

**MINUTES OF THE STROUD AREA REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 09, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Stroud Area Regional Police Commission was held on Wednesday, December 09, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom virtual conference. Commission members in attendance via Zoom were: Armand Martinelli, Mary Pat Quinn, Daryl Eppley, Joanne Kochanski, Tarah Probst, Brian Bond, Sonia Wolbert, and Rick Staples. Also in attendance were: Chief Jennifer Lyon and Solicitor John Prevoznik. Mr. Baechtold was present for executive session but unable to attend the public portion of the meeting due to technical problems, after multiple failed attempts to rejoin.

SPECIAL NOTE

Mr. Martinelli announced that due to the COVID-19 pandemic and to meet the requirements established by the Office of Open Records for virtual meetings, this meeting was being audio and video recorded via ZOOM from the initial announcement of the meeting until its end. The meeting zoom link was posted on the SARPD's website where the public could join the zoom meeting, interact, and ask questions in real time.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Martinelli called the December 09, 2020 regular meeting of the Stroud Area Regional Police Commission to order at 7:05 p.m. and called roll.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Martinelli led the Pledge of Allegiance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Prevoznik reported that executive session was held as advertised prior to the meeting which began at 6:45 p.m. and ended at 7:01 p.m. Discussed were personnel matters and updates to labor negotiations meetings. Ms. Probst joined the executive session at 6:56 due to a conflict of interest. No decisions were made.

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 10, 2020 COMMISSION MEETING

Motion by Mr. Eppley, seconded by Ms. Quinn to accept the November 10, 2020 Commission Meeting Minutes. All voted aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Lyon discussed a letter received from BioSpectra Facilities Security Director, Scott Miller. BioSpectra donated \$5000 to the Commission Foundation as a result of Officer Cohowicz presentations of several active shooter classes for their business. Mr. Miller praised Officers Cohowicz for his positive professional manner and acknowledged the sacrifices that the SARPD makes on a daily basis.

Motion made by Ms. Kochanski, seconded by Ms., Quinn, to write letters to BioSpectra and Officer Cohowicz thanking them for donation/outstanding service to the SARPD.

DEPARTMENT REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2020

Motion by Mr. Eppley, seconded by Ms. Quinn to accept the Department Report for November 2020 as submitted. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Operations Committee

No meeting. Policies are currently under legal review before being presented to the Operations Committee and Commission for final approval.

Personnel

No meeting.

Safety

No meeting.

Police Pension Board

Mr. Staples reported that a quarterly pension meeting was held and that the pension had gained 4 million dollars over last year's figures.

Non-Uniform Pension Board

No meeting.

Capital Improvement Committee

No meeting.

Budget/Finance

No meeting.

Negotiation Committee

Mr. Eppley reported that the Negotiation Committee is waiting on more information for negotiations regarding healthcare. He also reported there is another Negotiation Committee meeting scheduled for next week.

SARPC Foundation

No meeting.

Solicitor

No report.

OLD BUSINESS

Police Commission Terms to Expire

Chief is waiting for response from municipalities for commission terms of Brian Bond, Mary Pat Quinn, and Rick Staples expiring on 1/1/2021.

COVID-19 Update

Chief Lyon reported that due to the spike in case numbers for COVID-19, the following was done: On 11/23/2020, Headquarters front lobby was closed to walk-in appointments; all in-person training for employees was cancelled; on 12/4/20, the entire building was disinfected with a professional fogger from the County; Secretarial staff was put back on "Pandemic Teams/Telework" schedule; and the Detective Unit is taking extra precautions by teleworking when able. The Chief also reported that the administration is reviewing pandemic schedules for patrol officers for possible implementation in January if needed and able to do so. Only 6 officers have tested positive for COVID to date and almost all are back to work already. She expects more cases, but believes they are doing a great job in mitigating the spread of COVID among officers and civilian staff. Ms. Probst inquired as to when the COVID vaccine would be available for police officers. Chief Lyon reported she is having ongoing conversations with healthcare providers as far as when it would be available for police and will update the Commission when she knows more.

Extensions of COVID-19 Declaration of Disaster Emergency and Policies

Motion made by Ms. Kochanski, seconded by Mr. Bond, to extend the SARPC Declaration of Disaster Emergency effective March 27, 2020 to the shorter of June 9th, 2021 or until the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania lifts all emergency orders pertaining to the Covid-19 pandemic; nothing herein shall preclude the Commission from extending, modifying, or terminating the order by further action at an open meeting if necessary, and authorizing the Chair and Secretary to execute said amendment. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Ms. Kochanski, seconded by Mr. Eppley, to extend the SARPC Teleworking Policy effective March 27, 2020 to the shorter of June 9th, 2021 or until the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania lifts all emergency orders pertaining to the Covid-19 pandemic; nothing herein shall preclude the Commission from extending, modifying, or terminating the order by further action at an open meeting if necessary, and authorizing the Chair and Secretary to execute said amendment. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Ms. Kochanski, seconded by Mr. Staples, to extend the SARPC Covid-19 Personnel Use Policy effective March 27, 2020 to the shorter of June 9th, 2021 or until the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania lifts all emergency orders pertaining to the Covid-19 pandemic; nothing herein shall preclude the Commission from extending, modifying, or terminating the order by further action at an open meeting if necessary, and authorizing the Chair and Secretary to execute said amendment. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion by Ms. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. Quinn to accept the unaudited Treasurer's Reports as submitted. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

BILLS PAYABLE THROUGH DECEMBER 09, 2020

Motion by Ms. Wolbert, seconded by Mr. Eppley to accept and pay the bills payable through December 09, 2020 as submitted. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve SARPC Year 2021 Meeting Schedule

Motion made by Mr. Eppley, seconded by Ms. Quinn, to approve advertising the 2021 Commission Meeting Schedule for the second Wednesday of every month. It was noted that no meeting falls on a holiday. The motion is subject to ratification at reorganizational meeting. If meeting needs to be held virtually, the Chief is authorized to advertise with appropriate connectivity links. The Meeting Schedule is attached to the minutes. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

SARPD Boards and Committees List

Mr. Martinelli reported that the Boards and Committees list has been distributed to the members to be reviewed for the January meeting.

Car Camera Purchase

Motion made by Ms. Quinn, seconded by Mr. Bond, to purchase 1 unbudgeted WatchGuard Car Camera from P&D Emergency Services (costars) utilizing funds from the DEA Seizure Account for an amount not to exceed \$6,500.00.

Resolution 1-2020 to Set Employee Pension Contribution Rate for 2021

Motion made by Ms. Quinn, seconded by Mr. Eppley, to set the Employee Contribution Rate for the Uniformed Police Pension Plan for the 2021 year at 5% as per the CBA. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Act 62 Autism Coverage & Applied Behavioral Analysis Therapy

After discussion, Motion made by Mr. Eppley, seconded by Ms. Quinn, to add PA Act 62 Autism Services and Applied Behavior Analysis Therapy without maximums to SARPD's health insurance coverage in 2021 (cost neutral) as recommended by Highmark. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No comments

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. Kochanski, seconded by Mr. Bond to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.