

**NORTHERN BERKS REGIONAL POLICE  
COMMISSION MEETING  
APRIL 10, 2023**

**ATTENDING:** Ronald Strause – Leesport Commissioner, Dave Franke – Maiden creek Commissioner, Gary Hadden – Ontelaunee Commissioner, Josh Meck – Maiden creek Alternate, Jim Moquin – Leesport Alternate, Chris Gerber – Solicitor, Chief Jim Keiser, Alysia Fredericks – Administrative Assistant

**GUESTS:** Joe Farley, Eric Bauman, Donna Culp, Mike Schittler, Kris Schittler, Donna Bissinger

Commissioner Franke called the April 10, 2023 Commission Meeting to order at 6:03 PM, followed by the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence. He then announced that the commission would be holding an executive session

Commissioner Franke announced that the meeting was back in session at 6:51 PM and turned it over to Solicitor Gerber. Solicitor Gerber said that the agenda would need to be amended to include a motion to approve the job description for corporal, to approve the corporal promotion policy and to approve the employment application form that will be used by the commission.

**Commissioner Hadden** made a motion, seconded by **Commissioner Strause** to amend the agenda. All commissioners voted, “Aye”. Motion carried.

Commissioner Franke announced that there was an executive session held on April 5, 2023 to discuss personnel.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** **Commissioner Hadden** made a motion, seconded by **Commissioner Strause** to approve the amended agenda. All commissioners voted, “Aye”. Motion carried.

**FOR THE RECORD:** **Commissioner Franke** stated that there have been some opinions going around the communities regarding our police department and the potential to disband. We have gone through a lot of issues in the past, but we have a great department, a great Chief and a community that is interested in our department. The commission worked very hard to bring the police department back together. There were several officers lost due to the past turmoil. It is important for our current officers to know that the commission is working together and committed to moving forward and there is no possibility of disbandment. No one inside the department, the commission or the municipalities will succeed in breaking up our regional department.

**Joe Farley** commented that he agrees and it is important to support our police.

**Commissioner Franke** said that our amended agenda shows that we are moving forward with advertising and eventually hiring new officers, as well as promotions within the department. We want to make it better for our current officers and offer opportunities for advancement.

**Commissioner Hadden** stated that the commission worked very hard in 2021 to keep the department together and will continue to do so.

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**Commissioner Strause** said that you cannot go back and change the past, but you can learn from it and that is how you move forward.

**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES:** **Commissioner Strause** made a motion, seconded by **Commissioner Hadden** to approve the March 2023 Commission Meeting minutes. All commissioners voted, “Aye”. Motion carried.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** The March 2023 Treasurer’s report was given by Alysia Fredericks as follows-

Money Market	\$551,801.46	Tompkins Vist	\$159,906.71
General Checking	\$19,003.02	NNO	\$9,921.80
Payroll	\$3,372.58		
Total Budget Bal.	\$574,177.06		

Alysia reported that she had reached out to Fleetwood Bank in regards to what amount is insured in our money market account. Fleetwood Bank pledges collateral for deposits of public funds on a pooled basis and Northern Berks Regional Police is under this collateral pool consisting of acceptable securities as outlined under Act No. 72, 1971 Session of the Pennsylvania Legislature. The Federal Reserve is custodian for the collateral pool. Our balance is covered.

**Commissioner Hadden** made a motion, seconded by **Commissioner Strause** to approve the March 2023 Treasurer’s report as presented. All commissioners voted, “Aye”. Motion carried.

**DEPARTMENT REPORT:** Chief Keiser read the activity report for March 2023.

TOWNSHIP	CALLS	CITATIONS	WARNINGS	CONTACTS	ARRESTS	HOURS OF SERVICE
Maidencreek	265	55	96	130	3	30 per day
Ontelaunee	179	68	58	105	5	17.3 per day
Leesport	81	88	33	88	3	9.8 per day
Administrative	23					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>11</b>	

**FUEL:** 1063.101 Gallons                      **MILEAGE:** 10,010

**CRASHES:** **Maidencreek - 16 (7 Reportable/9 Non Reportable/0 Hit & Run)**  
**Ontelaunee - 22 (5 Reportable/14 Non Reportable/3 Hit & Run)**  
**Leesport - 6 (2 Reportable/4 Non Reportable/0 Hit & Run)**

**Chief Keiser** mentioned that he has removed the citation amounts from the activity report. He does not feel that these amounts need to be advertised. One of the big reasons Pennsylvania does not have radar is because people view speed enforcement as a “money maker”, which it is not. The citation checks are mailed to each municipality and these amounts are available if anyone should inquire, but they will not be included on the monthly activity report.

