**ATTENDING:** Gary Hadden-Ontelaunee Commissioner, Heidi Fiedler-Maidencreek Township Commissioner, Granville Sandridge-Leesport Commissioner, Ron Strause-Leesport Alternate, David Franke - Maidencreek Township Alternate, Kim Berger-Ontelaunee Township Alternate, Ruth Manmiller-Secretary, and Christopher Gerber -Solicitor.

**GUESTS:** Francis A. Scott, Donna Culp, Cory Deily, James Cecchini, Diana Rollins, David Brown, Eric Bauman, Robert Wood,Jr., Joan Campbell, Cody Maderia, David Reichlein, Harold Wagner, Michael Holcombe, Angel Toro, Michael Cardell, Mark DeBlasi, Christine Troyer, Kenneth Stoudt, Debra Endy, Barbara Endy, John Endy, Sr., J. Holmgren, Fred Harrison, David Brown, Christina Kleffel, Ken Kleffel, Mike Oswald, Nick Volo, Casey Tiderman, Daniel Brown, Carl Weston, Vince Rollins, Heather Schoener, Scott Eaken.

**Call to Order:** Commissioner Hadden called the January 13,2020 Northern Berks Regional Police Commission meeting to order at 6:38PM.

**Pledge to the Flag**

**Moment of Silence**

**MINUTES**

**December 9, 2019 Commission Meeting Minutes** Commissioner Hadden made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sandridge to approve the December 13, 2019 minutes as presented. *Comment;* Commissioner Fiedler wanted her corrections included because she disagrees with the minutes. Commission Hadden did not wish to recognize Commission Fiedler’s corrections, because previous corrections to the minutes were found to be incorrect. Commissioner Hadden voted, “Aye”. Commissioner Sandridge voted, “Aye.” Commissioner Fielder voted, “No” All Motion carried.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**  Ruth Manmiller presented the December 2019 report (year-end) Treasurer’s report that included the fund balances, year to date budget report, and documentation of all transactions and payments throughout the month. Commissioner Fiedler made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sandridge approving the December 2019 (year-end) Treasurer’s report. All Commissioners voted, “Aye.” Motion carried.

General Checking $ 34,452.79 Tompkins Vist $294,981.31

Money Market $272.643.51

Payroll $ 18,827.90 NNO $10,338.55

Total Budget Bal. $325,924.20

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Ruth Manmiller read a letter from Bern Township Police Chief Waugh to Chief Horner, thanking Officer Drazenovich and Officer Moris for their necessary assistance to stabilize a volatile situation when Bern Township Police were attempting to take an individual into custody on a traffic stop.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

**Tom Gorgia Maidencreek Township** thanked the officers for their commitment to serving the community and welcomed Chief Horner on his return. His concerns this evening is the speeding on Schaeffer Road and asked for addition patrol in an effort to curtail this activity. Recently he was annoyed at the closing Schaeffer Road at Cornerstone Drive without prior notice and out of state garbage trucks traveling on township roadways.

Chief Horner assured him additional speed monitoring will take place in the problem areas; East Wesner Road, Schaeffer Road, and Snyder Road. The road closures are township issues.

**John Endy, Sr. Goodwill Fire Company** and in the past I ran with Leesport Fire Police and it was always a pleasure to work with Chief Horner and the NBRPD officers. I want to welcome Chief Horner back to get things going in the right direction. As far as other individuals who keep bring up the past, they should look in the mirror first.

**Michael Cardell, Maidencreek Township** read a prepared statement of his firsthand experience of his regional police department commission made the decision to dissolve. Officers lost their jobs, had to reapply, and if they were lucky enough to get rehired; they suffered a pay cut, put on probation and decreased benefits. He asked the Commissioners to consider the lives of the Northern Berks Regional Police officers before making such harsh decisions. He asked the Commissioners to leave their egos at the door and do the right thing for the department. Northern Berks officers are second to none and he would hate to see the regional police department dissolve.

**Harold Wager Leesport** **Borough,** welcomed Chef Horner back and wished him well. He cautioned the Commission to act like adults and put their petty difference aside. He questioned Commissioner Fiedler on how many times she may have passed confidential information to outsiders or the FOP.

Commissioner Fiedler confirmed that she always maintains confidentially of police issues.

**David Reichlein retired NBRPD Sergeant**, wants to see Northern Berks Regional Police stay together; all he asks that the men are treated fairly.

**Fred Harrison Ontelaunee Township**, welcomed the Chief back and expressed his feelings of Northern Berks Regional Police Department is second to none and he would hate to see it dissolve.

He questioned Commissioner Fiedler for the many times you repeat that Chief Horner has eleven grievances filed against him; Is this the first time in the longevity of this department that grievances were filed? Being part of a union, we always had grievances being filed, some good, some bad – you support the good ones. Ontelaunee Township supports the police department and I hope Leesport and Maidencreek will do the same. He asked the Commission to come together in 2020 and work for the betterment of the department.

