

CENTRAL BERKS REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION
August 1, 2024

The August 1, 2024, meeting of the Central Berks Regional Police Commission was called to order at 6:30PM by Ryan Maurer. The meeting opened with the pledge to the flag.

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

Members of the audience in attendance are Mayor of St. Lawrence Corrie Zana, Codes Enforcement Administrator Arthur Kelly Jr. and Borough Manager Hunter Ahrens.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION TO: approve the June 6, 2024, meeting minutes as presented.

MOTION BY: Mr. Oswald SECONDED BY: Mr. Baer VOICE VOTE: All in favor

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

MOTION TO: Approve Accounts Payable & Payroll Invoices from General Fund as of June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$342,290.07.

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

MOTION TO: Approve Accounts Payable & Payroll Invoices from General Fund as of July 31, 2024, in the amount of \$298,558.51.

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

MOTION TO: Approve Treasurer's report for June 2024 in the amount of \$540,984.42.

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

MOTION TO: Approve Treasurer's report for July 2024 in the amount of \$587,079.22.

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

SOLICITORS REPORT: Discussion was held on amending the codes enforcement administrator portion of the articles of agreement to reflect the portion the municipalities will pay towards this position.

MOTION TO: Amend the articles of agreement for codes enforcement administrator with the newly stated rates.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration/Personnel:

1. **Retroactively hire Arthur Kelly as Codes Enforcement Administrator**

MOTION TO: retroactively hire Arthur Kelly Jr. on July 1, 2024, for Code Enforcement Administrator at \$68,000.00.

MOTION BY: Mr. Maurer

SECONDED BY: Mr. Baer

VOICE VOTE: All in favor

2. Executive Assistant to the Chief of Police

3. Executive Assistant to the Chief of Police job description

Finance: No Report

Insurance/Pension: Accept the MMO -Chief spoke on the MMO.

MOTION TO: accept the MMO in the amount of \$435,449.00.

MOTION BY: Mr. Maurer

SECONDED BY: Mr. Goodman

VOICE VOTE: All in favor

Building/Equipment: Chief reported the installation of the generator and ballards were installed. The roof is expected to be completed by next week.

REPORTS OF THE CHIEF AND SECRETARY:

Chief: Chief Serafin presented his monthly report for June 2024. A discussion was held on recent thefts of catalytic converters. The vehicle grant is expected to be awarded in September 2024.

Discussion was held on Body Cameras. John Adams District Attorney's office is agreeing on purchasing the body cameras for the two departments that do not have body cameras in Berks County. There will be a residual cost for this in the future for CBRPD. The Chief believes that body cameras will become mandatory by the state or federal government sometime in the near future. The Chief also mentioned the positives outweigh the negatives and will cut down on our liability issues. The Chief recommends moving forward with the body cameras through the office of John Adams. Jim Oswald and Tom Baer stated they both agree that if the county is willing to pay for them for our department, then we should move forward with this. Chief to get the residual cost for the body cameras for the Commission.

MOTION TO: move forward with John Adams offer to supply CBRPD with the body cameras.

MOTION BY: Mr. Oswald

SECONDED BY: Mr. Baer

VOICE VOTE: All in favor

Secretary: No Report

UPDATES:

Lower Alsace Township: No report

Mount Penn Borough: Discussion was held on the school and the traffic flow at school start and dismissal times.

St. Lawrence Borough: No Report

Police Association: No Report

Codes: Art presented the combined second quarter codes report. Chief discussed concerns over the cemetery not cutting grass; the grass is very high.

OLD BUSINESS: National Night Out to be held on August 6, 2024, at the pool. Central Berks to assist Exeter Township in this event.

NEW BUSINESS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Was held from 7:05 PM-7:38PM to discuss personnel.

MOTION TO: authorize the advertisement of the Executive assistant to the Chief of Police position through The Center for Excellence in Local Government at Albright College

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

ADJOURNMENT:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 3, 2024, at 6:30PM at the Mount Penn Borough municipal building.

MOTION TO: adjourn the meeting at 7:38PM

MOTION BY: Mr. Oswald SECONDED BY: Mr. Baer VOICE VOTE: All in favor

Respectfully Submitted,

Rochelle M. Gresh,
Executive Assistant to Chief of Police