

**NORTHERN BERKS REGIONAL POLICE
COMMISSION MEETING
March 14, 2022 6:00 PM**

ATTENDING: Ronald Strause - Leesport Commissioner, Heidi Fiedler - Maiden creek Commissioner, Gary Hadden - Ontelaunee Commissioner, Josh Steingraber - Ontelaunee Township Alternate, Joseph Farley - Maiden creek Township Alternate, Andrew Rongaus - Solicitor, Chief Jim Keiser, Alysia Fredericks - Administrative Assistant

GUESTS: Donna Culp, Heather Schoener, Eric Bauman, Robert Wood, Joan Campbell, Scott Eaken, Harold Wagner, Josh Meck.

Commissioner Strause called the March 14, 2022 Commission Meeting to order at 6:00 PM, followed by the pledge to the flag and a moment of silence.

Commissioner Strause welcomed everyone.

AGENDA: Commissioner Fiedler made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hadden to approve the agenda. All commissioners voted, "Aye". Motion carried.

FOR THE RECORD: Nothing

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES: Commissioner Hadden made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Fiedler to approve the February 14, 2022 Commission Meeting minutes. All commissioners voted, "Aye". Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The February 2022 Treasurer's report was given by Alysia Fredericks as follows-

Money Market	\$506,861.51	Tompkins Vist	\$180,687.70
General Checking	\$19,489.70	NNO	\$7,599.07
Payroll	\$19,340.71		
Total Budget Bal.	\$545,691.92		

Commissioner Fiedler made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hadden to approve the February 2022 Treasurer's report as presented. All commissioners voted, "Aye". Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORT: Chief Keiser read the activity report for February 2022

TOWNSHIP	CALLS	CITATIONS	WARNINGS	CONTACTS	ARRESTS	HOURS OF SERVICE
Maidencreek	276	85	63	121	0	27.91 per day
Ontelaunee	154	60	69	112	1	22.84 per day
Leesport	62	13	18	25	0	6.39 per day
Administrative	16					
TOTAL	508	158	150	258	1	

FUEL: 1053.648 Gallons

MILEAGE: 8975

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FINES COLLECTED: \$4621.19

Maidencreek - \$1404.59 Ontelaunee - \$2428.95 Leesport - \$787.65

**CRASHES: Maidencreek - 12 (5 Reportable/7 Non Reportable)
Ontelaunee - 24 (7 Reportable/17 Non Reportable)
Leesport - 2 (0 Reportable/2 Non Reportable)**

Josh Steingraber, Ontelaunee Alternate questioned whether the current oil prices are expected to have a significant impact on the fuel budget. Chief Keiser explained that when we prepared the 2022 budget in October of 2021, we had only used 50% of the fuel budget at that point. Keeping the same budget, he believes we will be okay with the fuel budget for 2022 as long as oil does not rise significantly higher in price in the next few months.

Joe Farley, Maidencreek Alternate commented that Ukraine and Russia were in negotiations today and that oil prices had dipped.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Harold Wagner, Leesport Borough wanted to know how we decided to proceed with removing the decals for the 2 out of service patrol vehicles. Commissioner Strause stated that a member of the commission volunteered their time to remove all of the decals and we would be discussing the selling of the cars under Old Business.

OLD BUSINESS:

Municibid Auctions - Administrative Assistant Alysia Fredericks began by thanking Commissioner Strause for suggesting that we look into the Municibid website to sell the vehicles. She also thanked Commissioner Hadden for volunteering his time to remove all of the car decals. It was reported that both auctions closed that day at 4pm. Car 10 had a winning bid of \$4100 and Car 12 had a winning bid of \$5200, for total sales of \$9300. **Commissioner Strause** asked if Alysia could explain how Municibid works and the cost to the commission. **Alysia** explained that the commission does not pay anything to utilize the website. Municibid collects a buyer's fee from the winning bidder. The winning bid amount is paid entirely and directly to the Police Department via certified bank check. The police department is interested in using Municibid in the future to clear out some light bars and additional items currently in the garage.

Ethics Statements - Administrative Assistant Alysia Fredericks reminded the commissioners and alternates that Ethics Statements are due by May 1, 2022.

