

**MINUTES OF THE STROUD AREA REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Stroud Area Regional Police Commission was held on Wednesday, September 14, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., in the Stroud Area Regional Police Meeting Room. Commission members in attendance were: Armand Martinelli, Daryl Eppley, Joanne Kochanski, Brian Bond, Mary Pat Quinn, and Rod Baechtold. Absent was Tarah Probst. Also in attendance were: Chief Jennifer Lyon, Captain Scott Raymond, Tracie Kresge, and Solicitor John Prevoznik. Commission members Rick Staples and Sonia Wolbert attended via Zoom.

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 September 14, 2022, regular meeting of the Stroud Area Regional Police Commission to order at 7:12 p.m. and Daryl Eppley called roll.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Solicitor Prevoznik reported that Executive Session was held prior to the meeting, which began at 6:20 p.m. and ended at 7:10 p.m. Members of the Commission present were Mr. Martinelli, Mr. Eppley, Ms. Kochanski, and Ms. Quinn, Mr. Baechtold, and Mr. Bond. Mr. Staples and Ms. Wolbert attended via zoom. Ms. Probst was absent. Discussed were security issues, at 6:35 breach counsel joined the meeting virtually and left the meeting at 7:00 p.m., at which point personnel issues were discussed, before adjourning at 7:10 p.m. No decisions were made.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Martinelli led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES OF AUGUST 10, 2022, COMMISSION MEETING

Motion made by Ms. Quinn, seconded by Mr. Eppley to accept the of August 08, 2022 Commission Meeting Minutes. All voted aye. Mr. Baechtold abstained based on his absence from the last meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Ms. Quinn noted that Captain Raymond was omitted from the attendance list and should be added.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Elks Officer of the Year Award

The Chief reported that each year the Elks sponsor an Officer of the Year award. This year, the awards ceremony was held on Friday, September 9, 2022, at the Elks Club. At the ceremony, this year's award was given to Detective Corporal Emily Raymond. The Chief further reported that Raymond was selected because she continuously goes above and beyond what is expected in her investigations. It was noted that Raymond concluded by successful prosecution a sexual assault case which started in 2018. The defendant was sentence to up to 400 years in prison.

Current Projects

The Chief reported on the status of projects on which she is currently working which are in addition to her normal duties: coordinating and preparing for Dales' depositions, 2023 budget, new Tyler RMS system (scheduled to go live January 2023), policy updates, new policies, data security incident items, increased complaints due to mental health issues, the annual report, and hiring.

Municipalities Meeting with the Chief and Staff

A municipal meeting was held with the three municipalities on August 17, 2022. In attendance were Larry Kopp, Tarah Probst, Daryl Eppley, Christine Wilkins, Brian Bond, Sonia Wolbert, Chief Jennifer Lyon, Captain Scott Raymond, Officer Robert Cohowicz, Sergeant John Vogt, and Sergeant Tommy Lemond.

Each municipality was encouraged to bring priority issues which the municipalities felt needed to be addressed by the police. The issues were reported, as follows:

Stroudsburg Borough wants to see more foot patrol, enforcement of its local ordinances to include loitering, fireworks, pan-handling, public nuisances such as homeless and drug-addicts sleeping on benches as well as harassing people on Main St., open container violations, dog feces clean up, littering, needles found in parking garages and on the street. Also the Borough indicated that traffic enforcement was a priority – specifically running stop signs in residential areas, along with vandalism and graffiti, and police presence needed at community events.

Stroud Township's priorities were traffic enforcement, speed and stop signs violations, noise complaints, ordinance violations, waste haulers out before 7:00 a.m. for commercial pickup, open burning. The Township indicated that while it believed park enforcement was good when called, that there should be more proactive patrols.

East Stroudsburg Borough's concerns included fireworks, traffic enforcement of speeding, stopping, fire lane violations, bikes and pot smoking, ATVs on the levy, and better communication by police to residents.

The Chief acknowledged that the issues raised were basically Quality of Life issues. She intends to address these issues by continuing with more proactive policing efforts. She warned that the current challenge to proactive policing and Quality of Life issues all revolve around very low manpower and budgetary concerns. The Chief set forth pros and cons to restructuring the Department to allow for more manpower on the street. The Chief indicated that she would discuss these issues with the municipalities at their next meeting but again expressed concerns with drastically altering the current priorities of the Police Department.

After discussion, the Chief requested approval to meet with the three municipalities for further consideration of their issues and the police response thereto. She will report back to the Commission with the municipalities vision of the Police Department.

