

**POCONO MOUNTAIN REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
16 November 2022**

PRESENT:

DAVID W MOYER	-TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP	-CHAIRMAN
FRANCIS DePIANO	-TUNKHANNOCK TOWNSHIP	-VICE CHAIRMAN
WILLIAM WEIMER	-COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP	-TREASURER
CRAYSON CHEUNG	-TUNKHANNOCK TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
DAVID CARBONE	-TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
DON STRUCKLE	-MOUNT POCONO BOROUGH	-MEMBER
CHRIS WAGNER		-CHIEF OF POLICE

ABSENT:

JOHN SEESE	-BARRETT TOWNSHIP	-SECRETARY
BRENDON CARROLL	-TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
TONY LAMANTIA	-COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
KURT CUMMINGS	-COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
RANDY ALTEMOSE	-MOUNT POCONO BOROUGH	-MEMBER
HARRY COLEMAN, ESQ.		-COLEMAN LAW

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 7:02 p.m. by Chairman Moyer with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session prior to the Regular Meeting on 16 November 2022.

APPROVE MINUTES:

Motion:

David Carbone made a motion to adopt the minutes of 11 October 2022, seconded by Bill Weimer. The motion passed with Fran DePiano abstaining from the vote.

APPROVE BILLS:

Motion:

Fran DePiano made a motion to approve the Bill-pack of 16 November 2022 in the amount of \$337,381.19, seconded by Bill Weimer. The motion passed unanimously.

POLICE REPORT:

Total calls for the month of September were 1027 consisting of 919 Complaints and 108 Accidents. There was a total of 87 Criminal Arrests, 176 Traffic Arrests, 161 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.

Chief Wagner reported that there has been a drop in Type I and II offenses.

Motion:

Fran DePiano made a motion to accept the October Police Report, seconded by Crayson Cheung. The motion passed unanimously.

VEHICLE REPORT:

Chief Wagner reviewed the vehicle mileage and expense report for October 2022. Car 9 and Car 15 were the high mileage vehicles for October.

Chief Wagner reported that the old Car 42, which was involved in a deer strike, has been replaced. Additionally, Cars 6, 8 and 7 were auctioned on Municibid and the bids were \$9,977.00, \$5,800.00 and \$5,600.00 respectively. The insurance proceeds for Car 42 combined with the Municibid payments totaled \$47,377.00 and were used to purchase the new vehicle for \$39,184.00 through COSTARS. The new vehicle will remain Car 42 and be upfitted for deployment as soon as possible.

Motions:

Fran DePiano made a motion to accept the October Vehicle Report, seconded by David Carbone. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. 3rd Quarter Budget vs. Actual

Chief Wagner reviewed the General Fund Budget vs. Actual expenditure report. Overall, the department remains under budget.

B. 3rd Quarter Treasurer Report

The 3rd Quarter Treasurer's Report was presented to the Commission. The balances of the following funds were reviewed by the Chief:

- 1) General Fund - \$5,075,450.86
- 2) Prescription Fund - \$24,446.70
- 3) Capital Projects Fund - \$14,498.58
- 4) Asset Forfeiture Fund - \$369,541.21
- 5) Capital Reserve Fund \$321,083.73
- 6) Police Pension Fund - \$23,789,972.41
- 7) Non-Uniform Pension Fund – \$251, 328.63.

Motion:

Fran DePiano made a motion to accept the 3rd Quarter Treasurer's Report, seconded by Bill Weimer. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Municibid Rolling Shelves

Previously, the department received a bid of approximately \$40,000.00 to install a rolling shelves system. A similar system located in a department in Abington Township, Pennsylvania was listed on

Municibid recently. Chief Wagner inquired as to the condition of the system, and it was in excellent condition. The Chief stated that he was able to procure this system, that will significantly condense the department's filing space, for a bid totaling \$160,000. The company that provided the original quote for the entire system, proposed a bid of \$11,000.00 for the installation. This will be paid from the Forfeiture Fund.

UPDATE:

- **Member Municipality Concerns**

Tobyhanna Township – Dave Carbone thanked the Chief for all the department does for their community.

Tunkhannock Township – Fran DePiano expressed his heartfelt thanks to everyone who reached out during his time away. Last month's meeting was his first absence in over 14 years. He conveyed a special gratitude to the Department for their concern.

