

CENTRAL BUCKS REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION

Minutes

July 28, 2014

The monthly meeting of the Central Bucks Regional Police Commission was called to order by Chairman David Holewinski at 7:30 PM. All commission members were present. Also present were Chief Donnelly, Ms. Robin Trymbiski, and Mr. David Sander. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Holewinski.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Mr. Det Ansinn to approve the meeting minutes of June 23, 2014; seconded by Ms. Margaret Remmey. Motion approved.

Finance Report:

Budget 2014 - Chief Donnelly submitted the six-month finance report and stated CBRPD was under budget at the mid-year point – 48%. The overtime budget is over due to two officer injuries and absence for six months. Chief Donnelly explained the need to hire two additional part time officers bringing the department to a total of five part time officers, which would reduce some of the overtime costs going forward. Mr. Ron Strouse asked for clarification on a couple of budget items, all of which were addressed by Chief Donnelly: Repairs/Maintenance is at 70% of budget – office equipment is usually paid up front in January; Life Insurance is at 78% of budget and Workers' Compensation – these items were budgeted before the actual cost was known; Clothing/Uniform – front end loaded for the merger, this will be reduced once State reimburses through the approved grant; Capital – due to vehicle purchases. Ms. Susan Madian inquired about crossing guard reimbursement. Chief Donnelly explained the School District will reimburse for that expense but do not pay up front. Chief Donnelly further stated the District Attorney's office owes CBRPD approximately \$12,000 for narcotic work reimbursement. This amount represents September to June (Sept through Dec is for Doylestown Borough); the remainder is for CBRPD. Chief Donnelly spoke with Chief Chris McAteer, County Detectives, about the reimbursement delay. Chief McAteer said it was due to some internal issues that are being resolved. Mr. David Sanders offered to write a letter, as Solicitor, to attempt retrieving the funds, if the monies are not forthcoming in the near future.

Budget 2015 – The budget for 2015 will be ready for the next Commission meeting. Once the Commission approves the budget it will progress to the individual Boroughs for their approval.

Cost Analysis – The current cost distribution per municipality is Doylestown Borough 74%; New Britain Borough 26%. Chief Donnelly submitted the cost analysis for 2015 indicating Doylestown Borough 72%, New Britain Borough 28%. The cost distribution has changed primarily due to an increase in calls for service which constitute an increase in directed patrols. The benefit of directed patrols is Part 1 and 2 crimes are reduced in both municipalities. Directed Patrols are assignments given to Officers as a result of complaints or research done internally due to problem or crime trends. In a three year comparison, crimes are down as follows: Doylestown – Burglary 63%, Vandalism 68%, DUI 28%, Liquor Laws 72% and Drunkenness 35%; New Britain Borough – Theft 36%, Vandalism 75%, DUI 80%, Liquor Laws 85% and Disorderly Conduct 60%.

Chief Donnelly stated a quarterly report will be submitted to the Commission to show crime trends.

Mr. Strouse made a motion to accept the Financial Reports and the Cost Distribution Analysis as written; seconded by Mr. Ansinn. Motion approved.

Police Activity Report: The 6-month activity was covered under the Cost Analysis. In addition, Chief Donnelly explained reportable accidents are down to 26 cumulative for both Boroughs in the first six months of 2014. They had been as high as 127 in previous years. This is a result of engineering as well as traffic enforcements for selected locations in an effort to reduce accidents. When accidents and crime are reduced, the cost to citizens is reduced, as well. Burglaries are also down with only five, cumulative for both Boroughs, in the first six months; normally, Doylestown Borough averages 25 burglaries per year. Mr. Ansinn made a motion to accept the Police Activity Report as written; seconded by Mr. Strouse. Motion approved.

Attaboy – Chief Donnelly shared with the Commission an FB posting giving accolades to Officer David Carlen. During the last power outage, Officer Carlen donated his own personal generator to help a resident. Officer Ed Kraft assisted in setting up the generator at the resident's home.

New Business:

Crime Mapping – Chief Donnelly made a presentation on the new Crime Mapping system CBRPD has purchased. Slides showed the different views available including entire jurisdiction, Borough focus, neighborhood focus, and property lot focus. Additional slides plotted Burglaries and Thefts.

Kolbe 100th Anniversary – The Doylestown Historic Society has invited CBRPD to participate in the 100th Anniversary of Kolbe on September 22, 2014 at the cemetery. Kolbe was a Doylestown Constable who was killed on September 22, 1914 while making an arrest. Chief Donnelly will advise the Commission of the time, once determined, and invited all to attend. Mr. Ansinn made a motion to support the Chief and CBRPD to participate in the 100th Anniversary of Kolbe on September 22, 2014; seconded by Ms. Madian. Motion approved.

Marketing – Chief Donnelly proposed marketing the Department's successes in an effort to inform the citizen's of both municipalities, as well as other municipalities with focus on additional police departments merging with CBRPD. Currently, citizens of Central Bucks pay one million dollars per year for nine police chiefs; each making over \$100,000 per year. A chart displaying the cost reduction of building a new police station depending on the number of departments involved. CBRPD's crime trend reduction is an additional compelling argument for citizens to be aware of. Chief Donnelly stated the ability to control crime from the borders working inward would have significant impact. The Commission agreed marketing the department is essential to it's' growth and added showing the financial profitability through combining police services is persuasive. Chief Donnelly added, the benefit is not just in salary and benefits, but also in technology (i.e. the crime mapping system cost of \$7,000). Mr. Ansinn compared the potential large merger to that of the Central Bucks School District; originally each municipality had its own school system. The Commission discussed a town meeting, outside of the monthly Commission meeting, inviting residents of both municipalities and all Central Bucks township/borough council members and supervisors. The timeframe of presentation would be in October when more statistics were accumulated. Both Borough Managers would be invited to publicly testify to the cost savings. Mr. Ansinn suggested bringing the success to the County Commissioners and Senator McIlhinney, as well. In the short term, both Councils were invited to promote the successes and share the six-month successes through social media and word of mouth.

Old Business:

RFP Pension Investment and Actuarial Services – Proposals were distributed to Mr. Strouse and Ms. Madian for review. A meeting will be set up to discuss. Ms. Madian will be out of town beginning August 17, 2014.

Police Facility – Doylestown Public Works meeting will be held on August 4, 2014 at 6:00 PM in Doylestown Borough Chambers to discuss building options. Mr. Phil Elhinger has completed his study, including the New Britain Borough properties. All are invited to attend. Ms. Madian suggested publicizing the meeting further so that residents are aware, from the beginning. Mr. Ansinn explained that e-mails and social media are used to get the word out; additionally, Council members can reach out to the public to encourage public participation.

Public Comment : Mr. Joe Flood congratulated Chief Donnelly on the 6-month success of the Police Department.

Executive Session: At 8:15 PM, the Commission adjourned for an Executive Session.

Adjournment: The Commission returned from Executive Session at 8:27 PM, followed by a motion to adjourn by Mr. Ansinn; seconded by Mr. Strouse. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,

James Donnelly
Chief of Police