Finally, the Chief reported that she was going to create two new specialized supervisor assignments to assist the Department with Quality of Life issues. The Chief reported that no action of the Commission was necessary as these new assignments were not new job positions.

Motion made by Ms. Kochanski seconded by Ms. Quinn to approve the Chief setting up the next meeting with the municipalities. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2022

Motion made by Mr. Bond, seconded by Ms. Kochanski to accept the August 2022 monthly report as submitted. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Operations Committee

No meeting.

Personnel

No meeting.

Safety

Mr. Staples reported they had a meeting on 9/13/22. The committee discussed the work on the HVAC duct system, starting with the cleaning of the ducts in the magistrate's office. He also stated there was one minor accident, no injuries, minimal vehicle damage.

Police Pension Board

No meeting.

Non-Uniform Pension Board

No meeting.

Budget/Finance

Mr. Eppley reported that they had their first meeting on August 18, 2022. They are having another meeting before the October meeting to try to finalize the draft budget. Chief reported that the Benecon meeting is not taking place until October 11, 2022 and the Commission meeting is October 12, 2022, so the budget would not be finalized until October 11, 202. The Chief suggested that the Commission may need a special meeting to review and approve the Budget so that it may be sent to the members municipalities without further delay.

Negotiation Committee

No meeting.

SARPC Foundation

No meeting.

Solicitor

No report.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

BILLS PAYABLE THROUGH September 14, 2022

Motion by Ms. Wolbert, seconded by Ms. Kochanski to accept and pay the bills payable through September 14, 2022, as submitted. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Disposal of SARPD property.

Motion made by Ms. Quinn, seconded by Ms. Kochanski to dispose of 5 tasers (destruction) and 6 vehicles owned by the SARPD as per policy and by offering the vehicles for sale via Municibid, a copy of property list shall be attached to the minutes. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Duct Cleaning

Motion made by Ms. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. Quinn to authorize the duct cleaning of the magistrate's office by Ductz of the Greater Poconos, in an amount not to exceed \$5,500.00. The cost of the cleaning is not subject to bidding requirements. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Heart and Lung Board appointment.

After discussion. Motion made by Ms. Kochanski seconded by Mr. Bond to fill the vacant seat on the Heart and Lung Board by appointing Dr. Michael Stein. Solicitor to notify Dr. Stein. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

2023 MMO.

Motion made by Ms. Kochanski seconded by Mr. Bond to adopt the 2023 MMO for the Non-Uniform Pension Plan in the amount of \$31,600.00 with the MMO worksheet to be attached to the minutes. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Ms. Kochanski seconded by Ms. Quinn to adopt the 2023 MMO for the Police Pension Plan in the amount of \$395,350.00, subject for modification by further motion of the Commission with the MMO worksheet to be attached to the minutes. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

2023 Contracted Services.

Motion made by Mr. Eppley seconded by Ms. Kochanski to solicit bids for the standard contracted services under the mandatory bid threshold for the year 2023 (Car Wash, Oil changes, Lawn Care, Snow Plowing, Uniform Cleaning, Generator, and HVAC). All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Arete Statements of Work.

Motion made by Mr. Eppley, seconded by Ms. Quinn to authorize the signing and approval of three separate Statement of Works in the total amount of \$33,450.00 (broken down as follows: Amendment 1 \$250.00, Amendment 2 \$8,650.00, and Amendment 3 \$21,205.05) as recommended by special counsel and approved by the insurance carrier. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Austin Healy Car Show.

Motion made by Ms. Quinn seconded by Mr. Bond to authorize the Chief, to increase the shift strength by two additional officers (16 Hrs. OT) for the Austin Healy Car Show, to meet the anticipated increased call volume due to the event. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

PCCD Law Enforcement Support Grant.

Motion made by Mr. Baechtold seconded by Ms. Kochanski to authorize the Chief to submit an application for the PCCD Law Enforcement Support Grant to assist in funding for eligible programs or activities and expenses to implement information technology improvement, purchase or upgrades, cover non-traditional law enforcement personnel costs, support retention and recruitment efforts or provide training and cover related expenses as authorized by the grant. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. Quinn to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Ms. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. Quinn to rescind their motions to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made Ms. Quinn, seconded by Ms. Kochanski to continue the meeting on Thursday, September 22, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in the SARPD meeting room. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously. Ms. Kresge to post on the meeting room door and in front of headquarters.