**Present** Commissioner Claude Beaver - Maidencreek Township, Alternate Diane Hollenbach Commissioner Gary Hadden - Ontelaunee Township, Commissioner Glen Moyer - Leesport Borough, Alternate Charles Berger, Chief Scott Eaken, Ruth Manmiller-Secretary, and Solicitor Whitney Rahman.

Claude Beaver opened the January 13, 2014 Northern Berks Regional Police Commission Meeting at 7:05 PM in the Ontelaunee Township Meeting Room.

**PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

**FOR THE RECORD**

This meeting is being audio recorded by the NBRPD Commission.

**MINUTES – December 9, 2013 Commission Meeting**

Glen Moyer made a motion, seconded by Gary Hadden, to approve the December 9, 2013

Northern Berks Regional Police Commission Meeting Minutes. All Commissioners voted, “Aye.” Motion carried.

### TREASURER’S REPORT

Ruth Manmiller presented the December 9, 2013 Treasurer’s Report that included the fund balances,

the year to date budget report, and documentation of all transactions and payment of bills.

Gary Hadden made motion, seconded by Glen Moyer, to approve the December 9, 2013 Treasurer’s Report. All Commissioners voted, “Aye.” Motion carried.

Glen Moyer questioned;

1. Which budget the Commission is using and was the 2013 budget passed?
2. What is the budget item “Health Deductible”?

The Chief confirmed that the 2013 Budget was approved. The 2013 Budget allowed for the municipalities to continue paying the same monthly contributions as they did in 2012 by utilizing $60,000.00 from the reserve fund if necessary. He included the fact that for 2012, 2013 and now 2014 (with the return of funds with either option), the municipalities contributions would remain the same. The Chief provided background budget information for the new Commissioners.

The Chief informed the Commission that the health deductible is a benefit to keep the officer’s whole from previous contracts relative to doctor visits and prescriptions.

As always, the breakdown of every budget item is explained.

**CHIEF’S REPORT**

The Chief read the December 9, 2013 Activity Report and the Year End Report. He added he try to meet the hours of service in 2014 because officers should be returning to work and using the 12 hour shifts. Since 2012 the police department has not been at full staff make meeting the hours of service difficult.

**New Vehicle**

The Chief reminded the Commission that the 2013 Budget allowed for a new vehicle. Our vehicle fleet mileage is increasing and becoming costly to maintain the older vehicles. At this point, Unit # 7 a 2006 Chevrolet with over 130,000 miles needs to be replaced. In past years we have forgone the purchase of vehicles and as a result several vehicles have high mileage and are become costly to maintain and keep in mind these vehicle issues are becoming a safety issues for our officers as well.

In addition, I would like to replace Unit # 9 (Sgt. Det. Horner) a 1997 Ford with more than 125,000 miles. There are two Chevy Impalas available (1) black, (1) gray that could be utilized for the Sgt. Det.

We went from a 90,000 mile threshold, to 100,000 miles, and now we are pushing it to 125,000 miles.

Two officers driving the same vehicle the mileage threshold needs to be reduced. The vehicles are our primary tool in this profession – if we can’t get there – that is no good.

Glen Moyer made a motion, seconded by Gary Hadden, to replace Unit #7. This vehicle will be a white Chevrolet Impala, marked and equipped with a light bar. All Commissioners voted, “Aye.” Motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Diane Hollenbach provided an application from Berks County Cooperative Purchasing Council for the Police Department to consider purchasing ammunition in bulk.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**2014 Budget**

Claude Beaver questioned if Leesport Borough had enough time to review all options presented for the 2014 Budget. In past discussions neither option could be decided upon because Leesport wanted to include conditional approval of the DCED report and/or merging Option 1 & Option 2.

If we continue to move forward with the 2013 budget in 2014, no funds will be returned to be prepared for the increases that were anticipated for in the either options of the 2014 budget.

Gary Hadden stated that Ontelaunee Township was in favor of Option 2 – no changes.

After a lengthy discussion pertaining to the different budget options, remaining funds, DCED study it was decided to make the following motion at the February Commission meeting; A motion to return (1) $173,500.00 ($82,412.50 Maidencreek Twp., $57255.00 Ontelaunee Twp., $33,832.50 Leesport Borough) (2) Complete the DCED Study, (3) If study justifies an officer-begin the hiring process, (4) hold $41,500.00 towards hiring an officer – if not used it would go towards the 2015 budget. All this planning is on hold until the Solicitor researches the legality of opening the budget.

Gary Hadden made a motion, seconded by Glen Moyer authorizing the Solicitor to research the legality of opening the budget in an even year/revisit the proposed budgets. All Commissioners voted, “Aye.” Motion carried.

The Chief commented if the Commission continues to move forward as proposed the DCED study could begin in February and could take up to six months to complete. If the study would justify an officer, it could take another six months till testing, physical exam, physical agility testing, background checks are completed till an officer could be hired. Then several months till the officer would be ready for duty.

Gary Hadden made a motion, seconded by Glen Moyer to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 PM. Motion carried.

**Executive Session**

Personnel – 8:48 PM – 9:22 PM

Respectfully submitted,

***Ruth M. Manmiller***

NBRPD Secretary

CC: Maidencreek Township Board of Supervisors

Ontelaunee Township Board of Supervisors

Leesport Borough Council

Diane Hollenbach, Maidencreek Township Secretary

Nicole Schwenk, Ontelaunee Township Secretary

Sandra Weiser, Leesport Borough Secretary

S. Whitney Rahman, Blakinger, Byler & Thomas, P.C.