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**Commissioner Strause** publicly commended the department for their recent attention to areas in the Leesport Borough. Naturally, when you sit within the limits of the borough, the people that end up getting pulled over are residents. This causes some residents to be unhappy, but it will eventually make things safer and the residents will hopefully understand these citations.

**Commissioner Hadden** stated that at the Ontelaunee Township meeting, it was approved for the road crew to help with road markings/line painting for speed timing.

**Chief Keiser** is hopeful that the bill for Pennsylvania to utilize radar will pass. **Commissioner Franke** said that radar is comparable in price to what the department currently uses (VASCAR). The Chief said that this is a good time to call legislators and send letters in support of radar.

**BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:** Nothing

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**New Police Vehicles Update:** **Chief Keiser** reported that he has been in contact with Koch 33 and the vehicles will be available in a couple of months. They also provided updated quotes that include all of the upfitting amounts. The graphics will need to be done locally. The Explorer will be white and the F150 will be black with the ghost graphics. The vehicles will include a double gun mount for shot guns and rifles. The F150 will have a single cage in the back so that the back is divided and allows for additional storage on the other side. Also, the new printers that go in the vehicles will mount into the headrest, which will create additional space for the officers. **Commissioner Hadden** said that, in the past, out of service vehicles were “given” to the municipalities and/or fire companies. **Alternate Meck** asked if the bed of the F150 will be covered and suggested looking into a locking deck system. **Commissioner Hadden** asked if our funds are fine for the purchase and upfitting costs. **Admin Assistant Fredericks** explained that we have the VIST money market funds available for the new vehicle costs. This account is over \$150,000.00. **Commissioner Hadden** made a motion, seconded by **Commissioner Strause** to allow the Chief to begin getting quotes from companies for the decals/graphics for the vehicles. All commissioners voted, “Aye”. Motion carried.

**Parking Tickets:** **Chief Keiser** mentioned that he is working with a company out of Michigan who will be designing the tickets. They will be sending a template. As far as weather proofing the tickets, they can be placed in Ziploc bags.

**National Night Out 2023 - Updates from Planning Meeting:** **Chief Keiser** reported that we held our first planning meeting last week and our meeting room was full. This NNO will include the departments of Northern Berks County - NBRPD, Fleetwood Borough PD, Bern Township PD, Hamburg Borough

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PD, Tilden Township PD. The next planning meeting will be Wednesday, May 3 at 6:30 PM in the Ontelaunee Township building.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Probation Period:** **Chief Keiser** reported that we have an officer whose probation period will be over on April 18, 2023.

**Corporal Job Description:** **Solicitor Gerber** said that the commission was presented with and reviewed a corporal job description during the executive session. **Commissioner Hadden** made a motion, seconded by **Commissioner Strause** to approve the job description for corporal. All commissioners voted, "Aye". Motion carried.

**Corporal Promotion Policy:** **Solicitor Gerber** said that the commission reviewed the corporal promotion policy during the executive session. **Commissioner Hadden** made a motion, seconded by **Commissioner Strause** to approve the corporal promotion policy. All commissioners voted, "Aye". Motion carried.

**Employment Application Form:** **Commissioner Strause** made a motion, seconded by **Commissioner Hadden** to approve the new employment application form. All commissioners voted, "Aye". Motion carried.

**Hiring Advertisement:** **Solicitor Gerber** said that the commission will be advertising for a new police officer position and the commission had an opportunity to review the advertisement during the executive session. **Commissioner Strause** made a motion, seconded by **Commissioner Hadden** to approve this advertisement. All commissioners voted, "Aye". Motion carried.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

**Commissioner Franke** said that as we approach the summer months, be conscientious of removing your grass clippings from the roadways, as they can be hazardous to motorcycle riders. There will also be a lot more children outside, due to the warmer weather, so be aware of your surroundings.

**ADJOURN:** **Commissioner Hadden** made a motion, seconded by **Commissioner Strause** to adjourn the meeting. All commissioners voted, "Aye". Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 7:34 pm.

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 Gerber, Solicitor