

**POCONO MOUNTAIN REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
11 AUGUST 2020**

PRESENT:

DAVID W MOYER	-TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP	-CHAIRMAN
FRANCIS DePIANO	-TUNKHANNOCK TOWNSHIP	-VICE CHAIRMAN
KURT CUMMINGS	-COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP	-TREASURER
CLAUDETTE WILLIAMS	-BOROUGH OF MOUNT POCONO	-SECRETARY
BRENDON CARROLL	-TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
DAVID CARBONE	-TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
MIKE PENN	-BOROUGH OF MOUNT POCONO	-MEMBER
JUAN ADAMS	-TUNKHANNOCK TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
LYNN KELLY	-COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
TONY LAMANTIA	-COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
JOHN SEESE	-BARRETT TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
CHRIS WAGNER		-CHIEF OF POLICE
HARRY COLEMAN		-SOLICITOR

ABSENT:

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 7:05 p.m. by Chairman Moyer with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

After roll call was taken Chairman Moyer stated that due to the uncontrolled meeting last month the following changes are now in effect. There is a podium set up for the public – anyone wishing to speak will state their name and address and direct questions or comments to the Chairman who will then direct the question to the Chief, the Commission or Mr. Coleman as needed. The questions and comments will be short and if not, a time limit will be placed.

APPROVE MINUTES:

Motion:

Francis DePiano made a motion to adopt the minutes of 14 July 2020, seconded by Juan Adams.

Mr. Penn wanted to correct under Municipality Concerns - Mount Pocono -The second sentence states “*Mr. Penn stated as a commission member he voted to approve the proposed 2020 budget and send it to the municipalities*” clarify it that “Mr. Penn stated as a commission member he voted to approve sending the proposed 2020 budget to the municipalities” we didn’t vote to send an approved budget.

Mike Oser – questioned the statement of ‘Executive Session to discuss litigation and budget information’ – Oser asked Chairman Moyer when is a budget considered Executive Session? Chairman Moyer directed the question to Atty. Coleman. Coleman stated the Executive Session did touch upon potential litigation and the issue of the budget was discussed. However, no decisions were made, this is a critical distinction. Coleman explained, Under the Sunshine Act things can be discussed but decisions must be made at the public body.

With no additional comments or questions the motion passed unanimously.

APPROVE BILLS:

Motion:

Francis DePiano made a motion to approve the Bill-pack of 11 August 2020 in the amount of \$135,727.06, seconded by Juan Adams. The motion passed unanimously.

POLICE REPORT:

Total calls for the month of July were 1626 consisting of 1534 Complaints and 92 Accidents. There were a total of 102 Criminal Arrests, 128 Traffic Arrests, 136 Traffic Warnings and 10 Ordinance Arrests.

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

Motion:

Francis DePiano made a motion to accept the July Police Report, seconded by Juan Adams.

Chairman Moyer asked the Chief to explain what is considered an ordinance arrest. Chief explained that parking in fire zones contribute to a large part of ordinance arrests - followed by barking dogs and noise complaints which would include fireworks. Mr. Penn asked if arrests are made for ordinance violations or if it is citations issued. Chief Wagner explained citations issued are considered arrests. Discussion continued. Brendon Carroll asked if some ordinances could be a zoning issue in the municipality. Mr. Penn stated they could be but if a codes enforcement officer goes to the house it could be confrontational for someone who isn't equipped to do something like that. Additional discussion continued.

With no additional comments or questions the motion passed unanimously

VEHICLE REPORT:

Chief reviewed the mileage and expense report for July.

Motion:

Francis DePiano made a motion to accept the July Vehicle Report, seconded by Brendon Carroll.

Ron Emilie – Mount Pocono – asked if the department has checked into other vehicle models such as a Subaru or Honda that may last longer and get better mileage? Chief Wagner stated we are bound by CoStars and they do not offer foreign makes and models.

With no additional comments or questions the motion passed unanimously.

Vehicle Bids: The advertisement was for cars 2,4, and 16. 4 bids received.

Chicago Motors

\$5,207.00	2015 Dodge Charger Car 2 – vin # 2957
\$3,207.00	2016 Dodge Charger Car 4 – vin # 2127
\$4,007.00	2016 Dodge Charger Car 16 – vin #7856

Mark Motors

\$2,275.00	2015 Dodge Charger Car 2 – vin # 2957
\$3,875.00	2016 Dodge Charger Car 4 – vin # 2127
\$3,275.00	2016 Dodge Charger Car 16 – vin #7856

Bayridge Motors

\$1,675.00	2015 Dodge Charger Car 2 – vin # 2957
\$2,675.00	2016 Dodge Charger Car 4 – vin # 2127
\$2,775.00	2016 Dodge Charger Car 16 – vin #7856

Steven Zanazzi

\$1,087.00	2015 Dodge Charger Car 2 – vin # 2957
\$1,687.00	2016 Dodge Charger Car 4 – vin # 2127
\$1,787.00	2016 Dodge Charger Car 16 – vin #7856

Motion:

Francis DePiano made a motion to accept the vehicle bids as follows: to Chicago Motors for the 2015 Dodge Charger VIN#2957 in the amount of \$5,207.00; to Chicago Motors for the 2016 Dodge Charger VIN#7856 in the amount of \$4,007.00; to Mark Motors for the 2016 Dodge Charger VIN#2127 in the amount of \$3,875.00 seconded by David Carbone.

