**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, Eric Bauman, Kenneth Stoudt, James Holmgren, Heather Schoener, Scott Eaken, James Cecchini, Robert Wood,Jr., Harold Wagner, David Reichlein, Laura Hadden, Scott Zimmerman, Joann Chabrol, Debbie Didyoung, Katelyn Gruber, Fred Harrison, Diane Hollenbach, Joe Farley.

**Call to Order:** Commissioner Hadden called the September 14, 2020 Northern Berks Regional Police Commission meeting to order at 6:00PM.

**Pledge to the Flag**

**Moment of Silence**

**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES – August 10, 2020**

James Cecchini requested the following corrections to the August meeting minutes as follows; (1) He wanted the Justices listed who reversed the decision of the Commonwealth Court and remanded the case to that court, with instructions to reinstate the abitrator’s award in the Charles Hobart case. (2) He wanted a more detailed discription of his comments toward Commissioner Hadden’s actions on the parking lot after the previous Commission meeting, (3) Discrepancy in legal fees.

Commissioner Fiedler made a motion, to approve the August 10, 2020 Commission meeting minutes with the corrections made. Motion died for a lack of a second.

Commissioner Hadden commented that the minutes are a summary of the Commission meeting, not a word for word documentation of meeting events.

Commission Hadden made a motion to approve August 10, 2020 minutes as presented, seconded by

Commissioner Sandridge. Commission Hadden and Commissioner Sandridge voted, “Aye.” Commissioner Fiedler voted, “No.” Motion carried.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**  Ruth Manmiller read the August 2020 report. The Commissioners receive all reports via email prior to the meeting. Commissioner Fiedler made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hadden approving the August 2020 Treasurer’s report. All Commissioners voted, “Aye.” Motion carried.

**MARCH**

Money Market $253,783.51

General Checking $ 26,759.83 Tompkins Vist $295,752.23

Payroll $ 22,082.97 NNO $10,338.55

Total Budget Bal. $302,626.31

**DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Chief Horner read the Department Report for August 2020. This report was provided to all Commissioners by email.

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

Maidencreek 393 53 107 152 3 24.38 per day

Ontelaunee 231 75 125 181 4 22.66 per day

Leesport 72 40 34 66 3 9.16 per day

Administrative 40

**TOTAL 736 168 266 399 10**

**Fuel 1183.348 MILEAGE 11,097**

**Fines Collected**

**Maidencreek $2,404.57 Ontelaunee $3,775.20 Leesport $1,406.72**

**TOTAL $7,586.49**

**Chief commented;**

Officer Hoptley will officially be retired 10/5/2020, a plaque has been ordered and he will receive his old badge. We no longer used “metal” badges for safety reasons and the Chief feels their old badge would have more meaning.

Michael Cardona will receive his old metal badge after signing a document stating he will not use the badge for any type of police business or authority. He may stop by the PD to get it. Ronald Mohl received his old badge, not a retirement badge and is willing to sign the same document as proposed for Michael Cardona. There is no need for a “Retirement Badge”

Commissioner Fiedler disagreed, the motion was for a retirement badge for all retiring officers, not an old badge. She asked for a member of the FOP to speak on a NBRPD Retirement Badge.

David Reichlein spoke on behalf of the FOP; a Northern Berks Regional Police Retirement badge is all we are asking plain and simple, an old badge is not acceptable. This is the way it is across the country. It’s the right thing to do!

Commissioner Hadden made a motion, seconded by Granville Sandridge to give the retiring officers their old badges. Commissioner Hadden and Commissioner Sandridge voted, “Aye.” Commissioner Fiedler voted, “No”. Motion passed.

Commissioner Fiedler asked that the motion stand for a Retirement Badge for Michael Cardona and any future retirees of NBRPD.

The Solicitor warned the Commission that this is not a good practice to begin because it could cause a liability issue down the road.

**TESTING**

* Deadline for testing applications is 9/17/2020 2:00 PM.
* To date approximately 50 applications were picked up
* Tests will be ordered 9/18/2020
* Testing is scheduled for 9/27/2020
* Hopefully successful candidates will be ready for duty 1/1/2021.

Officers will have the opportunity to choose their 2021 schedules next week

9/15/2020 Durangos will be marked, waiting for equipment to arrive

Officers are working very hard

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Thank you from Bonnie Moore for Officer DeAngelo’s politeness and courtesy during a traffic stop for a burned out headlight.

Thank you from Richard Gruber for Officer Drazenovich’s professionalism in processing the accident of which he was involved.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

**Laura Hadden, Ontelaunee Township** commented she is here on her own accord and was not coerced in any way to come to this meeting to express her anger with the Commission. Specifically one Commissioner and the FOP who continue to support the re-hiring of Charles Hobart; who used JNET, Clean and PENNDOT agencies to research women, obtain directions to their homes, print pictures of women in different displays of undress and bondage to masturbate while on duty. This type of activity is predatory in nature and could lead to harm to any women in the future.

**Eric Bauman, Maidencreek Township** questioned why Commissioner Fiedler is not included in certain executive sessions, as a resident of Maidencreek Township I have a right to know.

The Solicitor explained there is a conflict of interest with Commissioner Fiedler and an internal investigation being conducted by the Commissioners. Commission Fiedler has voluntarily recused herself from any discussions and/or decisions pertaining to the internal investigation; to maintain the integrity of the internal investigation I will not divulge the subject matter per Attorney/Client privilege.

