**Present** Commissioner, Rodney Younker - Ontelaunee Township, Commissioner, Joseph Rudderow III - Maidencreek Township, Commissioner Glen Moyer - Leesport Borough, Alternate Charles Berger – Leesport Borough, Chief Scott Eaken, and Ruth Manmiller-Secretary, Whitney Rahman - Solicitor.

**Guests** Diane Hollenbach, Christina Wood, David Drazenovich

Joseph Rudderow opened the May 13, 2013 Northern Berks Regional Police Commission Meeting at 7:02 PM in the Ontelaunee Township Meeting Room.

**PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

**FOR THE RECORD**

This meeting is being audio and video recorded by the NBRPD Association. Signs posted on camera stand. Ontelaunee Township Board of Supervisors posted signs as to notify the public of video recording as well.

**MINUTES – April 8, 2013 Commission Meeting**

Rodney Younker made a motion, seconded by Glen Moyer, to approve the April 8, 2013

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

### TREASURER’S REPORT

Ruth Manmiller presented the April 2013 Treasurer’s Report that included the fund balances, the year to date budget report, and documentation of all transactions. Glen Moyer made a motion, seconded by Rodney Younker, to approve the April 2013 Treasurer’s Report. All Commissioners voted, “Aye.” Motion carried.

**CHIEF’S REPORT**

The Chief read the monthly report and commented on the following arrests;

4/10/2013 Arrested individuals responsible for a burglary – N. View Road – Maidencreek Twp.

4/19/2013 DUI .187 H&R – Turkey Hill Parking Lot – Maidencreek Twp.

5/04/2013 Defiant Trespass – N. Centre Ave – Leesport Borough

Additional Department information:

1. Maidencreek Township as part of the county Wide consortium had Vascar lines painted for speed enforcement
2. Chief will be contacting Leesport Borough about Vascar lines being installed in the Borough
3. Speed/Traffic Study completed on Walnut Tree Drive
4. Speed detail conducted on Orchard Road – very successful as this roadway is used as a short cut to avoid the traffic back up on Rt 222.
5. Patrol Rifles ordered in March should arrive in the near future
6. Still waiting on delivery date for the new vehicle
7. Most of the rifle racks have been installed in vehicles
8. New flashlights were installed in all vehicles

Joseph Rudderow confirmed that the new vehicle would be marked.

Glen Moyer pointed out Leesport’s negative time compared to the other municipalities being in the positive. He questioned when Leesport will regain their time, as they are down 138 hours for the year. The Chief felt that upon the return of the officer out on sick leave, the borough should regain their hours of coverage.

Rodney Younker confirmed that he did see an officer in action monitoring speed in Leesport Borough however; till he could stop the perpetrator they were in Ontelaunee Twp. He confirmed he has witnessed the police monitoring speed in Leesport on numerous occasions. It is nice to have the cars marked, it is a huge deterrent.

Glen Moyer commented on the crowd that attended the April Commission meeting as a result of the Commissioners debating on hiring a replacement officer; the same issue was discussed at the Leesport Borough meeting resulting in the following questions; “Do we really need to have an automatic replacement officer to maintain 14 officers? How did we arrive at that number in the first place? The Leesport Borough report points out a need for officers by calls and/or population. Is this something (calls and/or population) that has been used in the past to arrive at 14 officers?”

The Chief reported that the 14 member force derived from the merger of Leesport Borough Police and Maidencreek/Ontelaunee Police in 1998 and we have maintained that number since then. We have never had an officer retire since Chief Gaul. The Chief confirmed he could provide reports by call volume, or population and/or jurisdiction size that suggest Northern Berks should have 19 to 20 officers to maintain full coverage. The Chief is fearful of the Commission’s action when a report is completed on the police department; Will the Commissioners be as willing to add additional officers as much as they would be to reducing the force?

Glen Moyer asked if the Commission is willing to conduct an independent study of the police department operations, since the study completed for Leesport Borough questioned the need for 14 officers. The other two municipalities were over in time in April, so when one officer returns and another officer would be hired, we would be over staffed.

Rodney Younker asked, “What do you really want to include in the report because at this time we are looking at staffing levels? Do you want to look at other areas, manpower, efficiency, charter, population, call volume/time on calls?”

Joseph Rudderow commented, he did not object to an independent study looking at everything involved with Northern Berks Regional Police. Will the Commission act on it or will it just be waste of time? Are there avenues that the Chief can research and present at the next meeting?

Charles Berger stated that a study is to look at goals, not necessary to act on them.

