

**Southern Police Commission
Monthly Meeting
May 1, 2019**

A public meeting of the Southern Police Commission was held on Wednesday, May 1, 2019. The meeting convened at the New Freedom Borough Council Chambers, 49 East High Street, New Freedom, PA 17349.

Commission Members Present: Donna Benton (seated alternate), Buck Buchanan, Rob Herzberger, Larry O'Brien, Mike Sharkey, John Trout, Nick Wagner (seated alternate)

Solicitor: Peter Ruth

Police Department Staff: Chief James Boddington, Financial Administrator Gail Prego, Ofc. Grove, Ofc. Heffner, Ofc. Smith, Ofc. Swartz

Members Absent: Roy Burkins, Bruce Merrill, Andrew Stewart

Alternate Members Present: None

IGA Committee Members: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Trout at 19:05 with the pledge of allegiance to the flag and a moment of silence for fallen first responders, police officers, firefighters, and EMT's who lost their lives in the line of duty.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Students from Susquehannock High School, Tyler Elliott and Megan Stifflet representing the Susquehannock Student Council made a presentation to Officer Smith. On April 17, the Student Council and Student Body held a fund raising event to support the efforts to create a K-9 unit. They raised over \$600.00 and Student Council donated an additional amount for a total of \$1000.00, a check for which was presented to Officer Smith during the meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Commission member financial statements are now overdue or due today.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF APRIL 3, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

- Chairman Trout asked for a review and approval of the minutes for meeting on April 3 as presented.
- A motion was made by Commissioner Herzberger, seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to approve the minutes as submitted. Commissioners Buchanan and Sharkey abstained due to not having been there. The motion passed with an Aye vote.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF MARCH 2019 EXPENDITURES

- Expenses and financial reports through March 29, 2019 were presented with Finance Administrator Prego leading the discussion.
- Revenue for the March was pretty much on target. There was extra work in Railroad Borough requiring investigation and some overtime.
- The monthly billings for each municipality were completed and the appropriate percentage of an \$80k refund to each member Borough was disbursed as a rebate as part of that billing.
- Salaries and wages: Detective overtime was a bit over budget in part due to the skimmer investigation and activities in Railroad. Officer wages are under budget due to Officer Wright having come on board during the year with a salary that had been budgeted for the entire year. Health care and other benefit expenses will be slightly under due to having budgeted for greater amounts.
- Vehicles: So far, so good. A lower octane fuel selection has resulted on somewhat lower fuel costs.
- Some of the expenses for the new car have yet to be invoiced.

- Commissioner Herzberger inquired regarding below budget admin expenses. Administrator Prego explained that our admin staff members are part time. When they take time off, they get no vacation or sick leave pay and those anticipated wage expenses aren't paid.
- Commissioner Buchanan asked about the roving patrol item. Chief Boddington explained that the time is attributed to County level activities, such as DUI check points, and that we are reimbursed by York County, mostly at an overtime rate.
- Most of the bills are in for the new car outfitting.
- There was a question from Chairman Trout regarding expenses and savings associated with having switched cellular service to FirstNet. Administrator Prego verified that there are savings for cellular service from approximately \$600 per month to within the \$300 per month range.
- There was a discussion with Commissioners Herzberger and O'Brien and Administrator Prego regarding the difference between monthly expense report amount and the check register amount. Wage expenses and other items for which checks and routine ACH payments are not made are not included in the check register listing.
- A motion was made by Commissioner Buchanan to approve expenses for March from the Monthly Expense report of \$161,962.53 and approve the check detail including several ACH's (electronic transfers) and check numbers 11149 through 11188. The motion was seconded by Commissioner O'Brien. Chairman Trout called for any further questions and there were none. The motion passed with an Aye vote.

CHIEF'S REPORT

- Chief Boddington reviewed the printed report through March 31. This meeting date is the first of the month and more time is required to complete a previous month's report. The posted reports and schedules show that the patrol obligations are being met, and time in each municipality has varied as required by the calls for service. Time allocation is within expectations.
- Enforcement numbers are self-explanatory.
- Glen Rock Borough requested enforcement on Church St.
- Commissioner Benton asked about the 29 hours of overtime reported for New Freedom. It's predominantly attributable to the investigation associated with the deception burglary.
- April was very busy.
- Stewartstown was especially busy with vehicle break-in's. During the investigation, description reports of the suspects were being received. Extra patrols were assigned to the area and Ofc. Ben Grove observed a suspicious vehicle parked near the park and people matching the descriptions received near the park. The vehicle was identified as stolen and Officers Grove and Smith made arrests. The car contained stolen property from 2 homes in Hopewell Twp. Search warrants were obtained and the investigations were conducted in cooperation with other law enforcement agencies. Many hours of officer and investigator time were involved, and numerous crimes were solved as a result of this arrest. Commissioner/Stewartstown Mayor Herzberger mentioned that he'd had lots of positive feedback from the community personally and via social media regarding the value of having a local police department available for these sorts of things.
- Chief Boddington reviewed the value of having local police, who know the community well, being on patrol and able to recognize things out of place or that don't seem right.
- Stewartstown also had a break-in at building used by Richman's Auto Parts. Ofc. Heffner provided details of the investigation. Two juvenile females were involved.
- Glen Rock: Trinity Church had small fires set on the property using Bible pages. The person who did it has mental and emotional problems, and those problems are being properly addressed.
- There was an attempted burglary in Shrewsbury Township. PSP requested assistance. SRPD requested assistance from citizens in the area, who were able to help identify the reappearance of the subject in the area. SRPD officers detained a suspect pending arrival of PSP Troopers who are continuing the investigation.

