

**POCONO MOUNTAIN REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
11 APRIL 2017**

**PRESENT:**

DAVID W MOYER	-TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP	-CHAIRMAN
FRANCIS DePIANO	-TUNKHANNOCK TOWNSHIP	-VICE CHAIRMAN
JUAN ADAMS	-COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP	-SECRETARY
ANNE LAMBERTON	-TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
JOHN JABLOWSKI	-TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
MICHAEL OSER	-BOROUGH OF MOUNT POCONO	-MEMBER
LYNN KELLY	-COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
ALMA RUIZ-SMITH	-COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
CHRIS WAGNER		-CHIEF OF POLICE
HARRY COLEMAN		-SOLICITOR

**ABSENT:**

FREDERICK COURTRIGHT	-BOROUGH OF MOUNT POCONO	-TREASURER
RALPH MEGLIOLA	-BARRETT TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
BRANDON IGDALSKY	-TUNKHANNOCK TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Regular Business Meeting of the Pocono Mountain Regional Police Commission was held at the Pocono Mountain Regional Police Building and called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Moyer with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVE MINUTES:**

**Motion:**

Francis DePiano made a motion that the Minutes of 29 March 2017 Regular Business Meeting be approved as presented, seconded by Alma Ruiz-Smith.

Alma Ruiz-Smith stated on the Re-Paving Project she had a question not on the minutes but on the policy and asked if it should be brought up now or later. Chairman Moyer stated it should be brought up when we get to that.

Mike Oser requested that the formal request for information that was presented last month in Executive Session be put into the minutes. Mr. Coleman indicated that it falls under the umbrella of what was discussed in Executive Session and therefore not part of the minutes. The minutes do reflect that the request was made but the details discussed in Executive Session should not be memorialized in the minutes of the public meeting. Discussion continued.

Francis DePiano rephrased his motion to have the minutes approved as stated, seconded by Juan Adams

Lynn Kelly asked if the first motion was withdrawn. Francis DePiano stated yes.

With no additional questions a vote was taken with John Jablowski, Anne Lamberton, Francis DePiano, Dave Moyer and Juan Adams voting YES. Mike Oser, Lynn Kelly and Alma Ruiz-Smith voting NO. Motion carried.

**APPROVE BILLS:**

**Motion:**

Francis DePiano made a motion to approve the Bill-pack of 11 April 2017 in the amount of \$133,081.39. The motion was seconded by Juan Adams. With no questions or comments the motion passed unanimously.

## **PUBLIC RECOGNITION**

Det. Cpl. Lucas Bray and Ofc. Rick Michaels were recognized for their years of service on the SWAT team.

## **INTERMISSION FOR PHOTOS 7:15 – 7:18**

### **MARCH POLICE REPORT:**

Total calls for the month of March were 1034 consisting of 946 Complaints and 88 Accidents. There were a total of 131 Criminal Arrests, 353 Traffic Arrests, 211 Traffic Warnings and 40 Ordinance Arrests.

Chief Wagner went over the monthly and year to date activity numbers as well as the UCR Crime Stats.

#### **Motion:**

Juan Adams made a motion to accept the March Police Report, seconded by Francis DePiano. The motion passed unanimously.

### **MARCH VEHICLE REPORT:**

Chief stated one of the new vehicles has come in and is at the up-fitter. He then reviewed the mileage and expense report.

#### **Motion:**

Francis DePiano made the motion to accept the March Vehicle Report. The motion was seconded by Alma Ruiz-Smith.

Alma Ruiz-Smith asked what was done with retired vehicles and requested the Commission consider donating a vehicle that is still safe to drive to Valor Clinic Foundation. It was stated that it will be taken under consideration.

Mike Oser asked if the cost of \$6.41 for Unit 11 includes labor. Chief stated no that is parts only.

With no additional questions or comments the motion passed unanimously.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Foundation Report**

John Lamberton, President of Pocono Mountain Regional Police Foundation presented the 2016 report to the Commission indicating that the Foundation exclusively funds the K9 and Bike Patrol Units, pay for the Grant Writing and numerous Community Outreach Programs. He indicated that the Golf Tournament is the major fundraiser for the Foundation and last year after expenses it raised around \$25,000.00. He stated the items purchased for the department in 2016 include 6 Tasers with battery packs and holsters, 2 Motorized Bikes and the K9 Unit Funding for a total of approximately \$15,991.00 to the department. A vote was taken at the last Foundation meeting to purchase an additional 6 Tasers and also fund \$5,000.00 per year to the training budget for the officers.

- **Annual Report**

Chief Wagner presented the Commission with the 2016 Annual Report and gave a brief synopsis of the department and report comparing 2016 to the prior year per municipality indicating that Barrett Township data still needs to analyze the data over the next couple years.

- **Cedar Crest College Report**

Dr. Scott Hoke of Cedar Crest College presented his 2016 Crime Analysis Report to the Commission explaining that this year he has broken the report out by municipality but if the Commission would prefer to

go back to the old format or would prefer to have other information they can let the Chief know. He did give a brief overview of the report and answered some questions from the Commission.

- **Monroe County Control Center**

Gary Hoffman – Director of Communications, Sue Difilippantonio – Training Coordinator and Shawn Datesman – 911 Operations Supervisor were present as requested and gave the guidelines they follow for prioritizing calls and dispatching officers indicating that life safety comes first and it is all based on what the caller tells the dispatcher. Ms. Difilippantonio asked if there was something specific she should address, Mr. Oser gave her the information about the accident in question. Mr. Hoffman stated that all the officers were on calls and that the way this call came in it was not a priority. Mr. Oser then questioned about the life safety priority and the tow truck driver in the roadway. Ms. Difilippantonio stated that it was the tow truck driver's decision to go into the roadway. She stated that tow truck drivers do call and ask for officers to direct traffic but a call was never received in this case. Mr. Datesman added that a tow truck driver is not dispatched by Control unless the police officer requests one, if the tow truck pulled up on his own Control would not know that.

