

CENTRAL BERKS REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION
November 2, 2023

The November 2, 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, and Todd Weikel. Troy Goodman arrived at 6:37PM. 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, Joe Duda and Michael Janvrin.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: Joe Duda our actuary spoke on the pension by giving us an update on the evaluation and the possibility of having an asset smoothing study done. Michael Janvrin, spoke on the performance of the pension account.

MOTION TO: have Joe Duda do an asset smoothing study.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION TO: approve the September 7, 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 September 30, 2023, in the amount of \$302,315.75.

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

MOTION TO: approve accounts payable & payroll invoices from General Fund as of October 31, 2023, in the amount of \$548,029.85

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

MOTION TO: approve Treasurer's Report for September 2023 in the amount of \$688,989.51.

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

MOTION TO: approve Treasurer's Report for October 2023 in the amount of \$598,897.99.

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

SOLICITORS REPORT: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration/Personnel Committee Report

MOTION TO: advertise for 2024 meeting dates as the first Thursday of each month.

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

MOTION TO: retroactively accept resignation of Officer Verno on October 1, 2023

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

MOTION TO: retroactively approve Officer Verno's benefit calculations as of October 3, 2023.

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

MOTION TO: retroactively authorize payment of accumulated sick time to Officer Verno for 3,145.00 on October 3, 2023.

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

MOTION TO: ratify the hiring of Kristen Yeager effective October 16, 2023, at the rank of recruit for patrol officer.

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

MOTION TO: offer a conditional offer of employment to Steven Hernandez and Stephen Busch upon successful completion of the Reading Police Academy.

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

Discussion was held on the Assistant Chief or equivalent position. This position would be created as training for the Chief position. The Commission can omit this position in the future if they desire since this position will not be part of the bargaining unit. Discussion was held on hiring within or outside of the department. Weikel agreed with the idea of hiring within. Goodman was not in agreement within and wants to consider all options. Chief Ray Serafin made a recommendation to the Commission with his many years of experience that the Commission should hire the next Chief within and gave several reasons why they should. Theodossiou commented that we should look to hire within to start. Goodman commented that he was in agreement with looking within first and if we are not satisfied with what we have inside then we can look outside of the department.

MOTION TO: authorize the creation of the Assistant Chief position and to begin soliciting candidates for the position.

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

MOTION TO: approve chief contract for 2024 as proposed.

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

Finance: Discussion was held on the budget for 2024. Chief stated that at a previous meeting the Commission would have to cover the off months for the salary of the SRO and Mt Penn Borough indicated that they would not be in a position to assist with this. Lower Alsace Township felt confident that we should be doing this for the school and the cost should be covered by the Commission. Theodossiou stated that Lower Alsace Township paid to repair the roof of the police department and the township feels strongly for the SRO position. Theodossiou also told Mount Penn that Lower Alsace would not be able to continue to keep giving the excess money after this coming year. Mr. Goodman commented okay. Goodman mentioned if the codes vehicle for Mt Penn Borough was on this budget.

Chief Serafin stated that the codes car purchase is a responsibility of each municipality, not the joint codes department. The Chief also stated that Lower Alsace purchased their codes car and signed it over to the Commission when their codes officer transferred to the police department. Goodman stated that he will bring up the code's vehicle up to the borough to put in their budget. Chief also stated in the years 2024 and 2025 that money was added to the capital reserve account to buy weapons in the future. Discussion was held on the delay in delivery of new police cars. They anticipate in the future that the increased wait time for new police cars would increase from a year and a half to two years.

MOTION TO: present the budget as presented for 2024 to each municipality.

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

MOTION TO: approve three-year contract for Auditor for 2023-25 audits.

BY: Mr. Maurer SECONDED BY: Mr. Goodman VOICE VOTE: All in favor

Discussion was held on having authorization for the chief to sign to purchase the new cars through the new car company.

MOTION TO: approve expenditure of replacement vehicles and authorize the Chief to sign for vehicles.

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

Insurance/Pension: Discussion was held on the TRA cost to consider another plan and annual withdraw from participants response and it was agreed to leave the plan the way it is. Discussion was held on the municipality donation to pension plan to keep making the payments as planned, even though the state aid came in at 39K higher than anticipated. Discussion was also held on looking for other estimates for an actuary in the future, to see if we can lower the cost.

MOTION TO: approve Feaster Consulting invoice for \$1,500.00 and Duda Actuarial Consulting invoice for \$3,100.00 to be paid from the pension fund.

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

Building/Equipment: The roof repair was completed last month and paid for by Lower Alsace Township.

REPORTS OF THE CHIEF AND SECRETARY:

Chief: Chief Serafin presented his monthly report for September and October 2023. An update on the grants was discussed. The one grant for Pathfinder we received a 6-month extension on due to the awarding of the grant being received four months later than anticipated by the PCCD.

Secretary: No Report

UPDATES:

Lower Alsace Township: None

Mount Penn Borough: None

Police Association: No Report

Codes: The quarterly reports were submitted to the Commission

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion held on moving money from National Night Out to Shop with a cop. Rochelle to check with the auditor if we can move the funds between the accounts.

MOTION TO: move \$500.00 from National Night Out to Shop with a Cop if allowable by the Auditor.
MOTION BY: Mr. Maurer SECONDED BY: Mr. Goodman VOICE VOTE: All in favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 7, 2023, at 6:30PM only if needed, however the next anticipated meeting will be January 4, 2024, at the Mount Penn Borough municipal building.

MOTION TO: adjourn the meeting at 7:42PM
MOTION BY: Mr. Maurer SECONDED BY: Mr. Goodman VOICE VOTE: All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rochelle M. Gresh,
Executive Assistant to Chief of Police