**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 Christopher Gerber-Solicitor.

**GUESTS:** Donna Culp, Diana Rollins, Eric Bauman, Robert Wood, Jr., Joan Campbell, Harold Wagner, Kenneth Stoudt, James Holmgren, Heather Schoener, Joann Chabrol, Lawrence Reidnauer, Francis Scott, Scott Eaken, Anthony Spero, Ronald Mohl, Priscilla Mohl.

James Cecchini entered the meeting room after the Mohl’s departed.

**Northern Berks Regional Police Commission in the interest of public safety with Governor Wolf’s COVID-19 guidelines April 13, 2020 and May 11, 2020 Commission Meeting were canceled.**

**Northern Berks Regional Police Commission In accordance with Governor Wolf’s COVID-19 guidelines a public meeting is being conducted with the meeting room capacity of 25 people and all in attendance must wear masks. Had sanitizer and masks were provided, meeting seats were placed accordingly to abide by the 6ft social distancing.**

**Call to Order:** Commissioner Hadden called the June 8, 2020 Northern Berks Regional Police Commission meeting to order at 6:00PM.

**Pledge to the Flag**

**Moment of Silence**

Chief Horner presented Ronald Mohl a plaque in recognition of his 34 years in law enforcement. Chief Horner congratulated and gave his well wished on his future. He also commented on his long time friendship both personally and professionall with Ron.

Granville Sandrige gave a gracious congratulation and a humerious commentary on Ron’s early years at Leesport Borough.

Gary Hadden also graciously congratulated Ron and on behalf of himself and Ontelaunee Township presented him with his service badge and duty gun.

**FOR THE RECORD**

Executive Session - May 27, 2020, 3:00PM - 4:00PM

**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES – March 9, 2020**

Commissioner Sandridge made a motion, seconded by Commission Fiedler to adopt the March 9, 2020 Northern Berks Regional Police Commission meeting minutes. All Commissioners voted, “Aye.” Motion carried.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**  Ruth Manmiller read the March, April and May 2020 Treasurer’s report. The Commissioners received all reports via email during the cancelation that included the fund balances, year to date budget report, and documentation of all transactions and payments. Commissioner Fiedler made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sandridge approving the March, April and May 2020 Treasurer’s report. All Commissioners voted, “Aye.” Motion carried.

**MARCH**

Money Market $302,333.48

General Checking $ 14,519.03 Tompkins Vist $295,443.34

Payroll $ 28,069.26 NNO $10,338.55

Total Budget Bal. $344,921.77

**APRIL**

Money Market $320,398.48

General Checking $ 16,476.34 Tompkins Vist $295,503.88

Payroll $ 23,894.82 NNO $10,338.55

Total Budget Bal. $360,770.00

**MAY**

Money Market $273,215.51

General Checking $ 17,712.68 Tompkins Vist $295,566.45

Payroll $ 23,894.82 NNO $10,338.55

Total Budget Bal. $314,823.01

Also noted, two officers entered the DROP program and one officer retired since March 2020.

**DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Chief Horner read the Department Report for March, April and May 2020. These reports were provided to all Commissioners by email.

