**ATTENDING:** Chairman Gary Hadden-Ontelaunee Commissioner, Heidi Fiedler-Maidencreek Township Commissioner, Granville Sandridge-Leesport Commissioner, Ron Strause-Leesport Alternate, Diane Hollenbach - Maidencreek Township Alternate, William Klein-Ontelaunee Township Alternate, Ruth Manmiller-Secretary, and Christopher Gerber -Solicitor.

**GUESTS:** Captain Cecchini, David Reichlein, Eric Bauman, Kenneth Stoudt, Kim Berger, Donna Culp, Marge Rumbaugh.

**Call to Order:** Commissioner Hadden called the October 28, 2019 Northern Berks Regional Police Commission 2020 Budget Workshop and any matter that comes before the Commission.

**Pledge to the Flag**

**Moment of Silence**

**Northern Berks Regional Police Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

The Commissioners previously received the agreed upon terms and conditions reached during collective bargaining. The Commission must approve the MOU for the Collective Bargaining Agreement to be finalized.

Main terms of the MOU:

* Four year agreement
* Wage increases of 3%, 3%, 3%, 3.25% per year,
* Overtime for hearing increased to 3 hours OT
* Vacation time table,
* Personal time increased to 36 hours
* Health Insurance Coverage for spouses and/or dependents
* Additional wording to handle complaints appropriately
* Additional wording for health insurance compliance

**MOU 2020-2023**

Commissioner Fiedler made a motion, and seconded by Granville Sandridge to approve the Memorandum of Understanding dated October 14, 2019 between the Northern Berks Regional Police Commission and the Berks County Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #17 and to direct the Commission’s solicitor to modify the present Collective Bargaining Agreement to incorporate the new terms contained in the Memorandum of Understanding once it is executed by the police barraging unit. All commissioners voted, “Aye.” Motion carried.

**2020 DRAFT Budget**

The 2020 Draft Budget was distributed during the October 14, 2019 Commission Meeting for the Commissioners to review for discussion at Budget Workshop meeting. Ruth Manmiller pointed out Personnel, Benefits, and necessary services to maintain the department are the most costly budget items. General operational budget has not changed drastically.

The 2020 Budget includes (2) two additional officers. One officer has retired and another will be retiring in the spring of 2020. The force is in desperate need of additional officers to fill shifts as agreed upon coverage for the municipalities. The officers are working 12 hour shifts and are very tired, when an officer calls off for their shift it becomes difficult to maintain staffing levels.

The 2020 Budget also includes a new police vehicle. This is a necessity because the (3) three remaining Chevrolets are becoming very costly to maintain. The Chevrolets are in the garage more than they are on patrol.

IT support is outstanding. In their 2020 proposal it was suggested to replace (7) seven desk top computers; instead we plan to install an software upgrade that will not be near as costly. Future thoughts to be considered are the MCT’s utilized in the vehicles as well as in the office.

In the discussion of “Legal Fees” Ruth budgeted at $50,000.00 in hopes the current issues will be resolved so the current budget could remain the same. Commissioner Fiedler suggested increasing this budget item to $75,000.00 because of the extensive litigation. Ruth advised the current legal expenditure as of October 25 is $97,418.00.

During the budget review, Ruth did point out budget items where estimated funds could be reduced however, wanted the Commissioners to be cautious not to short change a budget item.

Several times, Ruth Manmiller asked for suggestions/questions to move forward towards approving the 2020 budget. Ruth estimated a $357,000.00 balance at the end of the year. She warned that this not because of poor 2019 budgeting; but due to several officers out on Heart & Lung and Disability throughout 2019. She provided different scenarios to utilize the remaining funds wisely. Last year the remaining funds were used to purchase a vehicle and necessary equipment; then returned funds per contribution percentage to each municipality. She suggested using the at least 350,000.00 towards the 2020 budget to maintain contribution costs for each municipality.

 **ADJOURNED**

Meeting adjourned 7:36 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth M. Manmiller

NBRPD Secretary

CC:

 Diane Hollenbach, Maidencreek Township Secretary to distribute to Supervisors

 Kim Berger, Ontelaunee Township Secretary to distribute to Supervisors

 Sandra Weiser, Leesport Borough Secretary to distribute to Council

 Christopher Gerber, Siana Bellwoar Law Offices