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NEW BUSINESS:

NBRPD Pension Administrator - **Commissioner Fiedler** made a motion, seconded by **Commissioner Hadden** to appoint Alysia Fredericks as the NBRPD pension administrator. All commissioners voted, "Aye". Motion carried.

Open Records officer - **Commissioner Fiedler** made a motion, seconded by **Commissioner Hadden** to appoint Alysia Fredericks as the Open Records officer. All commissioners voted, "Aye". Motion carried.

National Night Out 2022 - **Administrative Assistant Alysia Fredericks** read an email from Dr. Taschner, Superintendent of Schuylkill Valley School District expressing interest in hosting this year's NNO. It will be put on the school board agenda for March. **Commissioner Fiedler** questioned the proposed date. Alysia answered that it will be Tuesday, August 2nd, 2022 from 6-9PM at the Schuylkill Valley High School campus. The next steps will be to form a planning committee.

Approve settlement agreement Re: Grievance - **Solicitor Andrew Rongaus** spoke about Grievance 0539 filed by the Northern Berks Police Association in regards to discipline that was imposed. The original discipline imposed was a 3 day suspension. It was recommended that the commission accept a 1 day suspension with an 18 month reckoning period, thus ending the matter with no further litigation. **Commissioner Hadden** made a motion, seconded by **Commissioner Strause** to accept the settlement agreement. All commissioners voted, "Aye". Motion carried.

Purchase Ballistics Shield with Municibid Profit - **Chief Keiser** presented the current ballistics shield that the department has. Replacing the current large shield with the same make and model would cost \$4663. He found a different company that sells the same IIIA protection level Ballistic Shield for \$1899.99. Chief Keiser asked the commission to allow the police department to purchase 2 of those shields with some of the Municibid profit from the car sales. For comparison, he included a printout of a level 4 shield that is able to stop rifle rounds for \$3899.99. He does not think this level shield is necessary. **Commissioner Fiedler** asked what the weight of the proposed shield is. This shield weighs approximately 16 lbs. **Commissioner Strause** asked whether the light is included. Chief Keiser said that the price does include the light. The proposed shield is almost identical to the current heavyweight ballistics shield, but does not have the stenciling. The Chief has a vinyl patch to put on the shields to serve as a police identifier. **Commissioner Hadden** wanted to know whether the shields have a life span similar to the bulletproof vests (5 years) and whether or not the age of the current shield was known. Chief Keiser responded that he was unsure of this, but believes it would be different due to the vests being laundered and consisting of a softer material/fibers.

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Commissioner Hadden made a motion, seconded by **Commissioner Fiedler** to purchase 2 of the IIIA ballistic shields for a cost of \$1899.99 per shield. All commissioners voted, "Aye". Motion carried. **Donna Culp** asked if the old shields would be used for training purposes. Chief Keiser said he would like to take the old shields to the shooting range for a field test.

Solicitor Andrew Rongaus mentioned that the commission needed to circle back to address the Municibid auction results. **Commissioner Hadden** made a motion, seconded by **Commissioner Fiedler** to approve the sale on Municibid of the two out of service patrol cars for \$4100 (Car 10) and \$5200 (Car 12) for a total sale of \$9300. All commissioners voted, "Aye". Motion carried.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Commissioner Strause personally thanked the police department for the handling of an incident that occurred in Leesport borough. He was there for the entire incident and said it was handled professionally.

Harold Wagner wanted to know more about the settlement agreement regarding the grievance discussed under New Business. **Solicitor Rongaus** stated that there was an incident involving an officer and a pursuit where policy violations occurred. Initially, a 3 day suspension was imposed, but it was later reduced to a 1 day suspension with an 18 month reckoning period. This means that if the officer does something again within the 18 month period, the department and commission could impose more severe discipline.

ADJOURN:

Commissioner Hadden made a motion, seconded by **Commissioner Fiedler** to adjourn the meeting at 6:22PM. All commissioners voted, "Aye". Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alysia Fredericks

NBRPD Administrative Assistant

CC: NBRPD Commission & Alternates
Katelyn Gruber, Acting Maiden creek Township Secretary
Kim Berger, Ontelaunee Township Secretary
Sandra Weiser, Leesport Borough Secretary
Christopher Berger, Solicitor