Lynn Kelly asked if the bid specs went out indicating they were separate bids? Fran DePiano stated yes.

The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **2nd Quarter Budget Review** – Chief Wagner went over the Budget to Actual review reporting that the budget is at 40% under budget at about 10%.
- **2nd Quarter Treasurer Report** – General Fund - \$3,818,135.69, Prescription Fund - \$25,723.30, Capital Projects Fund - \$15,176.97, Asset Forfeiture Fund - \$385,932.36, Capital Reserve Fund - \$318,926.82, Police Pension Fund - \$23,978,877.85, Non-Uniform Pension Fund - \$224,928.70.

Motion:

Francis DePiano made a motion to accept the 2nd Quarter Treasurer Report, seconded by Brendon Carroll. The motion passed unanimously.

- **2021 Budget** – Chief stated the municipalities should start think about their hours. He included in their packets a breakdown of hours in 2019. Chief suggested to keep an eye on the patrol hours vs. the investigative hours stating they should be balanced - if there is a noticeable change, you may want to adjust your hours. The Chief also included the change in hours graph (back to 1997) to see where your municipality hours have been over the years. Chief stated right now we are running at the same police service back to 2006.

Budget Committee was appointed – Francis DePiano, Lynn Kelly, Mike Penn, John Seese and David Moyer

Mike Penn asked if the Chief had an idea of the 2006 overall expense compared as to current expenses? Chief stated he would have to look into that.

UPDATE:

- **Member Municipality Concerns**

Tobyhanna Township – Good

Tunkhannock Township – Good

Coolbaugh – None

Mount Pocono – Mike Penn raised concerns that, in his opinion, prior to the July meeting this commission inappropriately held budgetary discussions in Executive Session. He also stated it happened again today but with the solicitor suggesting a possible lawsuit against Mount Pocono.

As suggested by this Commission last month Mr. Penn stated that the budget shortfall concerns were brought back to Mount Pocono Council and Borough Council reiterated that the Resolution to pay 2019 rates stands and the resolution to the shortfall Mount Pocono is willing to reduce their hours by approximately .35PPU. A lengthy discussion followed concerning how to correct the shortfall in funding and hours. Fran DePiano stated that we have a very unusual situation and is asking for the unity of this organization to accept what Mount Pocono has done.

Motion:

Francis DePiano made a motion to accept what Mount Pocono has presented, seconded by Juan Adams.

Lynn Kelly asked for clarification of what exactly the motion was – is it a reduction of hours or reducing the dollar amount. A lengthy discussion on the multiple ways of correcting the shortfall as it pertains the to dollar amount and hours. During the discussion concerns were raised about not having this situation set a precedent moving forward. Dave Moyer suggested having the Chief and Kathy work up a remedy and bring back to the commission next month.

Lynn Kelly asked if the motion is withdrawn?

Fran DePiano stated “yes” the motion is withdrawn.

Atty. Coleman asked that the minutes reflect that no decisions were made during last month’s or this month’s Executive Sessions. He continued to stress that members can meet to discuss budgets. There were spirited discussions, but no decisions were made.

Barrett Township – None

- **Accreditation** – Chief read the recommendation from the Pa Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission approving the reaccreditation of Pocono Mountain Regional Police Department
- **2020/2021 Hiring Process** – Frozen
- **Building Capital Projects** – only one Bid was received from the original advertisement. The Schoonover & Vanderhoof is recommending re-advertising because a project of this size should have at least 3 bids.

Motion:

Francis DePiano made a motion to re-advertise Building Project Bids, seconded by David Carbone. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Pension** – nothing new
- **Community Events / Letters of Support**

Robert Laubscher Insurance Agent- \$2,000 donation to the PMRPF for the K9 division.

Letter of thanks from Mr. & Mrs. Williams in Emerald Lakes regarding response to a recent alarm.

Robert Latsanich asked that Detective Burk an Officer Parrent be honored for swift and speedy apprehension of one-man armed crime spree that effected his and other local businesses in Coolbaugh Township.

Chief Wagner stated the department has done a series public service announcement in front of local businesses regarding covid protocol and wearing of masks.

Pocono Organics - Mountain Landscaping - Van Guilders Jubilee - Mountaintop Lodge - Wingz and a Prayer
- Mama Maria's Pizza - Casino Theater - Mountainhome Deli

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:


Ron Emilie- asked the Chief why the Mt Pocono businesses and Corporations are not paying for police service directly to the department. Atty. Coleman explained that businesses pay taxes and are entitles to police services. A brief discussion continued.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion:

Francis DePiano made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Brendon Carroll. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned approximately 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Claudette Williams
Pocono Mountain Regional Police
Commission Secretary

EXECUTIVE SESSION: There was an Executive Session prior to this meeting from 6:25 pm to 7:03 pm to discuss litigation and personnel.