

CENTRAL BERKS REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION
July 5, 2023

The July 5, 2023, meeting of the Central Berks Regional Police Commission was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chairman Ryan Maurer. The meeting opened with the pledge to the flag.

Commissioners answering roll call included Ryan Maurer, John Theodossiou, Todd Weikel, and Troy Goodman. Also, in attendance was Mark Merolla, Solicitor; Raymond Serafin, Chief of Police; and Rochelle Gresh, Executive Asst. to the Chief of Police. Absent: James Oswald.

Members of the audience in attendance are Mayor of St. Lawrence Corrie Zana, Lower Alsace Township Manager Don Pottinger, Codes Enforcement Administrator Jim Lorah. Mount Penn Borough council members in attendance were Richard Lombardo, Christine Dise, and Roger Stief. Residents in attendance were Clark Bussey, Lori Castor, and George Saltzman.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: Clark Bussey of 3 Earle Gables Court and Lori Castor of 118 N 25th Street addressed the Commission regarding Joseph Cunliffe's property of 7 Earle Gables Court. Mr. Bussey is questioning what is going on with 7 Earle Gables Court with all the complaints that have been going on for over two years including the properties retaining wall. Ms. Castor questioned why cases were closed on the property without work being completed. George Saltzman of 6 Earle Gables Court also expressed his concerns. Jim Lorah explained the process of the codes department when complaints come in and how if items are not resolved get handled by the court system. Mr. Lorah also explained property transfers for properties being sold and the due process and the Fourth Amendment rights of individuals.

Rick Lombardo Captain of Mount Penn Fire Company addressed commission regarding having codes department available on call after hours for life and safety issues on a rental property, when the fire department is called to rental property for a fire. Mr. Theodossiou stated that as far as the Commission is concerned if there is a life and safety situation in any context whatever resources need to be contacted, will be permitted. Discussion was also held on fire watch. Jim Lorah and Rick Lombardo will discuss this issue further amongst themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION TO: approve the May 4, 2023, meeting minutes as presented.

MOTION BY: Mr. Maurer SECONDED BY: Mr. Theodossiou VOICE VOTE: All in favor

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

MOTION TO: approve accounts payable & payroll invoices from General Fund as of May 31, 2023, in the amount of \$341,272.36.

MOTION BY: Mr. Theodossiou SECONDED BY: Mr. Weikel VOICE VOTE: All in favor

MOTION TO: approve accounts payable & payroll invoices from General Fund as of June 30, 2023, in the amount of \$302,585.66.

MOTION BY: Mr. Theodossiou SECONDED BY: Mr. Goodman VOICE VOTE: All in favor

MOTION TO: approve Treasurer's Report for May 2023 in the amount of \$326,199.10.

MOTION BY: Mr. Weikel SECONDED BY: Mr. Goodman VOICE VOTE: All in favor

MOTION TO: approve Treasurer's Report for June 2023 in the amount of \$555,637.20.

MOTION BY: Mr. Weikel SECONDED BY: Mr. Theodossiou VOICE VOTE: All in favor

SOLICITORS REPORT: Reminders of items coming up in September are the MMO, budget planning, and Chief's contract.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration/Personnel:

A. Hiring of police officer (s): Two men will be attending the police academy next week. After successful completion of the police academy, they will receive an offer to work for Central Berks Regional Police Department. The two cadets will be filling two vacant police officer positions we have. Mr. Weikel questioned what happens if they do not pass the police academy and what is the cost of the police academy. Mr. Merolla responded if they do not pass, they will have to pay the police department back and Chief Serafin stated the cost of academy is \$8,000.00.

B. Approval of letter of intent with police academy cadets

MOTION TO: approve letter of intent with police academy cadets.

MOTION BY: Mr. Maurer SECONDED BY: Mr. Theodossiou VOICE VOTE: All in favor

C. Hiring of School Resource Officer-Antietam School District

MOTION TO: approve hiring of school resource officer for Antietam School District

MOTION BY: Mr. Maurer SECONDED BY: Mr. Weikel VOICE VOTE: All in favor

D. Approval of School Resource Officer Agreement with Antietam School District-

MOTION TO: approve of school resource officer agreement with Antietam School District

MOTION BY: Mr. Maurer SECONDED BY: Mr. Weikel VOICE VOTE: All in favor

E. Hiring of School Resource Officer-Oley Valley School District- No action taken

F. Approval of School Resource Officer Agreement with Oley Valley School District- No action taken.

Finance: Audit 2022 is almost completed.

Insurance/Pension:

A. TRA cost-consider another plan-Discussion was held on the non-uniform retirement plan in regard to the costs and annual withdrawal from a participant.

B. Health Insurance for recruits- Recruits will not be covered by health insurance for they are not going to be hired by us until they successfully pass the police academy. No action taken.

Building/Equipment:

- A. Garage- The grade and seeding has not been done yet, due to the drought. This is all that needs to be done yet for the garage.
- B. Police Department Roof- Discussion was held on the bids we received to replace one portion of the flat roof. For several years the roof has been leaking and getting worse. Discussion was held on how to pay for the roof and if it is deemed an emergency repair. The municipalities will put on agenda for their next meeting and make a decision.

MOTION TO: authorize the Chief to accept the low estimate upon approval from both the borough and township.

MOTION BY: Mr. Maurer SECONDED BY: Mr. Theodossiou VOICE VOTE: All in favor

REPORTS OF THE CHIEF AND SECRETARY:

Chief: Discussion was held on the group home on Brighton. Chief Serafin presented his monthly report for May and June 2023. We received our second DCED grant for \$200,000 for computers and equipment for the police department.

Secretary: No Report

UPDATES:

Lower Alsace Township: None

Mount Penn Borough: None

Police Association: No Report

Codes: Jim Lorah stated that the main issues the codes department is dealing with now is tall grass and weeds. Mr. Lorah also presented his quarterly codes reports.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for September 7, 2023, at 6:30PM at the Mount Penn Borough municipal building.

MOTION TO: adjourn the meeting at 8:01PM

MOTION BY: Mr. Weikel SECONDED BY: Mr. Theodossiou VOICE VOTE: All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rochelle M. Gresh,
Executive Assistant to Chief of Police