

CENTRAL BUCKS REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION

Minutes

July 27, 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 except Ms. Robyne Kelemen and Mr. Jack O'Brien. Also present were Chief James Donnelly, Lt. Pat Penecale, Mr. John Davis, and Mr. David Sander.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Mr. Det Ansinn to approve the meeting minutes of June 22, 2015; seconded by Mr. William Macklem. Motion approved.

COMMENDATIONS: The Commission presented an Official Commendation of Merit to Officer Blake Hamer for his exemplary work in a burglary investigation that took place on June 13, 2015. Officer Hamer, Crime Scene Technician, conducted a thorough and complete assessment of the scene followed by identifying the actor and consequent arrest later the same day.

The Commission presented a Department Recognition from Doylestown Township Police Department to Lieutenant Pat Penecale, Corporal William Doucette, A/Sergeant Edward Hilton, Detective Wayne Jones, Officer Mark Bolender and Officer David Interrante for their quick response and coordinated efforts in apprehending an actor in a robbery on June 5, 2015.

PART-TIME OFFICER EMPLOYMENT: A motion was made by Mr. Ansinn to hire Part-Time Officer Taylor Ashburn and Part-Time Officer Cody Young; seconded by Mr. Macklem. Motion approved.

Mr. Ron Strouse administered the Oath of Office to Officers Ashburn and Young. Chief James Donnelly welcomed both Officers to the Department. Officer Ashburn graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Alvernia University and attended the Reading Police Academy. He previously served with the security department at Haverford College and is currently employed as a Part-Time Officer in Bethel Township, Delaware County. Officer Cody Young graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Temple University and attended Montgomery County Community College for his Municipal Police Training. He was most recently employed as a Security Officer for Dorney Park in Allentown.

FINANCE: The financial reports were reviewed by the Commission. Chief Donnelly highlighted June YTD expenditures totaling \$262,523 with YTD total of \$1,731,444.38 representing 47.29% of the Budget.

POLICE ACTIVITY: Chief Donnelly reviewed the six-month police activity status as follows: Incidents 10,435 (DB 7,410/NBB 3,025); Felonies and Misdemeanors 121 (DB 105/NBB 16); Reportable Accidents 52 (DB 41/NBB 11); Non-Reportable Accidents 169 (DB 141, NBB 28). Thefts are down 2015 YTD with DB 34/NBB 7 compared to last year's total DB 86 and NBB 15. Vandalism is down 2015 YTD with DB 14/NBB 1 compared to last year's total DB 38/NBB 8. Disorderly Conduct and Public Drunkenness is down 2015 YTD with DB 58/NB 0 compared to last year's total of DB 122/NBB 13; Burglaries are up 2015 YTD with DB 8/NB 2 compared to last year's total DB 7/NB 1. Part I Crimes 2015 YTD clearance rates are 60%

compared to 44% last year. Part II Crimes 2015 YTD clearance rates are 84% compared to last year's 74%.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

12-Hour Shift Review – Chief Donnelly conducted a 12-hour shift study analysis of outcomes since January when the 12-hour shift schedule was adopted. The operating costs associated with functioning on 12-hour shifts shows a 22.2% decrease in costs compared to the 2014 8-hour shift schedule. The sick time differential associated with functioning on 12-hour shifts shows 22.62% decrease in sick time compared to the 2014 8-hour shift schedule. The study also provided information for Commission members to review regarding deficits and recommendations. Mr. John Davis stated in preparation of the 2015 Budget, it was determined that the overtime line item would not compensate for overtime involving 12-hours shift schedule; the potential savings were not budgeted.

Body-Camera Grant Appeal – Chief Donnelly explained the grant is a collaboration between Central Bucks Regional Police Department and eight other departments including the Sheriff's Department. The grant was submitted on time, however, due to a technical difficulty on the submission website, the grant was rejected. The Department proceeded through the appeal process and has won its appeal for the grant to be considered. The competition for the grant is high, however, the collaborative effort is regarded as positive. While the total dollar amount requested is not significant, the grant would allow for several Departments to begin the process of body camera implementation.

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

Directive 1.6.2 Vehicle Maintenance – The purpose of this policy is to ensure police vehicles are properly maintained. Each Officer is directly responsible for the vehicle he/she is driving on any given tour. A motion was made by Mr. David Holewinski to approve Directive 1.6.2 Vehicle Maintenance; seconded by Mr. Ansinn. Motion approved.

Directive 1.8.1c Uniforms, Personal Appearance and Dress Code – The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the wearing and use of uniforms and related equipment, and to establish a dress code for CBRPD personnel. A motion was made by Mr. Macklem to approve Directive 1.8.1c; seconded by Mr. Ansinn. Motion approved.

Directive 1.10.2 Rules of Discovery – The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the release of police reports involving arrest for murder, felonies and/or misdemeanors. Mr. Strouse inquired about the timing of transmission of information to the District Attorney’s office. Chief Donnelly responded when the investigation has been completed with statutes of limitations prevailing. A motion was made by Mr. Macklem to approve Directive 1.10.2 Rules of Discovery; seconded by Ms. Nancy Schuyler. Motion approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: It was determined by the Commission that the Executive Session would be held upon adjourning the Police Commission meeting and no action would be taken.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. Ansinn to adjourn at 7:55 PM; seconded by Mr. Macklem. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,

James Donnelly
Chief of Police