**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:** Harold Wagner, Kim Berger, Judy Deitrich, Michael Deitrich, David Reichlein, Robert Wood, Francis A. Scott, Donna Kulp, Joan Campbell, Diana Rollins, Mark DeBlasi, Kenneth Stoudt, Cody Maderia, Marge Rumbaugh, Eric Bauman, Captain James Cecchini, Bryan & Susan Althouse,

Angel Toro, Victoria Solberg.

**Call to Order:** Commissioner Hadden called the November 11, 2019 Northern Berks Regional Police Commission meeting to order at 6:30PM.

**Pledge to the Flag**

**Moment of Silence and Veterans Recognition**

**MINUTES**

**October 14, 2019 Commission Meeting Minutes** Commissioner Fiedler made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sandridge to approve October 14, 2019 Commission meeting minutes. All Commissioners voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

**October 28, 2019 Commission Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Fiedler made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sandridge to approve October 28,2019 Commission Budget Workshop meeting minutes with the following corrections made by Commissioner Fiedler to include: *Commission Fiedler asked Ruth to confirm the National Night Out Account was established at Fleetwood Bank using the Northern Berks Regional Police tax identification number. Ruth stated that was correct. Commissioner Fiedler then questioned the legality of authorizing Joan Campbell as a signer for the bank account when she is neither an employee nor Commission member.* All Commissioners voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**  Ruth Manmiller presented the October 2019 Treasurer’s report that included the fund balances, year to date budget report, and documentation of all transactions and payments throughout the month. The National Night Out balance and reconciliation report is included. Commissioner Hadden made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Fiedler approving the September 2019 Treasurer’s report. All Commissioners voted, “Aye.” Motion carried.

**DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Commissioner Hadden read the October Department Report.

**CALLS CITATIONS WARNINGS CONTACTS ARRESTS HOURS OF SERVICE**

Maidencreek 293 70 147 223 2 30.79 per day

Ontelaunee 201 84 121 198 3 24.99 per day

Leesport 84 46 46 86 0 13.59 per day

Administrative 23

**TOTAL 601 200 314 507 5**

**Fuel 1242.408 MILEAGE 11706.75**

**Fines Collected**

**Maidencreek $2,918.68 Ontelaunee $3,114.59 Leesport $1,741.85**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

PFM Advisors correspondence provided information to changes made to NBRPD investment portfolio and their reasons for doing so. Information provided to Commissioners and Officers.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

**Harold Wagner** questioned the Commissioners on their decision to conduct this Internal Investigation – Was it unanimous?

He asked, if the officers involved, filed their complaint verbally or in written form?

Commissioner Fiedler answered, the Commission agreed unanimously to appoint Kozloff Stoudt Law firm to conduct this Internal Investigation. Commissioner Fiedler asked the Solicitor to proceed with an explanation of the complaint.

Attorney Gerber explained that a complaint may be investigated whether received verbally and/or in written form. The public must be aware that there two types of complaints; a labor grievance which must be in writing and proceed through steps to obtain a resolution to the matter. There are pending labor grievances that are being looked at as well. There are complaints of misconduct that are being investigated and the Commission is taking the matter seriously to arrive at an acceptable conclusion. Complaints of misconduct can be verbal or written, either way the Commission is handling this Internal Investigation so that everyone’s rights are protected. They are looking at everything. He understands the publics’ frustration because the information out there is through the newspaper and/or rumors. He assured everyone that this investigation will come to a conclusion in the near future.

Harold Wagner asked for clarification on this Internal Investigation; Is it because two officers were reprimanded by Chief Horner and were their complaints in writing? He proceeded to review the steps of a grievance.

Attorney Gerber clarified investigation of misconduct is being investigated by the Commission and only the Commission and that is what is currently in process. The Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) is an organization that protects the rights of officers. In this case the FOP has nothing to do it.

**Harold Wagner** asked Commissioner Fiedler (Maidencreek Township Representative) if her fellow Supervisors are aware and agree with everything that is going on with Northern Berks Regional Police.

Commissioner Fiedler confirmed that she keeps the Maidencreek Supervisors up to date and informed of all Northern Berks Regional Police matters.

**Shooting Range**

Harold Wagner wanted to know why Maidencreek Township stopped the construction of a shooting range, when it was going to be built at no expense to the township or police department. Who complained?