**UPDATE:**

- **Member Municipality Concerns –**

Mount Pocono – Mr. Oser stated back to the request of March 29, he brought it back to the Council and they were upset that he couldn't take copies, pictures etc. He stated he "was requested to advise this Board that I do want specific timeframes of listed in that request of March the 29<sup>th</sup> the police logs, copies of them, and also at the very end of the meeting, at the end of the conversation I had with the Borough Council. The Borough Council requested that the Policy and Procedures Manual, which is your Accreditation Manual, a copy of it be at the Borough Council Office so it can be reviewed by the Council Members." Dave Moyer turned this to the Solicitor. Mr. Coleman stated the accommodation that was made last month is that Mr. Oser as a Commissioner he be able to come to the department a view the document he requested. Anne Lamberton asked Mike if he had done that and he replied "No I did not, because I was given instruction by Council to get them in writing and bring it back to them so they can see that in writing and have it explained to them". Francis DePiano stated to Mike Oser that he requested certain information, it was made available to him, he was notified last Monday morning at 10:00 and he replied back to the email, he went to the Borough Meeting that evening and said that the information had not been made available to him when in fact it had been. A heated discussion continued.

Tobyhanna Township – None

Tunkhannock Township – None

Coolbaugh – Lynn Kelly thanked the Chief for Arson information and the financials. Alma Ruiz-Smith stated back to the Re-Paving Project, asked if, in our By-Laws, there was a Conflict of Interest Policy with any of the Commission Members that have a certain expertise. We should make sure that when the request goes out for RFP that Ralph's company does not have the opportunity to submit one. The Policy should be "there should be no commission member that partakes in any submissions for any professional that the commission looks to hire". Dave Moyer stated he agreed.

Barrett Township –

- **2018 Hiring**

Nothing new.

- **Flooring Project**

Chief Wagner stated we are in the process of scheduling the dates for the work.

- **Re-Paving Project**

Dave Moyer indicated that he is working on getting the specs together and will not bid the project.

- **Computer Lease**

Chief provided the Commission with the quote and specs for the computers from Patrol PC in the amount of \$106,074.00 and a quote from P&D Emergency Services the installer 48,680.00. He stated we are ready to move forward with the Computer Lease of \$154,754.00 over a five-year term. Chief stated we will be reaching out to the same financial institutions that quoted on the vehicle lease to get the best rates.

**Motion:**

Francis DePiano made a motion to purchase the computers for a total amount of \$154,754.00 through a 5 year lease purchase, seconded by Anne Lamberton.

Mike Oser questioned about ordering more computers than mounts. Chief indicated that we already have some equipment so there is no need to order additional. Mr. Oser suggested making sure the data going from the vehicles to the server is encrypted to protect from hacking. Chief stated that will be looked into.

The motion passed unanimously.

- **LSA Grant**

Chief informed the Commission that we were not awarded the In-Car Camera Grant that was applied for.

- **Pension**

Nothing new

- **Community Events/Letters of Support**

March 1 – Cpl Nero and Ofc. Johnson – Annual Job Fair at A Pocono Country Place

March 18 – Cpl. Miller and Ofc. Lutkowski – Gave tour of headquarters to local Cub Scout Group

March 20 – Cpl. Miller and Ofc. Lutkowski – Gave tour of headquarters to local Cub Scout Group

March 28 – Ofc. Wile – Attended ESU for an event with Monroe County United – interacting with members of the public and explained different situations Law Enforcement may be in and common protocol

March 31 – Det. Cpl. Bray spoke at Monroe County Career Technical Institute on Drugs and Alcohol Abuse

March 31 – Chief Wagner and Lt. Vogt attended Monroe County Career Technical Institute for a demonstration on the new Police Driving Simulator.

Chief also announced that on April 29 the department will be taking part in the National Take Back Initiative – collecting prescription drugs for the DEA for proper destruction.

Francis DePiano commended Det. Mike Sciarillo, primary officer for that 3.5 million dollar drug bust.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

As a prior Chief of Police, John Lamberton commented about the way an Internal Investigation should be handled if a municipality has a complaint. It should be given to the Chief to investigate and his findings should be given either verbally or in writing –records should not leave this department and investigations should not be conducted by any Commission Member. He also stated that you will not find a more honorable man then Chief Chris Wagner and to question his integrity is a disgrace.

Tracey Fox introduced herself, stating she is a Traffic Safety Coordinator for the North Central Highway Safety Network and does traffic safety programs for elementary, high school and numerous community groups that are funded through Penn Dot. If anyone is interested in any programs they can contact her.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion:**

Francis DePiano made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Anne Lamberton. The motion passed.

Alma Ruiz-Smith made a request for a quick Executive Session.

Meeting closed to Executive Session at 8:27 p.m.

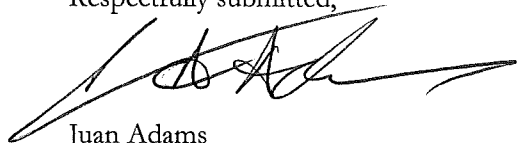
Dave Moyer reopened the meeting at 8:45 stating there was no action to be taken. There was an Executive Session from 8:29 p.m. to 8:44 p.m.

**Motion:**

Francis DePiano made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mike Oser. The motion passed with Lynn Kelly abstaining.

The meeting adjourned approximately 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Juan Adams  
Pocono Mountain Regional Police  
Commission Secretary