

**MINUTES OF THE STROUD AREA REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 13, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Stroud Area Regional Police Commission was held on Thursday, October 13, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in the Stroud Area Regional Police Meeting Room. Commission members in attendance were: Armand Martinelli, Daryl Eppley, Joanne Kochanski, Mary Pat Quinn, Sonia Wolbert, Tara Probst, and Rod Baechtold. Also in attendance were Chief Jennifer Lyon, Captain Paul Gasper, Tracie Kresge, and Solicitor John Prevoznik. One Commission members attended via zoom: Rick Staples. Absent was Brian Bond.

**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 October 13, 2021 regular meeting of the Stroud Area Regional Police Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. and Mr. Eppley called roll.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Martinelli led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Solicitor Prevoznik reported that executive session was held prior to the meeting which began at 6:31 p.m. and ended at 7:03 p.m. Discussed were contract negotiations with the Union and one personnel matter. He further reported that no decisions were made. All members of the Commission were present in person with the exception of Brian Bond who was not present and Mr. Staples who participated via zoom.

**MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2021 COMMISSION MEETING**

Motion by Ms. Wolbert, seconded by Ms. Kochanski to accept the September 9, 2021 Commission Meeting Minutes. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS**

Officer Robert Cohowicz, President of the SARPD Union, was present and thanked the Commission for working with the union during Act 111 Negotiations. Mr. Eppley thanked the union for its hard work with the committee resulting in a successful negotiation. Mr. Eppley also stated that the commission is thankful for the entire police force and all the hard work they do.

**ACT 111 NEGOTIATIONS**

Motion made by Ms. Wolbert, seconded by Ms. Kochanski, to adopt the CBA as recommended by the Negotiation Committee, and as codified and signed by the Union. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**DEPARTMENT REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2021**

Motion by Ms. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. Wolbert to accept the September 2021 monthly report. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Operations Committee**

Chief Lyon reported that the Department's updated policies are still being worked on. She hopes to have them before the Commission as soon as possible.

**Personnel**

No meeting.

### **Safety**

Ms. Staples reported that the Safety Committee completed their annual safety training as per Act 44 in which the department then receives a workmen's compensation discount per Act 57.

### **Police Pension Board**

Mr. Staples reported that he is setting up a meeting with Wells Fargo to select one of three options for a new sweep account.

### **Non-Uniform Pension Board**

No meeting.

### **Budget/Finance**

Mr. Eppley reported that the committee met two more times since the last meeting. All quotes and figures for the 2022 year were received yesterday, the largest outstanding item being healthcare, which increased 9.8%. The Chief did email the draft budget to the commission for review yesterday. After discussion on how much time was needed for the commission members to review the budget, motion made by Mr. Baechtold, seconded by Ms. Wolbert, to table the 2022 SARPD Budget and continue the meeting to October 20, 2021 at 5:15 PM; notice of the continued meeting shall be posted on the doors of the meeting room and HQ and the Department's website.

Roll Call:

Aye: Rod Baechtold, Sonia Wolbert, Mary Pat Quinn, Joanne Kochanski, Daryl Eppley

Nay: Rick Staples, Tarah Probst, Armand Martinelli.

Motion carried 5 - 3

### **Negotiation Committee**

No meeting

### **SARPC Foundation**

Ms. Kochanski stated that the SARPCF 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament was a success. Total income from the tournament was \$24,150.00, total expenses were \$6,196.22, with a total profit of \$17,956.78. Chief Lyon reported that the tournament was a huge success due to the hard work of multiple persons in the Department particularly Paul Gasper, BJ Bentzoni, and Keith Strunk Jr. whom spearheaded the event. Ms. Kochanski reported this was the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest year of profit from past tournaments even after following a pandemic year -- everyone did a great job.

### **Solicitor Report**

Mr. Prevoznik reported he has items that he will report on at the appropriate agenda line.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Act 44 PFM Rescission of Non-Assignment**

Solicitor Prevoznik reported that the past issue with PFM being sold to US World Bank regarding Act 44 issues was discussed with the Auditor General, due diligence issues, changes of control and ownership and potential penalties. A meeting was then held with PFM who stated that the bank did purchase PFM but that the corporation remains intact and they have filed an Act 44 notice.

Motion made by Ms. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. Wolbert, to rescind the letter sent to PFM for rescission of non-assignment and authorize solicitor to send a letter of concurrence to allow PFM to continue to act as pension advisor under Act 44. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Tabled Department Report For The Month Of August 2021**

Motion by Ms. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. Wolbert to accept the August 2021 Monthly Report as presented. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

**BILLS PAYABLE THROUGH OCTOBER 13, 2021**

Motion by Ms. Wolbert, seconded by Ms. Kochanski to accept and pay the bills payable through October 13, 2021. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Officer Amber Welsh Resignation.**

Motion made by Ms. Wolbert, seconded by Ms. Quinn, to accept the resignation of Officer Amber Welsh effective on 10/14/21. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

**Personnel matter- Administrative staffing- Consideration and Action on Chief's Recommendations**

Motion made by Mr. Baechtold, seconded by Ms. Wolbert, to accept the separation agreement with Linda Nadeau with a retirement date of October 20, 2021 with a payout of accrued vacation time in the total amount of \$2,259.30, and to continue healthcare at cobra rates until January 31, 2022 at which time she shall be solely responsible for her medical coverage and the entire agreement is contingent upon non revocation of the separation agreement. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Ms. Probst inquired if the party house of concern on Broad Street in Stroudsburg was on the Department's list of current party houses. Captain Gasper responded that the house is being monitored. Ms. Probst also had some questions on panhandling and fireworks complaints in the area in reference to incidents she knew about or complaints she received.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At the time of 7:32 pm, Motion by Ms. Wolbert, seconded by Ms. Kochanski to continue the meeting to October 20, 2021 at 5:15 PM in the SARPD Meeting Room.

Roll Call:

Aye: Rod Baechtold, Sonia Wolbert, Mary Pat Quinn, Joanne Kochanski, Daryl Eppley

Nay: Rick Staples, Tarah Probst, Armand Martinelli.

Motion carried 5 - 3