**MARCH**

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

Maidencreek 281 69 64 111 2 27.04 per day

Ontelaunee 219 61 89 137 2 25.17 per day

Leesport 57 38 46 81 2 11.27 per day

Administrative 28

**TOTAL 585 168 199 329 6**

**Fuel 1167.133 MILEAGE 11,404.48**

**Fines Collected**

**Maidencreek $2,799.32 Ontelaunee $3,242.28 Leesport $1,376.12**

**APRIL**

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

Maidencreek 236 16 30 41 0 30.10 per day

Ontelaunee 160 39 23 64 4 25.45 per day

Leesport 69 19 20 37 0 16.61 per day

Administrative 20

**TOTAL 485 74 73 142 4**

**Fuel 1336.132 MILEAGE 13,052**

**Fines Collected**

**Maidencreek $1,259.84 Ontelaunee $ 982.98 Leesport $623.63**

**MAY**

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

Maidencreek 283 23 83 100 4 29.65 per day

Ontelaunee 159 68 108 160 6 26.01 per day

Leesport 106 34 62 91 0 14.58 per day

Administrative 22

**TOTAL 484 285 348 594 9**

**Fuel 1379.94 MILEAGE 13,382**

**Fines Collected**

**Maidencreek $907.99 Ontelaunee $1,265.21 Leesport $569.55**

**The Chief reported**:

1. Calls and citations are down due to the COVID restrictions
2. Updates are being conducted on line due to classes being canceled
3. Officers have been kept safe – COVID Directives are in place following all protocols
4. In addition to several COVID supplies contributed by individuals and businesses, the department spent $2,156.17 on COVID supplies. Berks County Department of Emergency Services instructed PD to have a generous supply on hand and contributed supplies to keep the PD stocked.
5. Thank you to Det. Sgt. Robert Wood for his social media posting of the department’s receipt of contributions and events during this difficult time.
6. The response, support and contributions from the community are overwhelming and greatly appreciated.
7. The PD was involved with graduation celebrations both Schuylkill Valley and Fleetwood, and a birthday celebration for an 8 year old dealing with Cancer.

**TASER**

Commissioner Hadden made a motion, seconded by Granville Sandridge authorizing Chief Horner to purchase TASER training supplies, targets and cartridges in the amount of $1,499.50. All Commissioners voted, “Aye.” Motion carried.

**CHEVROLET POLICE VEHCILES**

The Chief provided a comprehensive condition report of the (4) remaining Chevrolet . Two for the four have been put out of service due to costly repairs. (#13 & #7) Car #13 is actually being used for parts in an attempt to reduce the repair costs on the other Chevrolets. He urged the Commission to consider this information in an attempt to order another vehicle.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:24PM - 7:07PM** Litigation – No action

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None

Commissioner Fiedler interrupted the course of the meeting and stated for the record,” I was barred from the executive session at 6:24PM to 7:07PM. When I attempted to enter, I was forcibly denied entry by Gary Hadden.”

Commissioner Hadden denied this accusation as did members of the audience confirm that she wasn’t forcibly denied entry by Commissioner Hadden; the entire situation is on video.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

**Eric Bauman, Maidencreek Township** there has been a lot of upheaval in the Commission and we all know where it is coming from. I want to commend the Chief, Det. Sgt. and all the officers having to deal with the conditions set forth by the virus, and now what is going on in the country make me feel like I’m in the twilight zone. I’m asking the Commission to be patient on any decisions to disband. It would be a terrible loss to the community to lose this fine police department we have. Wait it out until January when, I’m confident the representation for Maidencreek will change. As you know it was attempted in March but with the concern for legal ramifications it didn’t happen. I’m proud to say Maidencreek Township is now aware of the problem. Please be patient.

He apologized for missing Ronald Mohl to congratulate him on his accomplishments however; I would like to comment on the presentation and the kind words spoken by Chief Horner, Commissioner Hadden and Commissioner Sandridge. The Maidencreek Commissioner said nothing. How embarrassing. I said last year and I’ll say it again, ”I’m embarrassed to say I’m from Maidencreek” This ridiculousness has got to stop. Again please be patient.

During the pledge to the flag, where was Maidencreek Township’s representative? Arguing at the door and attempting to call individuals to attend the meeting. Just what is your motive? You just want to stir things up like you did in Lancaster County, just Google “Heidi Wheaton” and one day pass to Lancaster County. Thank you Chief and all the officers – just keep plugging on.

**Harold Wagner, Leesport Borough** reiterated the same sentiments as Eric Bauman and thanked the department for the fine job they are doing during these difficult times. His question for this evening, “What is the cause of the high legal fees?” Half way through the year and $32,545.18 has been spent from $50,000.00 budgeted item. Can anyone on the Commission comment? Is there a limitation on who may call the attorney?