Chief Eaken agreed to contact Ron Stern of the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to provide the necessary information the Commissioners are requesting. This is the same department that makes recommendations for regional policing.

Rodney Younker agrees to a full report but it must include all municipalities. As far as another Officer, Ontelaunee can’t afford future additional costs.

Glen Moyer commented that the other two municipalities were over in time in April, so when the officer on sick leave returns and another officer is hired, we would be over staffed.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – none

**BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR** – none

**OLD BUSINESS**

**New Officer - ?**

**Joseph Rudderow –** asked if there was further discussion on the issue of hiring another officer and if any people that attended April Commission meeting attended their respective meetings.

Both Commissioners answered “No.”

**Glen Moyer –** question how the other municipalities could be over 18 hours and Leesport short being down two officers. Glen Moyer suggested a report on the entire police department

**Chief Eaken –** can provide different reports from several different agencies to provide additional hiring information for the Commissioners.

**Joseph Rudderow –** confirmed that Maidencreek had not changed their minds to replace the retired officer. The Maidencreek Township Board feels they need more Police presence in the township. Joseph Rudderow made a motion authorizing the Chief to proceed with hiring a replacement officer. The motion died for a lack of a second.

**Christina Wood –** Confirmed that by replacing the retired officer, the force would have more time to do speed enforcement and watch stop sign violators instead of running from one call to the next. We need to keep our kids safe.

**Citizens Police Academy**

The Chief reported Northern Berks Police participation cost with the Citizens Police Academy was $857.04. Officer participation was covered by Sgt. Det. Horner adjusting his shift (no OT), Chief Eaken covered shifts while Officer Dillman and/or Sgt. Mohl participated, and Officer Hobart’s overtime was taken in comp time. At this time he did not have the cost incurred by the other participating police departments.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Recording Policy**

The Solicitor will research and provide information for the next meeting.

**Recognize Retiring Officer**

Rodney Younker made a motion, seconded by Glen Moyer authorizing the Chief to prepare a letter of recognition for Sgt. Reichlein and presenting him with a plaque for his years of serve. All Commissioners voted, “Aye.” Motion carried.

**Additional Meetings**

Joseph Rudderow suggested that the Commission conduct workshops on a quarterly basis and/or semiannual basis to learn more about the operations of the Police Department. He knows there are several officials that have not visited the headquarters and/or looked at the patrol vehicles. He feels this could bridge the gap between the Officers and the Commission. No official business would take place.

Rodney Younker questioned why the Commissioners and the Officers just can’t get together to have an informal discussion. He feels that this would help bridge the gap between the Commission and the Officers. Could the Chief hold a departmental meeting and the Commissioners attend?

Glen Moyer stated that an informal meeting between the Commissioners and the Officers would be an unfair labor practice. The Commission as the employer can only communicate with the NBRPD Association representatives.

**Retired Police Vehicle**

Rodney Younker reported that a request for a retire police vehicle was made at the May

Ontelaunee Township Board of Supervisors meeting by a representative of the Leesport Fire Company. No formal letter has been received. The Chief reported that Maidencreek Township

requested the next retired vehicle.

**Vehicle #6**

Rodney Younker made a motion, and seconded by Glen Moyer authorizing the Chief to make the suggested improvements to vehicle #6 for approximately $3,000.00, which includes, body work, striping, and a light bar. This vehicle has approximately 38,000 miles. All Commissioners, “Aye.” Motion carries.

**Promissory Note and Security Agreement – Resolution 2012-3**

Ruth Manmiller reported that the Commission has received the first of seven yearly invoices for the Promissory Note and Security Agreement between the NBRPD Commission and the County of Berks for $25,239.83. As a result of a grant that the Chief secured for this project, Ruth wishes to pay $25,239.83 at one time since the grant will expire in December 2013. Glen Moyer made a motion, seconded by Rodney Younker to pay The Promissory Note and Security Agreement between the NBRPD Commission and The County of Berks for $25,239.83 in full. All Commissioners voted, “Aye.” Motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** **(8:29 PM-9:50 PM) – Personnel, Litigation**

No Action

**ADJOURN**

Rodney Younker made a motion, and seconded by Glen Moyer to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 PM.

Prepared and Submitted By,

Ruth M Manmiller

Northern Berks Regional Police

CC: Maidencreek Township Board of Supervisors

 Ontelaunee Township Board of Supervisors

 Leesport Borough Council

 Diane Hollenbach, Maidencreek Township

 Nicole Schwenk, Ontelaunee Township

 Sandra Weiser, Leesport Borough

 S. Whitney Rahman

 NBRPD Association