Commissioner Fiedler commented that she is not aware of any grievances being filed on the previous Chief, maybe one or two. Brian Horner has been a Chief for only 2 ½ years.

**Scott Eaken Maidencreek Township** commented that in his 28 years in law enforcement as a part time officer, a full time officer and then 16 years as Chief of Police he has never witnessed the outlandish behavior from a Commission. He understands there have been a lot of changes technology wise and current events that change law enforcement, but the bottom line is the police department is here to serve. He closed with a quote he used many times when discussing regionalization with other elected officials: “The decision to regionalize is for the long term, not your term.”

**Christina Kleffel Maidencreek Township,** thanked the Chief and Department for their services, especially in the events that surrounding her son’s overdose death. She asked the Chief to reconsider implementing “Blue Cares” program to help an individual affected by addiction. She feels if she had been aware of her son’s additions she could have gotten help for him.

The Chief explained “Blue Cares” is a program implemented by the District Attorney to council individuals who have experienced an overdose, have an addiction, have been treated with Narcan or arrested for drug paraphernalia. He stressed that the any counseling from the Police or a Blue Care representative must be with the individual, no other family members or friends. Due to staffing issues and his absence, Northern Berks was not involved with the program. He promised to research “Blue Cares” and make every effort to become part of program.

Commissioner Sandridge wanted everyone to know that he backs the Chief 100% and is glad that he has returned. He is upset with some officers’ work ethics and wants more action.

**DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Chief Horner read the December Department Report.

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

Maidencreek 349 74 112 166 4 28.27233 per day

Ontelaunee 189 74 135 189 1 23.32267 per day

Leesport 107 19 43 60 1 9.963667 per day

Administrative 19

**TOTAL 664 167 290 415 6**

**Fuel 1225.594 MILEAGE 10983**

**Fines Collected**

**Maidencreek $1,619.92 Ontelaunee $2,900.98 Leesport $886.26**

Chief Horner thanked everyone who supported him during his absence and promised to continue to work at make Northern Berks Regional Police Department the best of the best. As always I will give 110% to this department.

In addition to the monthly report, Chief Horner provided 2019 statistics v. 2018 statistics, stressing the notable increase in calls for service, mileage and citations in 2019.

The Chief also reported a recent Leesport detail 1/10/2020 &1/11/2020 which netted: 33 traffic stops, 24 citations, 3 DUI’s, and 2 Wanted Persons were apprehended.

**Car# 13**

Chief informed the Commission that Car # 13 had over $6,000.00 worth of repairs in July of 2019, when returned to service it lasted one week before it broke down again. It has been out of service since that second breakdown because the mechanic was searching for a used engine. He found a used engine and provided an estimate to remove and replace the engine for $4,035.98. The Chief asked the Commission’s approval to take Car # 13 out of service due the costly repairs.

The Commissioners instructed the Chief to take Car # 13 out of service. .

Chief Horner read an email OIC Wood received: The neighbor children had a stand to raise money for animals, Officer Noland for stopped made a donation and then proceed to show the children his police vehicle. It was great to witness this act of kindness.

Chief Horner praised the officers for increasing their awareness to community service.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Resolution to adopt Policies & Procedures at NBRPD Commission Meetings**

The Commission asked that this matter be removed for any further action.

**2020 Budget - Approval**

Commissioner Hadden requested an another 2020 Budget meeting because he wants the Chief to be involved prior to approval. Until the approval of a 2020 budget, we will continue under the 2019 Budget. Commissioner Fiedler commented that two budget meeting were conducted and the budget was reviewed line by line. There is no need for an additional meeting.

**Collective Bargaining Agreement**

The Solicitor reported the MOU has been approved and signed. He assured everyone that the officers have a contract. All that is being completed at this time is incorporating the agreed upon changes in the MOU into the existing contract and making sure all “t’s” are crossed and all “i’s” are dotted.

**DCED Report**

Commissioner Hadden made a motion and seconded by Granville Sandridge authorizing a DCED report for current operations of Northern Berks Regional Police at no cost. All Commissioners voted, “Aye.” Motion carried. A DCED report was completed in 2012 and 2015.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Fiedler made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hadden taking **Brandon L Moris** off of probation effective 1/7/2020. All Commissioners voted, “Aye.”

Commissioner Fiedler made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hadden taking **Christopher T DeAngelo** off of probation effective 1/7/2020. All Commissioners voted, “Aye.”

**National Night Out**

Commissioner Hadden authorized the National Night Committee to begin moving forward with planning the 2020 National Night Out preparation. National Night Out is scheduled for August 4, 2020.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION 7:42 PM -9:00 PM**

Commissioner Hadden made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Fiedler to adjourn the

meeting at 9:00 PM. Notion 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