

**MINUTES OF THE STROUD AREA REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING OF DECEMBER 23, 2021 AT 8:00 A.M.
IN THE SARPd MEETING ROOM, EAST STROUDSBURG, PA**

The special meeting of the Stroud Area Regional Police Commission was held on Thursday, December 23, 2021, at 8:00 a.m. in the Stroud Area Regional Police Meeting Room. Commission members in attendance were: Armand Martinelli, Daryl Eppley, Joanne Kochanski, Mary Pat Quinn, Tarah Probst, Brian Bond and Rod Baechtold. Also in attendance were Chief Jennifer Lyon, Tracie Kresge, and Solicitor John Prevoznik. One Commission member attended via zoom: Rick Staples. Absent was Sonia Wolbert.

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/ROLL CALL

Mr. Martinelli called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Mr. Eppley called roll. Mr. Martinelli announced that the notice of special meeting was advertised in the *Pocono Record* on December 22, 2021, posted at the SARPd Headquarters as well as on the SARPd website.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Martinelli led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Certify New Hiring List

Motion made by Mr. Baechtold, seconded by Ms. Kochanski, to certify the new hiring list as presented for 6 months and shall expire at midnight June 08, 2022 unless further action is taken by the Commission. A copy of the certified list, listing only applicant ID numbers and rank are attached to the minutes. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

2022 MMO.

Discussion by Mr. Eppley, who stated he wanted to clarify that adopting the revision of the MMO as recommended, would not change the Department's budgeted contributions to the pension. Chief Lyon explained that the revisions to the MMO numbers would change the amount due on the MMO but would not change the Department's contributions as previously budgeted unless changed by subsequent action of the Commission.

Motion made by Ms. Kochanski, seconded by Mr. Bond, to adopt the revised 2022 MMO for the Police Pension Plan reducing the mandatory minimum obligation towards the pension to amount of \$402,729 as recommended by Foster & Foster, the Police Pension actuaries. Worksheet to be attached to minutes. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Conditional Offers of Employment for Position of Police Officer.

Chief Lyon requested that the Commission offer conditional offers of employment to 3 candidates listed on the certified hiring list and send them to the Allentown police academy beginning on January 3, 2022. Chief Lyon stated that the Municipal Police Officer Education and Training Commission (MPOETC) currently offers grants which offset payments for ACT 120 certification for cadets or successfully become police officers after they are trained and certified through the ACT 120 program. MPOETC currently reimburses a department 75% of the tuition and 45% of the hourly wage incurred by a department as a result of any training a cadet hired by a department and paid

to attend a police academy. Discussion by Commission members on pros and cons involved if a repayment agreement between the Department and new hires attending the academy in the event the cadet does not complete the academy or transfers to another department after the completion of the ACT 120 program. The Commission did not feel it was prudent to enter into such an agreement at this time and, accordingly, no motions to add a contingency covering repayment agreements were made in connection with the hiring motions.

Motion made by Ms. Quinn, seconded by Ms. Kochanski, to make a conditional offer of employment for Candidate ID #64723 on the Certified Hiring List, Nicholas Lessig, as per the hiring policy, for the position of police officer, contingent upon successful completion of his background, psychological, and physical exams and further upon successful completion of the Allentown police academy application and ACT 120 certification as paid for by the Commission. Employment to commence on January 3, 2022. He will be hired first. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Ms. Probst, seconded by Ms. Kochanski, to make a conditional offer of employment for Candidate ID #64750 on the Certified Hiring List, Kenneth Malarik, as per the hiring policy, for the position of police officer, contingent upon successful completion of his background, psychological, and physical exams and further upon successful completion of the Allentown police academy application and ACT 120 certification as paid for by the Commission. Employment to commence on January 3, 2022. He will be hired second. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Ms. Probst, seconded by Ms. Kochanski, to make a conditional offer of employment for Candidate ID #64737 on the Certified Hiring List, Wyatt Clements, as per the hiring policy, for the position of police officer, contingent upon successful completion of his background, psychological, and physical exams and further upon successful completion of the Allentown police academy application and ACT 120 certification as paid for by the Commission. Employment to commence on January 3, 2022. He will be hired third. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Chief Lyon stated that she met with Wayne Franks Jr., Biospectra Vice President of Special Operations, yesterday. Mr. Franks presented Chief Lyon with a \$5,000 donation to the Department on behalf of Biospectra in support of the police officers and Department. Chief Lyon stated that she will write a thank you letter on behalf of the Department for the generous donation.

Executive Session

Motion made by Ms. Probst, seconded by Ms. Kochanski, to go into Executive Session; note time 8:16 a.m.

Motion made by Ms. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. Quinn, to reconvene meeting; note time 8:24 a.m.

Solicitor Prevoznik reported that a potential litigation matter involving the police pension was discussed and no decisions were made.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. Probst to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 a.m.
All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.