**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, Chief Horner and Eric Brown -Solicitor.

**GUESTS:** Donna Culp, Cory Deily, James Cecchini, Diana Rollins, Vince Rollins, Eric Bauman, Robert Wood, Jr., Joan Campbell, Harold Wagner, Angel Toro, Mark DeBlasi, Kenneth Stoudt, J. Holmgren, Christine Troyer, Joann Chabrol, Lawrence Reidnauer , Francis Scott, Bobbi Jo Green, David Reichlein and Scott Eaken.

**Call to Order:** Commissioner Hadden called the March 9, 2020 Northern Berks Regional Police Commission meeting to order at 6:00PM.

**Pledge to the Flag**

**Moment of Silence**

**MINUTES**

**February 10, 2020 Commission Meeting Minutes** Commissioner Fiedler made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sandridge to approving

February 10, 2020 Commission Meeting Minutes. All Commissioners voted, “Aye.” Motion Carried.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**  Ruth Manmiller presented the February 2020 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 February Treasurer’s report. All Commissioners voted, “Aye.” Motion carried.

Money Market $291,192.17

General Checking $ 16,745.02 Tompkins Vist $295,266.66

Payroll $ 39,627.24 NNO $10,338.55

Total Budget Bal. $347,564.43

**2019 Ethics Statements**

Ethics Statement Forms were distributed at the January 2020 Northern Berks Regional Police Commission meeting. Ruth Manmiller reminded everyone to submit their Ethics Statements as soon as possible.

**DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Chief Horner read the December Department Report.

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

Maidencreek 242 83 149 219 5 30.56 per day

Ontelaunee 159 141 136 261 3 29.26 per day

Leesport 57 61 63 114 1 11.76 per day

Administrative 26

**TOTAL 484 285 348 594 9**

**Fuel 1317.268 MILEAGE 12,206**

**Fines Collected**

**Maidencreek $2,838.98 Ontelaunee $3,514.93 Leesport $1,718.53**

1. Officers Mandatory Training has begun.
2. Feb. 25 & 26 I completed the seminar for Supervising Toxic Officers
3. March 9 Det. Sgt. Wood and I attended “The Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines” at BCIU on behalf of the SV School District, which they paid the registration fee.
4. March 10 Managing Emotions Under Pressure – Shinkus, Hoptley, Draz, Falk and I
5. March 11 Managing Emotions Under Pressure – Wood, DeAngelo, Dillman and Toro
6. March 17 Managing Emotions Under Pressure – DeBlasi, Moris, Nolan, Parks and Showalter
7. March 18 and 19 Pelras (Public Employer Labor Relations Advisory Service) Training
8. March 24-26 Colt Armor School - Dillman
9. March 26 NNO
10. Thanked the Police Office for the great job they are doing.

**POSTINGS:**

Officer Shinkus will be attending the 40 hour Field Evidence Technician Training April 20-24 that is being held by the Berks County District Attorney’s Office.

**Sergeants Position was posted on March 3**

**Berks County Drug Task Force Liaison/Member** posted on March 3

Chief Horner asked the Commission for a decision on the $2,440.66 estimate to repair unit # 12. He advised the Commission that this in one of the vehicles that are becoming very costly to maintain. Repair work includes inspection, L&R rear brakes, sway bar, control arm ball joint L&R, rack & pinion.

Commissioner Sandridge made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Fiedler to repair unit#12 per the estimated of $2,440.66. All commissioners voted, “Aye.” Motion carried.

Commissioner Sandridge asked for new lines for speed control on Rt. 61 heading south in Leesport Borough. Leesport Borough has prepared an ordinance to stop TT from using their brake retarders when entering Leesport Borough.

Chief Horner is in the process of getting lines painted and will confer with District Justice Strand on the allowable distance between lines. New lines will be painted.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

**Francis Scott, Spirit Court, Maidencreek Township** stated on June 11, 2019 I asked a certain individual to step down as Police Commissioner and it still has not happened. This Police Commissioner still continues to waist thousands of tax payer dollars on a personal vendetta against the Chief and is responsible for the mistrust between municipalities. This same Commissioner, because of a personal a vendetta was responsible for a lawsuit in East Hempfield Township. So again, Ms. Fiedler in 2020 I’m asking you to step down as Police Commissioner and take your millions with you.

**Angel Toro, Lodge #71 FOP Representative,** commented on the traffic pattern signage seen near the 222 construction zone and requested an explanation for the cancelation of the Penn Dot project. It is my understanding that an hourly rate was established, an SOP was established and additional leg work by OIC Wood allowed for this project move forward. In December when the first OT coverage was posted, the slots were filled in no time; but had to be canceled due to weather conditions. Other police departments participated with Penn Dot projects; seems strange NBRPD can’t. What happen? The day Chief Horner returned the project was discontinued with no explanation for the officers. The union can only determine this decision is retaliation for the union members exercising in their statutory right to collectively bargain.

