

CENTRAL BUCKS REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION

Minutes

July 25, 2016

The monthly meeting of the Central Bucks Regional Police Commission was called to order by Vice Chairman Ron Strouse at 7:30 PM. All Commission members were present except Mr. David Holewinski, Mr. Jack O'Brien, Ms. Robyne Kelemen, and Mr. John Engle. Also present were Chief James Donnelly, Detective Sergeant Lance Carlen and Mr. David Sander. Mr. Strouse led the Pledge of Allegiance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 7:31 PM, the Commission adjourned to Executive Session for consideration of personnel promotion to Corporal. The Commission returned to public session at 7:41 PM.

PROMOTION: Mr. Det Ansinn made a motion to promote Officer Keith Dietz to the position of Corporal; seconded by Mr. Peter LaMontagne. Motion approved. Mr. Ron Strouse conducted the Corporal Oath of Office for Officer Keith Dietz.

NEW HIRE: Mr. Strouse explained Mr. Jeff Watson is being considered for a Part-Time Police Officer; Mr. Watson scored 96% at the Reading Police Academy and is currently a Sergeant in the PA Army National Guard. Mr. LaMontagne made a motion to hire Mr. Jeff Watson as a Part-Time Police Officer; seconded by Mr. Ansinn. Motion approved. Mr. Strouse conducted the swearing in and Oath of Office for Mr. Watson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Ms. Marilyn Becker to approve the meeting minutes of June 27, 2016; seconded by Mr. Ansinn. Motion approved.

FINANCE REPORT: Chief Donnelly reported expenses for June YTD were \$2,091,299.62 or 41.01% of the annual budget. A six-month review of the budget was presented showing legal expenses 81.11%, Training/Dues/Meetings at 64.55%, Overtime at 67.78%; all categories will most likely be over budget by year end. The Corporal salaries, currently at 62.9%, will show a cost savings of approximately \$40,000 by year end as a result of Corporal Lenahan's resignation and settlement with the insurance company. Detective Supplies spending is at 85.68% and will not be over budget by year end. Gas and Vehicle Maintenance, 25.96% and 40.23% respectively, are under budget. Upcoming purchases will drive the Capital budget, currently at 26.92%, more in line with the annual budget.

Mr. John Abbott expressed concern about mental health training for officers and requested funds be included in the training budget for 2017 for that purpose. Chief Donnelly stated all officers receive 40-hour Crisis Intervention Training from Lenape Valley Crisis; new officers will receive this training as they are hired.

Mr. LaMontagne raised the issue of CBRPD's community policing involvement, specifically in schools, and would like to discuss at a later date. Chief Donnelly explained CBRPD conducts DARE training for sixth graders in Doylestown Borough's elementary schools. Additionally, internet safety training is offered to middle school and high school students. Mr. LaMontagne asked about Pine Run Elementary. Chief Donnelly stated New Britain Borough Police had conducted TEAM training to the sixth graders, which is a similar program to DARE.

POLICE ACTIVITY: Chief Donnelly reported 1,856 incidents for June (CB-399; DB-1,096; NBB-361); reportable accidents totaled 4 (CB-1; DB-2; NBB-1); Part I Crimes totaled 36 (CB-29; DB-6; NBB-1); and Part II Crimes totaled 48 (CB-6; DB-39; NBB-3).

Mr. Abbott inquired about CBRPD assisting other police departments and how costs incurred in that effort are credited to CBRPD. Chief Donnelly explained that Chalfont, Doylestown and New Britain Borough have assisted outside agencies for years. Since January 2016, CBRPD has assisted other agencies in the amount of 124.25 hours; and, has received assistance from other agencies for 151.01 hours. He further explained with small police departments having a limited number of officers on the street, occasional assistance is required. Assistance can be provided for calls for service, accidents, and traffic control. CBRPD does not charge for this service as back up is received from surrounding jurisdictions as well.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

Civil Service Commission – Mr. Strouse updated the Commission on the swearing in of Alternate Members for the Civil Service Commission: Ms. Susan Madian (Doylestown) and Ms. Margaret Remmey (New Britain). Ms. Madian and Ms. Remmey have already taken an active role and participated in the certification of the promotional eligibility list.

PCCD Chief Salary Grant – Chief Donnelly reported the PCCD has awarded Year 3 funding of the Chief's Salary grant in the amount of \$16,500 for reporting period July 2016 through June 2017. This represents final funding for the PCCD grant.

Body-Worn Camera Pilot Program – Chief Donnelly reported three officers in the department are wearing body-worn cameras as part of the pilot. The officers are on different shifts. The procedure requires officers to narrate what he/she is doing from the time a call for service is received. This would include, for instance, why a traffic stop is being conducted and what type/model of vehicle is being stopped. Chief Donnelly further explained the narration assists when video is viewed in court and supports probable cause for effective prosecution. The video footage has become particularly important for DUI arrests as the Supreme Court recently made a decision which changes the rules for acquiring blood work. A search warrant must now be obtained if a subject refuses to give blood; this creates another issue at the hospital and their reluctance to follow through against subject's wishes. The video footage would show the field sobriety tests being conducted which will add an additional layer of proof to the officer's conclusion. Mr. Strouse asked if body-worn camera procedures impact response time. Chief Donnelly stated negatively as the officer simply narrates while in motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. Ansinn to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 PM; seconded by Mr. LaMontagne. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,

James Donnelly
Chief of Police