

NORTHERN BERKS REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

December 9, 2013 7:00 PM

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

Guest Diane Hollenbach, Gary Hadden, Ronald Mohl

Joseph Rudderow opened the December 9, 2013 Northern Berks Regional Police Commission Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Ontelaunee Township Meeting Room.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

FOR THE RECORD

This meeting is being audio recorded by the NBRPD Commission and audio/video recorded by the Northern Berks Regional Police Association.

MINUTES – November 11, 2013 Commission Meeting

Glen Moyer made a motion, seconded by Rodney Younker, to approve the November 11, 2013 Northern Berks Regional Police Commission Meeting Minutes. All Commissioners voted, "Aye." Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ruth Manmiller presented the November 2013 Treasurer's Report that included the fund balances, the year to date budget report, and documentation of all transactions and payment of bills. Rodney Younker made motion, seconded by Glen Moyer, to approve the November 2013 Treasurer's Report. All Commissioners voted, "Aye." Motion carried.

CHIEF'S REPORT

The Chief read the November 2013 Activity Report and reported one of the officers on Heart & Lung has returned to work as of 12/2/2013.

Rodney Younker questioned the status of the new guns.

Chief reported the vehicles are equipped to carry the new guns and Officers who are certified to carry are doing so. Certification for other Officers is being arranged.

Joseph Rudderow questioned if the Training Officer has returned and if not is there an alternative option.

Chief reported the Training Officer has not returned and an alternative option being worked on.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

None

OLD BUSINESS

Joseph Rudderow noted the two outstanding issues under old business; 1.) 2014 Budget and 2.) DCED Study. Both items have been discussed for several months and the Commission must come to a unanimous decision on both tonight.

2014 Budget

Glen Moyer/Leesport Borough;

1. Leesport Borough decided on 2014 Budget-Option 1 and the DCED Report; however want to merge the funds from Option 1 and Option 2.
2. In both options the Chief estimated remaining funds of \$340,000.00 at the end of 2013. Leesport Borough suggestion is; Commission keeps \$165,000.00 and \$175,000.00 would be returned to the municipalities. Then if the study suggests another officer, the Commission could utilize the remaining funds suggested in Option 2 (\$41,500.00) for the Officer and (\$23,000.00) for another vehicle.
3. Leesport is very reluctant on the DCED Study because of hiring another officer
4. Leesport is not interested in 2014 Budget-Option 2
5. The benchmark for the Vist Money Market account was set at \$100,000.00
6. Charles Berger stated in previous minutes \$100,000.00 was mentioned as the benchmark for the Vist Money Market Account but no action was taken.
7. Option 2 is \$66,000.00 higher than Option 1.
8. What will the Commission do with the remaining funds?

Joseph Rudderow/Maidencreek Township;

1. Does not agree with breaking things apart from Option 1 of the 2014 Budget and/or Option 2 of the 2014 Budget.
2. The Commission has waited patiently for Leesport Borough to make a decision on Option 1 or Option 2 of the 2014 Budget. The DCED Study does not cost anything and has nothing to do with the budget. You can't tie both together. Maidencreek has advertised and plans to adopt their budget 12/12/2013 using Option 2.
3. Even if the DCED Study suggests hiring a replacement officer, it would be another six months or more till action would be taken. Confirming with Chief Eaken that the study could take 6 month or more.
4. The \$100,000.00 benchmark was discussed however; I will agree no action was taken. The Commission agreed at the beginning of 2013 that the Commission would revisit the Vist Money Market balance in June 2013. You are correct, it was discussed but no action was ever taken.
5. The Commission wanted the Vist Money market to be funded because we did not know what the residual of the arbitration would be.
6. Remaining funds would be utilized to hire a replacement officer and purchase vehicles – that has always been my objective.
7. Question to Glen/Leesport Borough; I guess you are saying “no” to the DCED Study if it is not tied into the budget?

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8. Explained that another budget meeting was discussed at the November meeting however everyone was in agreement that we would discuss the budget options and the DCED Study with our respective boards and return with a decision in December.

Rodney Younker/Ontelaunee Township;

1. Our Board discussed the Budget Options again at the November Board of Supervisors meeting and we are still in agreement for Option 2 of the 2014 Budget.
2. The \$100,000.00 was a floating benchmark, there was no action taken.
3. Neither options of the 2014 budget can be tied into the DCED study they are decision that stand alone.

