

**NORTHERN BERKS REGIONAL POLICE
COMMISSION MEETING
July 11, 2022 6:00 PM**

ATTENDING: Ronald Strause - Leesport Commissioner, Gary Hadden - Ontelaunee Commissioner, Joseph Farley - Maiden creek Alternate, Josh Steingraber - Ontelaunee Alternate, James Moquin - Leesport Alternate, Andrew Rongaus - Esquire, Chief Jim Keiser, Alysia Fredericks - Administrative Assistant

GUESTS: Donna Culp, Eric Bauman, Heather Schoener, Josh Meck, Terry Hilbert, Mike Schittler, Kris Schittler, Joan Campbell-Kelly

Commissioner Strause called the July 11, 2022 Commission Meeting to order at 6:01 PM, followed by the pledge to the flag and a moment of silence.

Esquire Andrew Rongaus said that after the meeting, there would be an executive session held to discuss increasing the salary of **Administrative Assistant Alysia Fredericks** as per the employment agreement, which states that there would be a review after 6 months of employment.

AMENDMENT TO AGENDA: **Commissioner Hadden** made a motion, seconded by **Alternate Farley** to amend the agenda to include an executive session after the meeting. All commissioners voted, "Aye". Motion carried.

AMENDED AGENDA: **Commissioner Hadden** made a motion, seconded by **Alternate Farley** to approve the amended agenda as presented. All commissioners voted, "Aye". Motion carried.

FOR THE RECORD: Nothing

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES: **Alternate Farley** made a motion, seconded by **Commissioner Hadden** to approve the June 2022 Commission Meeting minutes. All commissioners voted, "Aye". Motion carried.

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

Money Market	\$563,616.38	Tompkins Vist	\$180,711.86
General Checking	\$22,993.83	NNO	\$19,180.09
Payroll	\$16,165.60		
Total Budget Bal.	\$602,775.81		

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

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

TOWNSHIP	CALLS	CITATIONS	WARNINGS	CONTACTS	ARRESTS	HOURS OF SERVICE
Maiden creek	337	114	67	147	8	29.2 per day

**NORTHERN BERKS REGIONAL POLICE
COMMISSION MEETING
July 11, 2022 6:00 PM**

Ontelaunee	208	68	82	134	3	21.29 per day
Leesport	83	12	14	22	6	5.74 per day
Administrative	18					
TOTAL	646	194	163	303	17	

FUEL: 1136.74 Gallons

MILEAGE: 9670

FINES COLLECTED: \$6080.88

Maidencreek - \$1952.63

Ontelaunee - \$3783.60

Leesport - \$344.65

CRASHES: Maidencreek - 20 (8 Reportable/12 Non Reportable)

Ontelaunee - 12 (7 Reportable/5 Non Reportable)

Leesport - 1 (0 Reportable/1 Non Reportable)

Alternate Farley asked how many of the arrests for June were drug related. **Chief Keiser** said he would research that.

Commissioner Hadden said that site work and blasting would begin on Monday, July 18 at the new construction site near 61. The general contractor for the project will be Schlouch Excavating.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Eric Bauman, Maidencreek Township, stated that two of the representatives from Maidencreek Township have expressed interest in replacing their representative on the Northern Berks Police Commission, but were told by the Township Solicitor that they do not have the power to remove an appointed commissioner prior to the completion of the 1 year term. Mr. Bauman then referenced page 3 of the Commission Charter, which states that each representative will be appointed to a term of 1 year to be made at each participant's reorganization meeting. He also referenced Article 16 of the charter, which states that all differences in interpretation of the charter are to be resolved by the commission. **Commissioner Strause** stated that there have been instances where a member of the commission has been removed during the 1 year term. **Solicitor Rongaus** said that if the commission would like to pursue this matter further, it can be looked at more in depth and discussed with the Maidencreek Solicitor. Mr. Bauman said that there was an attempt at a Maidencreek Township reorganization meeting by the chairman of the board to appoint himself as police commissioner. After being seconded by another supervisor, the township solicitor said that this could not be done.

Alternate Farley made a motion, seconded by **Commissioner Hadden** to authorize the solicitor to pursue this issue and reach out to the Maidencreek Township solicitor to discuss their interpretation of the charter. All commissioners voted, "Aye". Motion carried.

**NORTHERN BERKS REGIONAL POLICE
COMMISSION MEETING
July 11, 2022 6:00 PM**

Mike Schittler expressed concern that residential stop signs, specifically on Limestone and up South View Road are being ignored. Terry Hilbert agreed that stop signs are being run on South View Road. Also, too many U-turns are being made and the 25 mph speed limit is constantly being exceeded. **Chief Keiser** said that it is difficult to devote a traffic unit to these locations because once they get set up, they then often get a call and need to leave. It is especially difficult, due to being short staffed because of vacations. **Alternate Moquin** asked if we could utilize a digital speed sign at that location. **Chief Keiser** said he could look into moving the digital sign that is currently at Schaeffer and placing it in this location. The purchase of additional digital speed signs would need to be done by the municipalities. **Commissioner Hadden** said that these signs are a good visual representation of your speed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Parking Ordinances - **Solicitor Rongaus** said the Solicitor Gerber is still working to compile all of the information from the municipalities to make a unified resolution. **Commissioner Hadden** said that the majority of the parking concerns stem from the various developments. **Chief Keiser** said that once the information has been compiled and a ticket template is created, the ticket will be reviewed and agreed upon by the commission, chief and the officers before it is officially sent to print.

