

CENTRAL BUCKS REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION
Minutes
April 27, 2015

The monthly meeting of the Central Bucks Regional Police Commission was called to order by Chairman Ron Strouse at 7:34 PM. All Commission members were present with the exception of Mr. David Holewinski. Also present were Chief James Donnelly, Mr. David Sander, and Mr. John Davis.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Mr. Det Ansinn to approve the meeting minutes of March 23, 2015; seconded by Ms. Robyne Kelemen. Motion approved.

FINANCE REPORT:

Finance Committee - Mr. Ansinn reported the Finance Committee did not meet this month due to lack of agenda.

Budget Adjustment – Chief Donnelly requested a budget adjustment to \$4,000 be made for the DNA database originally budgeted for \$3,000. Last year’s database was a collaborative effort among SWAT’s 19 municipalities. In March, 2015, the Police Chief’s Association coordinated a Bucks Countywide DNA Initiative which extends the original region to 39 cooperating departments. It is the first multi-jurisdictional countywide project for DNA in the United States that is anticipated to be operational by end of April. The 39 departments collective funds total \$204,375 for the project, which will be matched by the County for a grand total of \$408,750. Due to time constraints, Chief Donnelly committed the Department to the new initiative. A motion was made by Ms. Nancy Schuyler to approve the increase to \$4,000 for the DNA Database for 2015; seconded by Mr. Ansinn. Motion approved.

Grants Update – Regional Assistance Grant (RAG) - Chief’s Salary - just completed Year 1 with a reimbursement of \$49,500. Year 2 has been approved for \$33,000. Year 3 may be applied for during the first quarter of 2016 for \$18,000. PLCB Grant – Application was submitted on 2/11/15. Awards are not anticipated to be announced until end of May/early June with a start date of July 2015. Year 1 funding requested for \$1,682 with a CBRPD match of \$5,000, Year 2 funding request for same amounts as Year 1. This includes a \$2,000 equipment purchase toward body cameras. DVIT Equipment Grant – There is a \$3,000 grant available to CBRPD for equipment to be used by year end. Municipal Assistance Grant (MAG) - \$14,318 in funds remain toward the purchase of equipment. CBRPD is responsible for \$12,578 of this total as match funds which has been budgeted for 2015. Chief Donnelly informed the Commission a decision on purchasing equipment needs to be made in the very near future; in-car computer tablets at \$2,756/ea (MAG funds \$14,318) or body cameras \$4,000/ea (PLCB, DVIT, MAG funds totaling \$19,318).

County Detective Reimbursement – Chief McAteer from County Detectives has requested a final amount from Chief Donnelly for reimbursements. Chief Donnelly reported the following reimbursements expected: 2013 \$3,507.36 and 2014 \$8,600.59. For 2015, the County has capped narcotics investigation reimbursement for CBRPD to \$7,000. Chief Donnelly explained to Commission members, regardless of the cap in reimbursement, CBRPD will continue to conduct narcotics investigation work; however, this expenditure has not been budgeted for 2015.

POLICE ACTIVITY: Police Activity Report for the month of March, 2015 was submitted.

NEW BUSINESS:

License Plate Reader – CBRPD was selected to receive an ELSAG License Plate Reader (LPR) worth \$20,000 courtesy of the Philadelphia Area 5-County Anti-Terrorism Task Force. Chief Donnelly explained LPR's capture up to 1,800 reads per minute, day or night; recognizes plates from all 50 states; alerts officers immediately if a vehicle is suspect; and identifies suspended and revoked drivers. Cameras are scheduled to be installed on one patrol vehicle over the next two months. Additionally, wiring on a second vehicle will be done at that time. Chief Donnelly confirmed the equipment can also be used for traffic and residential parking studies. A motion was made by Mr. Ansinn to accept the LPR; seconded by Ms. Schuyler. Motion approved.

Central Booking – Information was distributed to the Commission regarding Livescan centers.

OLD BUSINESS:

Directive 1.3.1 – 1.3.10 - Use of Force – Commission members reviewed CBRPD's Use of Force Policy. The purpose of the policy is to provide guidelines and direction to CBRPD Police Officers in understanding the limitations or justifications for using force.

Ms. Kelemen inquired how this policy was different from the previous policy. Chief Donnelly explained this is part of an annual review of each policy. This policy in particular was reviewed along with Mr. Chris Boyle, attorney for DVIT, who made some suggestions. In the previous policy, an officer was allowed to taser someone who was handcuffed. After in-depth discussions with DVIT, it was determined that other ways of compliance would be more appropriate (i.e. lifting hands of handcuffed individual provides immediate compliance without use of previously acceptable force).

Mr. Jack O'Brien questioned the numbering reference (i.e. 1.3.3, 1.3.1). Chief Donnelly explained this was referencing the State accreditation system which is referenced throughout the entire policy.

Mr. Jack O'Brien requested Intermediate Weapons on page 5 be defined. CBRPD will comply.

Mr. Strouse asked for clarification on Use of Deadly Force, page 6, regarding use of motor vehicle. Chief Donnelly explained it is allowable as a last resort weapon in order to save someone else's life or the officer's life.

The following changes will be made to the Use of Force Directive:

1. Page 5 – Intermediate Weapons will be defined.
2. Page 12 – Section 7 – reference to Tasers throughout document to reflect correct sections
3. Page 27 – Proficiency – Extended leave will be defined as 3 months or more.

A motion was made by Mr. Ansinn to accept Directive 1.3.1-1.3.10 Use of Force with above referenced changes; seconded by Ms. Kelemen. Motion approved.

Directive 1.8.1a Procedural Manual of Rules and Regulations – Chief Donnelly explained this directive was adopted in January 2014 and changes submitted are the explanation of sections being removed either due to redundancy (i.e. on page 45 Unnecessary Force is being removed and referred to the Use of Force Policy) or not applicable (i.e. use of notebooks). Mr. Bill Macklem questioned the reference to New Britain and Doylestown Borough versus a catch all would include future municipalities. The

Commission decided to make changes regarding jurisdiction as they occur as this process is done electronically providing an easy avenue for changes.

The following changes will be made to the Procedural Manual of Rules and Regulations Directive:

1. He/She reference to be capitalized where warranted.
2. Section 4.05, item 6 Special Officers – remove Parking Enforcement Officers
3. Section 5.29 – Search Procedures in Emergencies – correct to plural reference
4. Section 9.32 – Remove reference to Chapter and Section of Borough Code
5. Section 9.42 – should read “once activated should operate continuously...”
6. Section 9.43 – should read “not allow unauthorized persons...”

A motion was made by Mr. Ansinn to accept Directive 1.8.1a Procedural Manual of Rules and Regulations; seconded by Ms. Kelemen. Motion approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: N/A

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 8:17 PM, the Commission adjourned to Executive Session and returned to Public Session at 8:35 PM.

A motion was made by Mr. Ansinn to hire Mr. David MacMain, Esq. to conduct an investigation into complaint against police; seconded by Mr. Macklem.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. Ansinn to adjourn at 8:38 PM; seconded by Mr. Macklem.

Respectfully submitted,

James Donnelly
Chief of Police