

CENTRAL BUCKS REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION

Minutes

June 22, 2015

The monthly meeting of the Central Bucks Regional Police Commission was called to order by Chairman Ron Strouse at 7:30 PM. All Commission members were present. Also present were Chief James Donnelly, Lt. Pat Penecale, Mr. David Sander, Ms. Marilyn Becker, and Ms. Marilyn Jacobson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Mr. Ansinn to approve the meeting minutes of May 27, 2015; seconded by Mr. Holewinski. Motion approved.

FINANCE: Chief Donnelly provided Expenditure and Profit/Loss Reports to the Commission. The Financial Report as of May 31, 2015 is as follows: 2015 Budget \$3,661,352.00, YTD Expenditures \$1,467,907.24 (40.09%), May Expenditures \$304,581.00; showing a balance of \$2,193,444.76. In June, a six-month budget recap and a 12-hour shift analysis will be submitted to the Commission.

POLICE ACTIVITY: Police Activity Report for the month of May, 2015 was submitted. There were 1,762 incidents for the month of May; 1,227 for Doylestown and 535 for New Britain. Total reportable traffic accidents May YTD are 44 with 35 in Doylestown and 9 in New Britain.

NEW BUSINESS:

Union Joint Request for Certification – AFSCME has proposed to include Central Bucks Regional Police Department as joint partner in the existing Doylestown Borough union. A motion was made by Mr. Ansinn to approve the Joint Request for Certification; seconded by Mr. Strouse.

Federal Grant – A federal grant on behalf of nine law enforcement agencies for body-worn cameras was submitted on June 16, 2015 with Central Bucks Regional Police Department as the lead agency. This grant is currently in appeal for submission as a technical difficulty originating at the grants.gov site created a discrepancy. If accepted and awarded, the grant would supply the CBRPD with an additional twelve body cameras. The server needed for the body-worn cameras is not a part of the grant application.

OLD BUSINESS:

Resolution 2015-06 – A Resolution to Adopt a Police Pension Plan Document – Mr. Ron Strouse explained, although the Finance Committee has already approved the Police Pension Plan Document, it was never before the Commission for final approval. The document has been vetted by Uninvest, the Finance Committee and Caroline Brinker. A motion was made by Mr. Ansinn to approve Resolution 2015-06 Adopting a Police Pension Plan Document; seconded by Mr. Holewinski. Motion approved.

Policy Review – Two police policies were reviewed as described below:

Directive 2.1.2 Pursuits – It is the policy of CBRPD that a motor vehicle pursuit is justified when the necessity of immediate apprehension outweighs the level of danger create by the pursuit.

Mr. O'Brien inquired why an odometer reading was requested at the end of the pursuit and not the beginning. Chief Donnelly explained the purpose is not to record the length of the pursuit, but the confirmation that the pursuit ended. At the time a pursuit is terminated, the pursuing Officer must report the odometer reading immediately which would then be confirmed by the Sergeant or Officer in Charge going to the exact location where the pursuit was terminated.

Mr. Strouse asked for clarification regarding pursuits initiated outside of CBRPD. Chief Donnelly stated the policy puts us on record as not authorizing such pursuits, however, CBRPD is unable to order another department to stop the pursuit. Most departments in the surrounding areas have the same standard policy.

A motion was made by Mr. Ansinn to approve Directive 2.1.2 Pursuits; seconded by Mr. Ansinn. Motion passed.

Directive 3.5.2 DNA Collection – This policy establishes a procedure for the collection, processing and preservation of DNA evidence, while maintaining the professional integrity of the CBRPD and the constitutional rights of citizens.

Mr. Strouse inquired about DNA collection training. Chief Donnelly explained the training is done through a company hired by the DA's office. It is a "train the trainer" training. The purpose is to make sure CBRPD is preserving samples in a sterile manner with no contamination. To date, the database has served the Department well with one burglary and one rape cleared through DNA. Bensalem is using the DNA database extensively clearing numerous crimes. Chief Donnelly stated it was very important to be trained properly and follow exact procedures for DNA collection or there is a risk of losing the evidence.

A motion was made by Mr. Holewinski to approve Directive 3.5.2 DNA Collection; seconded by Mr. Macklem. Motion approved.

Independent Investigation – Mr. Ansinn inquired about the progress of the independent internal investigation sanctioned by the Commission two months ago. Chief Donnelly has been in contact with the investigator and will continue to track its progress with the intention of having a final report shortly.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. Macklem to adjourn at 7:48 PM; seconded by Mr. Ansinn.

Respectfully submitted,

James Donnelly
Chief of Police