Chief Eaken

1. I have been advised that the study could take from 6 to 9 months to complete. So even if the DCED Study recommended a replacement officer; it could possibly be 2015 before the replacement officer would be on board.
2. Option 2 was prepared and presented on Leesport Borough's suggestions.
3. Reviewed the options, once more to the Commission so everyone would understand; Option 1 allowed for a return of \$110,000.00 with the surplus utilized to upgrade our fleet as well as hire a new officer. Option 2 allowed for a return of \$110,000.00 with the surplus being included in the budget to upgrade our fleet as well as hire a new officer. As per the Charter if the budget is not passed unanimously, we revert back to the prior year's budget and no funds are returned.
4. If the purpose of this meeting this evening is to pass a budget, and if no budget is passed and we must operate under the 2013 budget, no funds would be returned as I would not know what additional funding that would be necessary to comply with all the obligations set forth.

Rodney Younker made a motion, seconded by Joseph Rudderow to adopt the 2014 (Option 1) Budget as presented. The Secretary was instructed to pole the Commissioners; Mr. Rudderow – "Aye." Mr. Younker – "Aye." Mr. Moyer – "No."

Joseph Rudderow referred to the section of the Charter; (If said budget shall not be approved by each and every municipality party to this agreement, the prior year's budget shall remain in operation and effect until such approvals shall be given). The current 2013 Budget of \$2,005,681.78.

Glen Moyer asked why the other Commissioners couldn't compromise.

Joseph Rudderow repeated; there are 2 options to consider for the 2014 Budget, with Option 2 beginning presented on the suggestions of Leesport Borough. The Budget and DCED Study are two different subjects to be decided upon.

1. Glen Moyer stated Leesport Borough received 2014 Option 2 Budget too late for the Council to make a decision. Leesport did not have enough time to review the different options presented. Option 1 was received at October Commission meeting and then the next day Option 2 is delivered, one day before our Ad-Hoc meeting.
2. Why didn't the Commission request another Budget meeting?
3. Leesport Borough wants more money returned. They are not happy with ¼ million dollars in a slush fund, it should be returned to the taxpayers – to the municipalities.

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The Chief informed the Commission, if we operate with the 2013 Budget in 2014, we will need the extra funds to meet the contractual obligations set for by the Commission. With this option no funds will be returned to the municipalities.

Glen Moyer questioned the amount; he thought the Budget for 2013 was \$1,945,681.78.

Chief commented that was the number agreed upon in order to keep the budget the same as the 2012 Budget by utilizing \$60,000.00 (if necessary) from the Vist Money Market. To date we have not deducted any funds from the Vist Money Market Account. There is an approximate \$49,000.00 increase from 2013 Budget to Option 1 of the 2014 budget, with \$110,000.00 still going back to the municipalities. If we move forward as decided this evening, it will be the third year in a row that the municipalities would be operating with the same contributions.

DCED Study

The DCED Study is off.

NEW BUSINESS

Rodney Younker made a motion to purchase two new vehicles since we are operating under the 2013 Budget. One vehicle is included in the 2013 budget and this motion will add two more, making a total of three vehicles for the department. Joseph Rudderow felt he could not second the motion since he was not sure how much funding might be needed by proceeding with the 2013 Budget in 2014, and he was sure Leesport Borough would not second therefore; Motion dies for a lack of a second.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Ronald Mohl questioned, on behalf of the NBRPD Association if the Commissioners had arrived at a decision for the 12 hour shifts. The Commissioners and Association representatives met after the November Commission meeting to discuss 12 hour shifts. The trial period will soon expire and Officers have bid on their shifts utilizing the 12 hour shifts. Should the shift time change, the scheduling would become difficult as per the contract the schedule must be posted 90 days in advance. The Association was not able to respond due to the Commissioners not providing an answer.

Joseph Rudderow said that the Commission had not decided.

The expiration date for the 12 hour shifts is 1/5/2014

EXECUTIVE SESSION (7:50 PM – 9:40 PM) Personnel

Commission reviewed the 12 hour shift input from the Northern Berks Regional Police Association and the Chief. The Commission does not plan to notify the Association not to change 12 hour shifts and if the Commission does not hear from the Association the 12 hour shifts will stand for the duration of the collective bargaining agreement, which expires at the end of 2015.

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ADJOURN

Glen Moyer made a motion, and seconded by Rodney Younker to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 PM.

Prepared and Submitted By,

Ruth M Manmiller
Northern Berks Regional Police

CC: Maiden creek Township Board of Supervisors
Ontelaunee Township Board of Supervisors
Leesport Borough Council
Diane Hollenbach, Maiden creek Township
Nicole Schwenk, Ontelaunee Township
Sandra Weiser, Leesport Borough
S. Whitney Rahman
NBRPD Association