Coolbaugh – Bill Weimer relayed a concern from a Coolbaugh Township resident with respect to speeding in the Township. He requested speed patrol near the area of Algonquin Way in Pocono Farms, if possible. Additionally, one of the supervisors voiced their thanks for the reduction in tractor trailers as a direct result of the speed sign. Bill Weimer also asked for the Chief to investigate a tractor trailer parked at a nearby gas station that is blocking visibility at the corner.

Bill Weimer stated that the officer's presence at their last Budget Meeting was very much appreciated. The meeting was long, and the officer was very gracious and professional.

Barrett Township – John Seese said that the community has expressed their thanks for the increased officer presence in Barrett Township.

- **2023 Budget**

Chief Wagner advised that Barrett Township, Coolbaugh Township and Mount Pocono Borough have passed the 2023 Budget. Tunkhannock has approved the Budget, but it will not be official until next week.

- **Personnel**

Interviews were conducted for the open part-time Cleaning Position as well as the full-time Data Entry Clerk position. The positions were offered to Heather Hauger and Sara Price-Bini respectively. The Chief requested a motion to formally acknowledge the hirings to fill these two vacant positions.

Motion:

Fran DePiano made a motion to formally acknowledge the hiring of Heather Hauger as part-time custodian and Sara Price-Bini as the full-time data entry clerk. The motion was seconded by Bill Weimer and passed unanimously.

- **LSA Grant**

No new update available. Chief Wagner advised that the announcement for the LSA Grant is typically in the Spring.

- **American Recovery Act Grant**

Chief Wagner confirmed that grant was submitted and received by PCCD on October 11, 2022. No further update is available as to when they will respond. The grant goes live in January 2023, so it is expected in December.

- **2023 Hiring Process**

The officer hiring process is in a holding pattern. Chief Wagner included a request for a \$10,000 hiring bonus in the American Recovery Grant proposal. He is awaiting word on the approval to advertise for hiring.

Pension

The 3rd Quarter Pension report was distributed to the Commission members. Chief Wagner reviewed the report. The report reflected the negative trends of the current economy.

- **Community Events / Letters of Support**

The following are the community events attended by the department in the month of October:

October 1st – Officer Campagna attended the Pocono Country Place Fall Festival.

October 8th - Officer Borger attended Emerald Lakes Community Day.

October 9th – Officer Ksepka attended the Faith, Blue and You event at East Stroudsburg University.

October 9th – Officer Lutkowski and K-9 Hilo attended the Barrett Township Fire Department Open House.

October 21st – Chief Wagner participated in a video segment on department hiring at Pocono Mountain Vacation Bureau.

October 23rd – Lt. Vogt and Officer Metzger drove cars in the Barrett Township Halloween Parade.

October 29th – Cpl. Nero spoke at Pocono Farms East Annual Meeting.

October 29th – Officer Borger attended the Coolbaugh Township Halloween Ghoulbough Event.

October 29th - Officer Campagna attended the Tobyhanna Elementary Center Trunk or Treat.

October 30th – Officer Rzeszewski attended the Pocono Mountain West Trail of Treats.

Chief Wagner relayed the story of Cpl. Robert Miller some years ago, where he gave a young toddler a teddy bear while on patrol. Recently, the child who is now 9 years old, came to the department to see Cpl. Miller and tell him that the impact he left behind was strong and long lasting. The young girl is attached still to the bear she received from Cpl. Miller. She and her father wanted to pay forward the kindness and brought boxes of teddy bears to be given to other children the officers may encounter.

Chief Wagner read an email received by the department thanking Officer Kime for his professionalism and compassion when responding to a call.

Noteworthy: The Pocono Mountain Police Department participated in a Hoagies for Heroes competition at the Grand Opening of the Wawa on Rte. 940. The Department took first place and

brought home the trophy beating out the Fire Department and Healthcare workers from Geisinger in a fun event.

Jeanine Hofbauer presented information on the First Annual Residential Donation Drive. Beginning December 1, 2022 through January 31, 2023, to help the Foundation with their fundraising efforts. The Foundation provides support for the K-9 program, the department bike program, training, equipment, and other essentials that are outside of the budget. Please keep an eye out for the mailer and advise your constituents of same.

Public Participation

Carl Hamilton publicly thanked Pocono Mountain EMS for their response to his home on two separate occasions this year. He is grateful for their expertise and kindness. He wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion:

Fran DePiano made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bill Weimer. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



William Weimer
Pocono Mountain Regional Police
Commission Treasurer