

**MINUTES OF THE STROUD AREA REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 14, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Stroud Area Regional Police Commission was held on Wednesday, October 14, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom virtual conference. Commission members in attendance via Zoom were: Sonia Wolbert, Mary Pat Quinn, Daryl Eppley, Joanne Kochanski, Rod Baechtold, Tarah Probst, Rick Staples, and Brian Bond. Armand Martinelli was absent. Also in attendance were: Chief Jennifer Lyon, Captain Paul Gasper, and Solicitor John Prevoznik. Note: Sonia Wolbert left the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

SPECIAL NOTE

Mr. Eppley stated 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 also posted on the SARPD's Facebook Page where the public could join the zoom meeting interact and ask questions in real time. Due to technical difficulties the meeting was not able to be live streamed on the SARPD's Facebook page.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Eppley called the October 14, 2020 regular meeting of the Stroud Area Regional Police Commission to order at 7:15 p.m. and called roll. Technical problems, regarding public on-line access to the meeting, delayed the start of the meeting until 7:15 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Eppley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Prevoznik reported, that as advertised, executive session was held prior to the meeting which began at 6:30 p.m. and ended at 6:53 p.m. Discussed were three personnel matters and updates to labor negotiations meetings, no decisions were made.

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 09, 2020 COMMISSION MEETING

Motion by Ms. Quinn, seconded by Ms. Kochanski to accept the September 09, 2020 Commission Meeting Minutes. All voted aye, Ms. Probst abstained. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Commission was sent a letter by FBI Special Agent Michael Driscoll indicting that Chief Lyon was nominated to the FBI National Academy and requested that the Commission support the nomination by authorizing her attendance.

Motion made by Ms. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. Probst to authorize Chief Lyon to attend the 10-week program of accredited instruction for Law Enforcement leaders at the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia, whenever selected to attend. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously. Chief Lyon thanked the Commission.

Chief Lyon requested that she be allowed to assign the Lieutenants' positions with lower ranking police officers in an acting capacity.

Motion made by Ms. Wolbert, seconded by Ms. Kochanski to allow the Chief to assign lower ranking police officers in an acting capacity for both Lieutenants positions as budgeted. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2020

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

SARPD 2021 BUDGET

After discussion, Motion made by Ms. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. Quinn to forward the proposed 2021 SARPD Budget in the amount of \$9,346,089.00 to the municipalities for approval. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Operations Committee

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

Personnel

No meeting.

Safety

Mr. Staples reported that the Committee did meet and also completed its yearly training under Act 44. He reported that the Department experience several minor motor vehicle accidents. Additionally, several officers were exposed to COVID-19 but no one has tested positive. Mr. Staples reported that the annual hazard inspection on the building will be performed next month. Finally, Mr. Staples reported that a minor mold issue was discovered in the Detective unit and was being looked into.

Police Pension Board

No meeting.

Non-Uniform Pension Board

No meeting.

Capital Improvement Committee

No meeting.

Budget/Finance

Budget Committee meetings held on 9/24, 9/29, and 10/14/20. The proposed Budget was finalized and sent to the Commission for action at today's meeting.

Negotiation Committee

Mr. Eppley reported that they had a meeting on September 17th and October 1st, 2020 in preparation for negotiations and will be meeting with the SARPD Association tomorrow morning. He believes that progress is still being made and hope that it will continue at tomorrow's meeting. Mr. Eppley reported that he needed a motion to approve extending the time frame to commence arbitration. Motion made by Ms. Kochanski seconded by Ms. Probst to approve extending the time frames to commence arbitration hearing contingent upon the SARPD Bargaining Units written approval. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

SARPC Foundation

No meeting.

Solicitor

No report.

OLD BUSINESS

PCCD Grant

Chief Lyon reported that the Department received \$19,675.20 from the PCCD County Grant for Law Enforcement. The initial request was for \$32,519.00.

Sidewalk Repair

Chief Lyon reported that the sidewalk repair in front of HQ has been completed and the permit finalized.

Hiring Update

Chief Lyon reported that 34 applicants participated in the written hiring test held on 9/30/2020. Sixteen applicants passed the written test and will proceed onto the physical ability test scheduled for 10/17/2020.

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 OCTOBER 14, 2020

Motion by Ms. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. Quinn to accept and pay the bills payable through October 14, 2020 as submitted. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Police Commission Terms to Expire

Chief Lyon reported that she sent correspondence to the owner municipalities for the Commission indicating that the terms for Brian Bond, Mary Pat Quinn, and Rick Staples are set to expire on 1/13/2021.

LSA Grant

Motion made by Ms. Probst, seconded by Ms. Kochanski to authorize the Department to apply for an LSA grant through the Monroe County Industrial Development Authority (MCIDA) in the amount of \$60,000 and to pay the application fee of \$600, the purpose of which is to purchase a new patrol vehicle. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Ms. Quinn, seconded by Ms. Kochanski to request letters of support from the municipalities for the SARPD LSA grant application. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Resignation of Corporal

Motion made by Ms. Probst, seconded by Mr. Bond to ratify the Chief accepting Corporal Eilber's resignation from the position of Corporal to return to the position of Patrol Officer as of 10/2/2020. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Probst, on behalf of the Stroudsburg Neighborhood Crime Watch, requested that the SARPD send a letter supporting legislation for local police to use radar. Additionally, Ms. Probst reported that the Stroudsburg Neighborhood Crime Watch had questions on potential vehicle code violations. Chief Lyon stated that she would set up a Zoom meeting with Crime Watch to address their concerns and answer questions.

Motion made by Ms. Kochanski, seconded by Mr. Staples for the SARPC to sign and send a letter of support to area legislators regarding the local use of radar for speed enforcement. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Kochanski wanted to remind everyone that the Commission meeting for November occurs on Tuesday 11/10/2020, as advertised, due to the Veterans Day holiday on Wednesday.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. Wolbert, seconded by Ms. Kochanski to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.