**Commissioner Hadden** commented that there are numerous legal issues going on with the Commission which might cause other individuals besides the Chairman to contact the Solicitor. He did suggest filing a right-to-know when he is sure all costs would be spelled out.

**Chris Gerber, Solicitor** commented that he has an obligation to the Commission and will honor anyone that contacts him. No other comment on the Solicitor – Commission working relationship.

**Donna Culp, Maidencreek Township** thanked the Police and all first responders for the job they are doing during these terrible times. I must say how embarrassed I was for Maidencreek Township due to the disrespect the Maidencreek Commissioner portrayed during the recognition for Ronald Mohl’s retirement. I’m not sure what your ulterior motive is, so once again I’m asking you to step down because you are an embarrassment and you are not doing anything for this Commission.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**DCED Study**

April 24, 2020 Ruth Manmiller sent the requested Northern Berks Regional Police information to Pennsylvania Center for Local Government for a current accounting of the police department. Ruth reported the information was received however; since they are working remotely due to COVID restrictions it will not be reviewed until they return the office.

**2020 Budget**

Commissioner Hadden questioned the status of Maidencreek Township’s position on approving the

NBRPD 2020 budget. Approval of the 2020 Police budget was unsuccessfully attempted in January and again in February with Maidencreek being the descending vote. Ontelaunee Township Alternate Kim Berger read Maidencreek Township approved February 13, 2020 where it was agreed to approve the 2020 Budget.

Commissioner Fiedler stated the minutes were incorrect and that it was just an advisement as to what the Supervisors wanted to do by forwarding their decision to Ruth at NBRPD. Plan “C” Budget was new and Maidencreek Township wanted funds returned, and that didn’t happen.

**Scott Eaken, Maidencreek Township** advised the Commission that he was at the February 13, 2020 Maidencreek Township Board of Supervisors meeting and that the minutes are incorrect.

Supervisor Beaver and Supervisor Franke agreed with Plan “C’ however; Supervisors Fiedler wanted to hold off until she knew what Ontelaunee Township & Leesport Borough had decided. No motion pertaining to the Police Budget was passed during the Maidencreek Township meeting. When the vote came up during the March NBRPD Commission meeting, Commissioner Fiedler voted, no. At that time Commission Fiedler compared Central Berks Regional Police Department Budget v. Northern Berks Regional Police Budget wondering why there was such a difference in costs.

When questioned, David Franke Maidencreek Township Alternate confirmed that he was under the impression that Maidencreek had instructed Commissioner Fiedler to vote for NBRPD Plan “C” Budget.

Harold Wager asked if a letter could be composed by Maidencreek Township approving the 2020 Budget since the COVID restriction is confusing the decision.

Commissioner Hadden reiterated a regulation set forth in the Northern Berks Regional Police Charter; require a unanimous vote to pass the budget. So until Maidencreek makes a decision, we will operate under the 2019 budget and hope that the money holds out.

**Executive Session 7:23PM-8:17PM** – Litigation – No Action

Chief Horner asked the Commission if they made a decision to reimburse him for his attorney’s fees. Attorney fees he incurred as a result of a false verbal accusation with no written complaint to back it up. If I was in the wrong, I would not have a problem paying this bill but; this was a false and over exaggerated complaint and an obvious attempt to discredit me.

Commissioner Fiedler informed Chief Horner that per his contract he is responsible for his legal fees.

Leesport Alternate Commissioner Strause made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hadden approving the reimbursement of $2,845.00 for legal fees incurred by Chief Horner as a result of the false claims reported. The Internal Investigation report that all three municipalities had the opportunity to read; proved that this was a frivolous complaint. Commissioner Hadden voted, “Aye.”, Commissioner Strause voted, “Aye.” Commissioner Fiedler voted, “No.” Motion carried.

**ADJOURN**

Commission Strause made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Fiedler to adjourn the Commission meeting at 8:22 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