The Solicitor added; that since he has come on board with NBRPD Commissioners we have followed every matter to the letter of the law. In working with all Commissioners and Alternates I know they have their heart and soul into the success of this police department.

Eric Bauman thanked the Solicitor for his explanation and thanked Ms.Hadden for her comments.

**David Reichlein, Centre Township** commented he has a problem with Ms. Hadden’s comments relative to Charles Hobart. The highest court in Pennsylvania said Charles Hobart will get his job back, the second highest court in Pennsylvania said he will get his job back. Charles Hobart is a good man, he just made a mistake. I thought things would get better for all officers in this department after Sgt. Mohl retired, but apparently things haven’t changed. So as long as things continue, I will be here asking questions. My question for this evening: Why is Chief Horner allowed to post on Facebook and is the Commission aware?

Commission Hadden confirmed that the Commission is aware of his Facebook posts and since it is a personal issue, we can’t restrict his use of Facebook.

Commissioner Fiedler respectfully disagrees with Commissioner Hadden on this issue because Chief Horner is in violation of two sections of the NBRPD Social Media SOP. Commissioner Fiedler stated she received complaints relative to his Facebook posts. She proceeded to present print outs of Brian Horner’s Facebook posts. She told Chief Horner his derogatory posts reflect poorly on the department and puts liability on the Commission.

Commissioner Hadden confirmed Commissioner Fiedler has brought numerous complaints pertaining to the Chief to the Commission; and they have all been proven to be false.

Several times Chief Horner asked Commissioner Fiedler if she was filing a complaint. If she is - this is a problem because it’s a personnel issue and should not be discussed in an open meeting. He added that he was going to save his future comment for new business but Commission Fiedler has gone too far. I’m seeking legal counsel to file harassment charges against Heidi Fiedler since she continues to personally attack, harass, and stalk me. I have publicly asked her to stop but she continues. I recently was informed that Heidi Fiedler has an agenda that includes Scott Zimmerman (her neighbor), Dean Shuman (property maintenance issue) and Brian Horner (removing him as Chief) per Maidencreek Township Manager Diane Hollenbach.

Dian Hollenbach said she would not make any comment in public.

**Fred Harrison, Ontelaunee Township** described this meeting as ridiculous. He directed Commissioner Fiedler to bring her complaints in writing and then present the written document to the Commission for further action – that’s how it done. Again this is ridiculous your actions, your agenda and your attacks.

The Solicitor asked everyone to calm down. The Commission can respond to verbal complaints, they don’t have to be in writing.

**Joe Farley, Maidencreek Township** resident as well as a member of the Berks County Republican Committee expressed his concerns for all the hate and violence that is gripping our country. BLM & Antifa movement is a direct attack on our way of life and they will do anything to discredit the police. We need to back our police department – Northern Berks Regional Police and the Chief! We need to stand behind him 100% - he is a good man - this bickering has to stop.

Commissioner Fiedler wanted to make it clear for the record that she does support the Police and a peaceful de-escalation of all situations however; I still want the police to follow the rules and regulations of the law. Abusing social media and going against SOP’s is not following the rules.

Alternate Commissioner Dave Franke commented that these discussions are going awry; all of us must remain neutral and respect the services the Police provide. We must support the Police because right now they have a target on their backs, being in law enforcement for 45 years I’m not sure I would want to do it in todays’ world. Our three communities must continue to back our police.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**IA Policy**

The Solicitor reported a few minor changes had to make to the IA, mainly the last page that included a form to file a written complaint. Upon this correction, the Chief will distribute to the officers.

**Lease Agreement**

Commissioner Hadden wanted to make sure that everyone had enough time to review the Lease Agreement 2021-2024 and added that nothing had changed except for the dates. A motion to accept is planned for October 12, 2020 Commission meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2021 MMO – Minimum Municipal Obligation**

Commissioner Hadden a motion, seconded by Commissioner Fielder authorizing the Chairman to sign 2021 MMO - Minimum Municipal Obligation to fund the NBRPD Pension Fund in the amount of $281,360.51 All Commissioners voted, “Aye.” Motion carried.

**2021 Budget**

Due to the delay in approving 2020 Budget and now waiting for 2021 proposals to arrive; Ruth Manmiller promised to have a draft 2021 Budget at the October Commission meeting. The Chief commented that he plans to include body cameras for the officers and in-car cameras in the 2021 budget.

**Workers Comp**

Ruth Manmiller reported NBRPD’s Workers Comp (MRM) coverage has been renewed ($93,000)

and included a third party (WORKWELL) to assist with injured officers’ care and appointments. Workers Comp requires a panel of physicians for use by an injured officer. NBRPD previously had

an Occupational Health program set up with Tower Health however the facility closed and will not be accepting any new patients or companies. WORKWELL suggested Concentra Occupational Health, Pottsville Pike, Reading. (approximately 2 miles from PD). She wanted the Commission to be aware of the change prior to posting the panel.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

David Reichlein asked that Chief Horner treat his men fairly – if they do something wrong then proceed with punishment otherwise no vendetta.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:52 PM – 9:15 PM**

Litigation – No Action

**ADJOURN**

Commission Hadden made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Fiedler to adjourn the Commission meeting at 9:15 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