Commissioner Fiedler explained there are rules in place in Maidencreek Township and throughout Pennsylvania that must be followed pertaining to construction; building permits, land development, and zoning. The land owner started this project without any notice to the township.

Diane Hollenbach, Maidencreek Township Manager confirmed she received a verbal complaint during a phone conversation and then put it in writing. She advised that a “Right-to Know” may be filed for the complaint however; you will not find out the complainant.

**Eric Bauman** asked for clarification of Commissioner Fiedler’s answer to Mr. Wagner; was it Commissioner Hadden who initiated this investigation – Chief Horner Internal Investigation? Who brought the information to the Commission in the first place?

The Solicitor asked that this current Internal Investigation not be labeled the Chief Horner Investigation because there are a number of issues that are being investigated and the Commission hopes to have everything resolved in the near future.

Commissioner Sandridge assured the public the Solicitor is doing a fine job in leading the Commission through these investigations and internal problems.

**Harold Wagner** revisited his suggestion in making a motion pertaining to any individual who doesn’t pay taxes within Northern Berks Regional Police jurisdiction not be allowed to make comments on the department unless directly involved with one of the officers.

**Marge Rumbaugh**, Reading Eagle Reporter asked the Commission to reconsider this request because not allowing an individual living in or out of the Northern Berks Regional Police jurisdiction to comment would be a freedom of speech violation.

The Solicitor agreed and wanted to make it very clear it is not the intentions of the Commission – everyone is welcome to voice their concerns or thoughts pertaining to the Police and the Commission will act on them accordingly. Don’t misunderstand, the Commission can’t comment on some subjects because of the sensitive nature of the investigation. He understands their frustrations!

Northern Berks is a 21st century police department with a great group of police doing a great job.

Commissioner Hadden confirmed the Commissioners are the only ones that make motions.

**Angel Toro,** NBRPD Officer and FOP representative stated by attending recent Commission Meetings he has listened to praise and support for Chief Horner and he does agree in part with most of the comments. He is passionate about his job and he was a great detective however; he wanted everyone to be aware there is another side of Chief Horner unknown to the public. No one is aware of what happens on the other side of this building. Numerous times I have been in the back room with the Commissioners for myself and/or other officers and have been able to resolve the problems at hand – sometimes to my liking and sometimes not – either way the problem was handled accordingly. He asked the public to be patient with the process and have faith in the Commission to do the right thing. He closed by thanking all Veterans for their service on this Veterans Day.

**David Reichlein**, mentioned his issues he personally has with Chief Horner and Sgt. Mohl and has brought these complaints to the Commission numerous times. He questioned if he must put his complaints in writing for the Commission to act on them. He then thanked Commissioner Sandridge for his “Silver Star” military service on this Veteran Day.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Resolution 2019-2 – Commission Meeting Policy/Conduct**

Commissioner Fiedler moved to table Resolution 2019-2 due to too many other issues that need to be addressed. It was agreed that Ruth should provide a copy of the proposed Resolution 2019-2 to the Commissioners so it can discussed.

The Commissioners thanked OIC Robert Wood for keeping the department running smoothly and the continued law enforcement by all the Officers.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2020 BUDGET**

Commissioner Hadden expressed his concerns on finalizing the 2020 NBRPD budget. He asked for any adjustments to be completed. Commissioner Fiedler asked for a more detailed year end estimate or remaining funds. Another Budget Workshop meeting was scheduled for Monday November 18, 2019 at 5:00 PM. Secretary was authorized to advertise**.**

**National Night Out – Signature Additions**

Commissioner Hadden made a motion and seconded by Commissioner Fiedler to rescind the October 14, 2019 motion appointing Joan Campbell as an additional signer for the National Night Account. All Commissioners voted, “Aye” Motion carried.

Commissioner Hadden made a motion and seconded by Commissioner Fiedler authorizing the Secretary to proceed with adding all three Northern Berks Regional Police Commissioners as signers on the National Night Account. All Commissioners voted, “Aye.” Motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – 7:09PM–8:00PM Personnel**

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

**ADJOURN**

Commissioner Hadden made a motion and seconded by Commissioner Fiedler to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM. All Commissioners voted, “Aye” Motion carried.

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