Commissioner Hadden responded to Angel Toro’s question; The Commission, not Chief Horner is/was against the Penn Dot project since Chief Horner brought it to the Commission in

September 2019. The Commission has concerns how the OT would affect pension for some officers, vehicle maintenance, scheduling and there wouldn’t be a profit to the police department. Our decision had nothing to do with the union and was definitely not in retaliation. NBRPD is not governed by actions of other police departments. An extensive 3.5 years of construction on a section of Route 61/Pottsville Pike from Shoemakersville to outskirts of Leesport didn’t have traffic control by NBRPD or PSP.

Chief Horner questioned Angel Toro how the SOP originated and why his name on the document. He wasn’t aware of the document and didn’t approve anything and is sure the Commission was not aware either.

The Commission verified they were not aware of any such document

Sgt. Robert Wood explained the SOP was prepared by Sgt. Mohl and should have been approved during the December 2019 Commission meeting and since it wasn’t it remained a directive – not an SOP.

Chief Horner commented that there is difficulty getting officers to take OT shifts for Schuylkill Valley Sporting events, but no problem filling the OT shifts for the 222 construction; just to sit in your car for 4-6 hours.

**Harold Wagner, Leesport asked**, ”Who is running the Police Department, the Police Officers or Commission?” They still have their jobs, they are still getting paid good wages for what they signed on for when they took the job and if they earn OT well that’s great for them. Seems like they are crying because they got turned down for something; I could have cried numerous times because my job didn’t go the way I wanted to go! Traveling on 78, there are no police in the construction zones and that roadway is much busier than 222. And as for the pot holes, that was a result of poor inspectors, not having Police in the area.

**Scott Eaken, Maidencreek Township** made three points 1.) The Rt.61/Pottsville Pike construction some 20 years ago did have State Police working in the construction zone. 2.) The Rt.61/Pottsville Pike three year construction was a Penn Dot project and the Police Department was never approached for traffic control, 3.) Back in September when the Chief brought Penn Dot project to the Commission, he wasn’t in favor of the project and neither was the Commission. I agree there may have been some misunderstanding with the SOP/directive, since the OT was posted in December. Chief Horner should be the one running this Police Department, not the officers, not the Commission. If he does do something wrong then it’s the Commission job to discipline him as they alleged a few months ago while he was missing.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**2020 Budget**

Commissioner Hadden reported that during the February 2, 2020 Budget meeting it was agreed that each representative would discuss the budget issues with their respective boards so the NBRPD 2020 Budget could be adopted at this Commission meeting. Commissioner Hadden made a motion, seconded by Granville Sandridge to adopt the 2020 Northern Berks Regional Police Budget.

Comment: Commissioner Fiedler is not in favor of adopting the 2020 Budget as presented. There are several budget items in question – for example the legal budget – in 2019 over 120,000.00 was spent on legal fees – all fees are a result of Chief Horner’s poor leadership. I had the Maidencreek Township’s manager contact Central Berks Regional Police relative to their legal fees. Their fees for the past 4 years did not exceed $10,000.00 in any year.

Commissioner Hadden confirmed the high legal bills are a result of Maidencreek Township. In one month alone between you and the township manager - the solicitor was contacted 25 times. The internal investigation on Chief Horner was a direct result of you and some officers lying about a situation.

Commissioner Hadden and Commissioner Sandridge voted, “Aye.” Commissioner Fiedler noted, “No.”

Commissioner Hadden confirmed, Per the NBRPD Charter the budget must be approved by a unanimous vote therefore; the 2020 NBRPD budget can’t be approved and we will continue to operate with the 2019 budget.”

**Kim Berger, Northern Berks Regional Police Commission alternate** asked Commissioner Fiedler if Maidencreek Township increased their 2020 Police budget to reflect the increase as proposed in the Plan A - 2020 Draft Budget.

Commissioner Fiedler did not confirm or deny. She confirmed Maidencreek Township had adopted their 2020 budget.

**Collective Bargaining Agreement**

Commissioner Hadden made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Fiedler to adopt the NBRPD officers four year Collective Bargaining Agreement. All Commissioners voted, “Aye.” Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**Executive Session 6:55 PM – 7:30 PM – Personnel**

Commissioner Hadden made a motion, seconded by Commission Sandridge to sustain Sgt. Mohl’s grievance and withdraw the discipline. Commissioner Hadden and Commissioner Sandridge voted, “Aye.” Commissioner Fiedler voted, “No.” Motion carried.

**ADJOURN**

Commission Sandridge made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Fiedler to adjourn the Commission meeting at 7:30 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