 were \$773,855.29 or 14.41% of the annual budget.

***Monthly Activity Report*** – Chief Donnelly reported 2,180 incidents for February (CB-505; DB-1233; NBB-442); reportable accidents totaled 5 (CB-2; DB-2; NBB-1); total Part I Crimes 8 (CB-0; DB-5, NBB-3); and total Part II Crimes totaled 49 (CB-5; DB-34; NBB-10).

***Grant Funding Report*** – Chief Donnelly reported the PLCB 2-year grant for Underage and Dangerous Drinking will be submitted this week. The Department is exploring other state funding for materials and equipment associated with a CBRPD formal program. The Department will also be participating in CrimeWatch as part of the District Attorney's grant. CrimeWatch should be launched within a couple of weeks and will provide citizens information regarding arrests and incidents as well as an avenue for providing tips to police.

***Finance Committee Report*** – The Finance Committee did not meet during March due to lack of agenda.

***Police Chief Search Committee Report*** – Mr. O'Brien reported the Committee met on March 10, 2017 to finalize a recommendation for a search firm for the new Police Chief. The Meyner Center had

been previously eliminated based on not having significant experience with selecting a police chief. The two remaining candidate proposals were compared (Safe City and PA Chief of Police Association) regarding timeline, costs, and scope of search. The Committee recommends the PA Chief of Police Association to be awarded the contract for the sum of \$5,000 plus expenses with an estimated total of \$6,500. Mr. O'Brien stated this was well within the \$20,000 hiring budget. Chief Donnelly pointed out the \$20,000 was also for promotional testing and hiring of officers as needed; \$10,000 was reserved for the police chief search. A notional task list and timeline were also submitted to the Commission which included significant dates of awarding the contract by April 10, 2017 and providing three top candidates to the Commission at the September 25, 2017 monthly meeting.

Chief Donnelly offered comments to the Commission for consideration. He stated the need to hire a police chief search firm may be constituting unnecessary spending as the Department has a viable candidate on board in the Department. He further stated a search would be futile as any candidate that may be presented could not match the education and experience of Captain Karl Knott; he would be head and shoulders above any prospective candidate who would apply. Additionally, Captain Knott already possesses every day experience with a regional police department. Chief Donnelly stated if the Commission is pleased with the way the Department is currently operating, he would suggest the Commission consider Captain Knott as the number one candidate as he is doing an excellent job and deserves the position. Chief Donnelly pointed out that either Captain Knott or Captain Penecale would be a good fit, however his recommendation for Captain Knott over Captain Penecale was due to future commitment to the Department. Captain Penecale has entered the DROP program with under five years of service remaining and Captain Knott can commit to twelve plus years of service.

There was discussion and comments as follows: Mr. Det Ansinn agreed Captain Knott is doing an excellent job, especially with the numerous civil demonstrations in Doylestown Borough. Mr. Peter LaMontagne raised the idea of looking at other police departments for possible future mergers where that department's police chief would move over to CBRPD as the police chief. In response, Mr. Ansinn stated CBRPD that Captain Knott provides a level of play that exists at CBRPD as being substantially higher than surrounding departments; Captain Knott has provided a seamless integration with Chalfont Borough police merger. He further stated there is a comfort level with either Captains Knott or Penecale knowing the municipalities are in good hands. Chief Donnelly concurred. Regardless of the above comments, Mr. Ansinn explained the Commission needs to do its due diligence during the police chief search and that it's important to go through the process if only to validate that Captain Knott is the best candidate. Mr. John Engel reminded the Commission that an additional fee for background check of a potential police chief would net an expense of approximately \$2,500 to \$3,000. Mr. John Abbott replied those funds would come from a different area of the budget.

A motion was made by Mr. Ansinn to award the police search contract to the PA Chiefs of Police Association at the estimated cost of \$6,500; seconded by Ms. Marilyn Becker. Motion approved unanimously by roll call vote 6-0.

Mr. LaMontagne requested all previous merger studies for his review. Mr. Ansinn will provide. Mr. Jack O'Brien thanked Mr. Engel and Ms. Robyne Kelemen for participating in the Police Search

Committee and the Boroughs' staff for providing additional information. Mr. Abbott further thanked the Committee for their diligence. Mr. Abbott instructed the contract be distributed to Commission members and Chief Donnelly to sign the contract and engage the PA Chief of Police Association for the search upon review of the Solicitor. Mr. O'Brien will notify the PA Chief of Police Association that they will be awarded the contract.

**Formation of Police Chief Selection Committee** – The Commission decided to name the three alternate members, representing the respective Boroughs, to be on the Police Chief Selection Committee for purposes of oversight.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Alarm Ordinances** – Chief Donnelly reported the ordinances are being worked on to align all three municipalities with a consistent ordinance.

**Civil Demonstrations** – Chief Donnelly reported Doylestown Borough continues to work with their Solicitor on policies governing civil demonstrations. He further reported that training for civil disobedience, presented by DVIT, will be attended by himself and Captains Knott and Penecale on April 19, 2017.

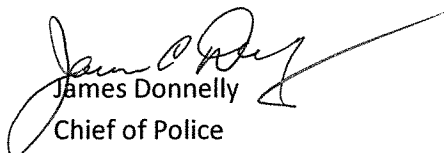
**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Sale of Patrol Vehicles** – Chief Donnelly advised the Commission that CBRPD has accepted an offer, through Municibid, for the sale of the Department's Durango patrol vehicle in the amount of \$2,125. An additional patrol vehicle, also a Durango, will be placed on Municibid for sale upon completion of repair to the damaged door. He further advised CBRPD has received an offer of \$795 for old radios and suggested the Commission accept the bid. All Commission members agreed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Mr. Holewinski to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM; seconded by Mr. Ansinn. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,

  
James Donnelly  
Chief of Police