Ontelaunee Township Meeting Room - **Commissioner Hadden** said that there were presentations on the equipment by different groups. Berkshire System, a local firm from Wyomissing, PA, has been approved by Ontelaunee Township to do the meeting room equipment upgrades for \$39,020. **Chief Keiser** attended one of the presentations and said that the upgrades would be a great tool for the department to use. It would also enable our department to be a host and hold additional trainings here.

Alternate Farley made a motion, seconded by **Commissioner Strause** for the Northern Berks Regional Police Commission to contribute \$15,000 to Ontelaunee Township for the upgrades to their audiovisual conference system. **Commissioner Hadden** abstained. Motion passed 2-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

NNO Event Books: **Commissioner Hadden** asked if the police commission would be interested in paying for the 3,000 event booklets that will be distributed on National Night Out. Costs for the event have gone up this year and it would be a big help for the commission to cover this one expense. **Commissioner Strause** said that this event is a great public relations event, especially since this year it is featuring NBRPD, Hamburg and Fleetwood Police Departments. **Commissioner Hadden** said that any leftover funds in the

**NORTHERN BERKS REGIONAL POLICE
COMMISSION MEETING
July 11, 2022 6:00 PM**

National Night Out account would be kept in the account to apply towards next year's event.

Commissioner Hadden made a motion, seconded by **Alternate Farley** that the police commission support National Night Out by paying for the event booklets, not to exceed \$5,400. All commissioners voted, "Aye". Motion passed.

Replacement of Police Vehicles: **Chief Keiser** would like to start getting quotes on vehicles, decals and lighting packages for the fleet. Specifically, he would like to purchase a pickup truck, which would facilitate the transport of larger items, such as bicycles and signs that do not fit well in the back of the SUV's. **Commissioner Strause** asked what the lead time on getting a police vehicle currently is, which Josh Steingraber answered is 10 months. **Commissioner Hadden** said that due to the lengthy lead times, we should look at the current fleet and determine if we need to look for 1 or 2 vehicles. In addition to getting quotes on a pickup truck, Chief Keiser would like to replace one of the Explorers with a new Explorer. **Alternate Steingraber** suggested staying with one model, which would keep costs down and make switching equipment between vehicles easier.

Commissioner Hadden made a motion, seconded by **Alternate Farley** for the commission to approve Chief Keiser to begin getting quotes on two vehicles - a truck and an Explorer. All commissioners voted, "Aye". Motion passed.

Armory Ammo: **Chief Keiser** stated that before he was hired by the department, handguns were switched from 40 caliber to 9 mm. The armory currently has 13 boxes of mismatched 40 caliber practice ammo. Two officers asked if they could purchase the practice ammo from the commission for their personal use. **Commissioner Hadden** asked if that could legally be done. **Solicitor Rongaus** said we need to make sure that the ammo doesn't need to be transferred through an FFL. **Alternate Steingraber** suggested that we look into letting the officers use part of their uniform allowance to purchase the ammo.

Commissioner Hadden made a motion, seconded by **Alternate Farley** to authorize the Chief to look into what exactly the price is and what can be done with the 40 caliber practice ammo. All commissioners voted, "Aye". Motion passed.

Hiring of Officer: **Chief Keiser** asked for the commission to permit him to establish hiring lists and authorize testing for new officers. He believes that NBRPD needs to hire additional officers. Community concerns have been asking for officers to be available for more traffic details. Also, it is difficult to cover vacations and military assignments with the current number of officers.

**NORTHERN BERKS REGIONAL POLICE
COMMISSION MEETING
July 11, 2022 6:00 PM**

Commissioner Hadden suggested that this be discussed during executive session.

Discussion of Current Funds: **Commissioner Strause** said that the commission will begin discussing the 2023 budget in September. At this point, he thinks it is a bit premature to discuss returning money to the municipalities, as suggested at last month's meeting. There are still insurance fees and other large bills that will be paid later in 2022. When money is returned to the municipality, it is distributed in the percentage in which it was contributed. It was agreed to table this discussion until later in the year.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Alternate Farley asked about littering and vandalism in Maiden Creek Park. Josh Meck said that they are looking at 16 long range cameras for the park.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

7:18pm - 7:46pm

After returning from executive session, **Commissioner Hadden** made a motion, seconded by **Alternate Farley** for the Chief to start the process for new hires. All commissioners voted, "Aye". Motion passed.

Commissioner Hadden made a motion, seconded by **Alternate Farley** to increase **Administrative Assistant Alysia Fredericks'** hourly rate to \$25.00, effective July 24, 2022. All commissioners voted, "Aye". Motion passed.

Josh Meck commended the department on handling a recent incident at the Maiden Creek Park. Detective Sergeant Wood and Officer Parks handled in a positive way.

ADJOURN:

Commissioner Hadden made a motion, seconded by **Alternate Farley** to adjourn the meeting at 7:48PM. All commissioners voted, "Aye". Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alysia Fredericks
NBRPD Administrative Assistant

CC: NBRPD Commission & Alternates
Hunter Ahrens, Maiden Creek Township Manager
Kim Berger, Ontelaunee Township Secretary
Sandra Weiser, Leesport Borough Secretary
Christopher Berger, Solicitor