- Shrewsbury: A service dog was found in the area with no collar. An SRPD officer brought the dog to the station. A chip reader, that the Department had been obtained using donated money, was used to read the chip in the dog and it helped to find the dog owner and return the animal.
- DEA drug takeback was completed. Since we have a drug box in the lobby we receive unused prescription drugs on a regular basis. DEA picked up 10 boxes, 300 pounds of turned in unused prescription drugs.
- The new car, a Charger designated 4279, is now in service. A few items of equipment installation remain to be completed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

INSURANCE & PENSION

- No report. Financial Administrator Prego advised that pension related paperwork has been submitted.

PERSONNEL

- No report

FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT

- No report

FINANCE & BUDGET

- Finance Administrator Prego advised that we're ready for the audit.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT COMMITTEE

- Commissioner Sharkey reported that the committee had met. They are planning meetings with the Chief and Sergeants to gather more information. The committee continues to meet the first and third Tuesday of each month.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- Solicitor Ruth responded to a Right to Know request.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- None

OLD BUSINESS

- Commissioner O'Brien mentioned that there had been some email discussion regarding the purchase of an available trailer. A trailer was not in the budget, and since it's not an emergency purchase that items of this type must be discussed and voted on by the full Commission. There was a discussion. Chief Boddington mentioned that the potential purchase of a trailer is intended to replace some of the function of the old ambulance that had been used to transport materials to public events and equipment used at the range during training. The opportunity had presented itself to purchase a recent model used trailer in great shape that is suitable for our use. That trailer is no longer available.
- Commissioner O'Brien observed that North Codorus Twp. is discussing separation from Southwestern Regional PD. He feels that we should be pursuing mergers with other departments and/or pursuing opportunities where a municipality is pursuing a relationship with a local police department. Chairman Trout mentioned that we should complete the IGA process and get our own operation more completely in order before pursuing other relationships. By the same token it might be appropriate to form a committee to develop a plan to pursue these sorts of opportunities when they present themselves after

the IGA work is completed. Solicitor Ruth mentioned that North Codorus' requested proposals from specifically chosen departments that they were interested in hearing from. The discussion continued.

- Kim Butcher shared that he'd spoken with people in Shrewsbury Township who want local police coverage and are less than completely pleased with PSP response times. Commissioner Buchanan explained his experience of having discussions with Shrewsbury Twp. leadership about the matter previously. They'd have to make select areas in the township who want this service pay additional taxes to support the costs for those neighborhoods and those citizens would have to vote for those higher taxes. A detailed discussion continued. The mutual aid concept between SRPD and PSP and other departments was reviewed. Andy Bobby mentioned the current proposals at State Government level to charge for State Police coverage for municipalities that have no local police department is on-going and may prompt changes.
- Commissioner O'Brien made a motion to form a growth exploration committee to develop a plan to pursue these sorts of opportunities. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sharkey. There was additional discussion. The motion passed with an Aye vote. Commissioner O'Brien will chair this committee.

NEW BUSINESS

- Secretary Kirschman noted that there is yet another local police radar bill introduced in the PA House, HB 1275. This bill appears to be laden with special interest content such as an accreditation requirement, accreditation funding from fines received by the local municipality, and that only full time officers employed by full time departments may use radar. It joins HB 74 with unnecessary requirements and burdensome additional costs to departments that use radar. HB 352 and SB 607 appear to be suitable bills that provide authorization for properly trained local police departments and their officers to use radar without unnecessary financial and administrative burdens and should be supported by each of us and our municipal councils.
- Commissioner Buchanan mentioned that York Water has begun providing water service to some Shrewsbury Township residents, which has resulted in the necessity to cap the wells of those residents as part of the wellhead protection program. One of the Twp. residents is not happy and has been inundating the Borough with Right to Know requests which are costing much money to respond to and appearing to broach harassment. Commissioner Buchanan is advising that municipalities should be aware of, and ready to respond to, RTK requests that approach being harassment.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: A motion for adjournment was made by Commissioner Buchanan, seconded by Commissioner O'Brien. There was a unanimous Aye vote at 20:07.