

CENTRAL BUCKS REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION

Minutes

March 23, 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, and Mr. John Davis.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Mr. Det Ansinn to approve the meeting minutes of February 25, 2015; seconded by Mr. Bill Macklem. Motion approved.

FINANCE REPORT:

Audit 2014 – The Finance Committee recommended the Audit Report for 2014 be accepted. A motion was made by Mr. Ansinn to accept the Audit 2014 Report; seconded by Mr. Macklem. Motion approved.

Finance Committee Member – Mr. Ansinn related that there is still an open slot on the Finance Committee. It was affirmed that the new member should not be part of the Commission. Mr. Ansinn requested that we offer someone for consideration at next month's meeting.

POLICE ACTIVITY: Chief James Donnelly presented the police activity for February 2015.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commission Solicitor: A motion was made by Mr. Macklem to sever the services of Friedman/Schuman as Commission Solicitor and appoint the Law Offices of Sean Kilkenny with Mr. David Sander continuing to be the Commission Solicitor; seconded by Mr. Macklem. Motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Non-Uniform Pension – The Finance Committee met and discussed the summary of the Non-Uniform Pension Plan and presented their recommendation for the Non-Uniform Pension plan to follow the same policy as the Uniform Pension plan. A motion was made by Mr. Ansinn to adopt the Non-Uniform Pension Plan; seconded by Mr. David Holewinski. Motion approved.

Police Policies – Mr. Ron Strouse related that all members had been provided with police department policies to be read prior to acceptance by the Commission. All members indicated they had received and reviewed the policies. A motion was made by Mr. Bill Macklem to approve the Oath of Office Policy; seconded by Mr. Ansinn. Motion approved. A motion was made by Mr. Holewinski to approve the Mission Statement Policy; seconded by Ms. Robyne Kelemen. Motion approved. A motion was made by Ms. Kelemen to approve the Values Statement Policy; seconded by Mr. Holewinski. Motion approved. A motion was made by Mr. Macklem to approve the Leadership Statement Policy; seconded by Mr. Ansinn. Motion approved. A motion was made by Mr. Ansinn to approve the Vision Statement Policy; seconded by Mr. Macklem. Motion approved.

Mr. Macklem requested some corrections regarding the use of gender specific terms found in the documents. There are instances, throughout various documents, where the references are solely to male officers. Chief Donnelly agreed to make the adjustments.

Mr. Jack O'Brien asked for a clarification on how scheduling is done for part-time officers. Chief Donnelly explained that it is done on a first-come-first served basis for posted shifts. Also, that when a shift opens unexpectedly the Sergeant, or Officer in charge, calls for part-time officers to fill it until someone accepts the shift. He raised a second question regarding the language indicating that officers, when working, cannot work longer than sixteen (16) consecutive hours. He wished to know if this is still applicable in conjunction with the 12-hour shifts. The Chief indicated that it is. Additionally, Mr. O'Brien asked for a clarification on the differences in discipline for part-time officers vs. full-time officers. Chief Donnelly related that part-time officers are not subject to suspension because they work on an as-needed basis. Thus, the only effective means of discipline is either a letter of reprimand or termination. Mr. O'Brien then posed another question regarding defining of the department's chain of command as it is referenced in this policy. Chief Donnelly explained that it is analogous to the rank structure of the military and is recognized that way. Mr. David Sander suggested that the Department issue a new policy that specifically enumerate the chain of command for the Central Bucks Regional Police Department. This would be submitted at a subsequent meeting. Chief Donnelly agreed.

Ms. Kelemen asked that the language under 'Disciplinary Procedures' which indicates: "Part time officers are also less experienced and require closer supervision than full time officers," be adjusted to read, "Part time officers may be less experienced and require closer supervision than full time officers." Chief Donnelly agreed to make that change as well.

A motion was made by Mr. Ansinn to approve, with changes, the Part-Time Police Officer Policy; seconded by Mr. Holewinski. Motion approved. A motion was made by Mr. Holewinski to approve the Hiring Requirements Policy; seconded by Mr. Macklem. Motion approved. A motion was made by Mr. Ansinn to approve the Commendations Policy; seconded by Mr. Holewinski. Motion approved.

Regional Assistance Grant (Chief's Salary) - Chief Donnelly advised the Chief's Salary Grant for Year 2 has been approved. The grant for this year is \$22,500 and begins April 2015. Mr. Strouse inquired as to the Chief's salary grant being reinstated afresh should an additional department(s) join the regional department. Chief Donnelly indicated that this is correct.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Foster Winans – Mr. Winans indicated that he had several articles relating to police issues throughout the country he wished to submit to the Commission. The articles are relative to Ferguson, Missouri and racial issues, constitutional policing and the Pennsylvania Judicial Unified System. The latter makes public every arrest and it is there forever. His hope is that the Department approach every single arrest with the concern of staining someone's reputation. This was submitted to, and accepted by, Mr. Strouse on behalf of the Central Bucks Regional Police Commission.

Pete LaMontagne – Mr. LaMontagne related that prior to the regional department being formed, Chief Donnelly provided New Britain Borough Council with a detailed summary of incidents having taken place in the previous month. He requested a more detailed report be reinstated going forward for New Britain Borough Council Meetings. Chief Donnelly indicated that this would be accomplished.

Mr. LaMontagne also voiced his concern over the proposed \$1,000,000 police station. He had concerns over how costs would be divided, in particular how that would be reconciled later should additional departments come into the fold. Would that reduce costs to New Britain Borough? Mr. Ansinn responded and clarified that any additional departments entering the regional department would correspondingly lower the costs to all of the municipalities already in place. This would include factoring in potential capital and operational expenses as well. Mr. John Davis added that the language in place in the agreement covers all aspects of the building costs. It may allow for corrective costs later as well.

Mr. Winans asked if there was a master plan in place for the expansion of the Department. Mr. Strouse responded, there is a desire for the potential maximum of nine departments to eventually become a part of the Regional Department. Chief Donnelly reported that the nine departments are those that make up the Central Bucks School District.

Joe Flood – Mr. Flood wished to express congratulations for a successful town hall meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 8:03 PM, the Commission adjourned to Executive Session and returned to Public Session at 9:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

James Donnelly
Chief of Police