

**Southern Police Commission
Monthly Meeting
November 1, 2017**

A public meeting of the Southern Police Commission was held on Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at the New Freedom Borough Council Chambers, 49 East High Street, New Freedom, PA 17349.

Commission Members Present: Robert Herzberger, Victoria Ribeiro, Buck Buchanan, Peter Schnabel, John Trout, Jeff Blum, Brady Terrell

Solicitor: Timothy Ruth

Police Department Staff: Chief James Boddington, Financial Administrator Gail Prego, Officer Paul Heffner

Alternate Members Present: Mike Sharkey, John-Paul Whitmore

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Trout at 18:58 with the pledge of allegiance to the flag and a moment of silence for fallen police officers, firefighters, and EMT's who lost their lives in the line of duty.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Secretary Kirschman provided information regarding a Hearing of the combined House and Senate Veterans' Affairs and Emergency Preparedness and Senate Committee on Communications and Technology Committees that he'd attended at the State Capitol. Subjects presented included NextGen 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) and approaches being considered for implementing FirstNet in the Commonwealth. Representatives from PEMA, the Pennsylvania State Police, and the vendors who would potentially provide products and services for implementation of these public safety technologies spoke and submitted testimony. A decision is made and sent via the Governor's office to the FirstNet First Responder Network Authority as to which of the choices the Commonwealth will use to implement FirstNet.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Trout introduced Timothy Ruth as Solicitor for this meeting.

At the previous meeting it was discussed that all Commission members were to discuss with their Borough Councils regarding a potential merger with Northern Regional Police Department. Communications received from each member Borough: Dated October 12, from Shrewsbury Borough, Council was of a consensus to discuss a possible merger. From New Freedom Borough, dated October 16, that Borough Council unanimously supports the idea of continued discussions with Northern York County Regional Police. From Glen Rock, Borough Council discussed the possibility of a merger with Northern York County Regional Police and support additional discussion with them. Stewartstown Council hasn't met yet, but the Mayor indicates that the Council will likely support further discussions.

As Glen Rock Mayor, Chairman Trout received communications from New Freedom Borough indicating that Southwestern Regional PD indicated an interest in discussions. Commissioner Blum confirmed that the inquiry had been received indicating Southwestern Regional PD is interested in a discussion regarding a merger of some sort. Chairman Trout indicated this discussion would continue during the old business portion of the meeting.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

- Secretary Kirschman pointed out that there was one wrong word used near the end of the minutes and that it would be corrected prior to publication. Commissioner Schnabel made a motion that the minutes be approved with the change. Commissioner Blum seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstention.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2017 EXPENDITURES

- Expenses for September 2017 were presented and reviewed with Chief Boddington and Administrator Prego leading the discussion.
- There is a big difference between the budgeted pension expenses, pension aid received and the MMO for the period. There was detailed discussion.
- There was discussion regarding payroll expenses and what's accounted for where in the reports.
- Billings for non-member municipalities are being adjusted to accommodate the PPU system.
- Vehicle maintenance expenses continue due to the fleet aging and general operation.
- A vest grant has been approved for \$1500.00. These funds should be received before the end of the year.
- A motion was made by Commissioner Herzberger, seconded by Commissioner Buchanan, to approve expenditures for check numbers 10573 through 10601 in the amount of \$121,479.40. A motion carries with an Aye vote unanimously.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Boddington described the contents of the monthly police activity reports in the current format.

Chief reported the following highlights:

- Glen Rock Borough has requested additional patrols and traffic enforcement.
- Detective Shafer is recovering.
- Detective Blaise is now the full-time detective; picking up for Det. Shafer. There is overtime required to cover the investigation workload.
- Drug Take-Back is a normal operation for SRPD. Activity has increased as a result of public awareness to the extent that hundreds of pounds of prescription drugs have been turned in.
- Halloween allowed for good public interaction. There was a traffic accident that consumed some of the time.
- Incidents include:
 - Theft of \$3700 from a local business.
 - The recent carjacking remains under investigation.
 - There was a bomb threat at Giant in Shrewsbury.
 - There was a dissatisfied customer threatening to blow up the Rutter's in New Freedom.
 - Sons of Sicily in Shrewsbury had a break-in.
 - There was a missing female juvenile report in New Freedom. Charges are pending.
 - Rickman's Auto Parts in Stewartstown warehouse had a break-in. Investigation is on-going.
 - Child Advocacy requested police services for child abuse in Stewartstown.
 - A statutory issue is under investigation that occurred 6 months ago in New Freedom.
 - Other day-to-day activity associated with police work.

Chief Boddington mentioned that we had agreed retain the current auditors Kochenour Earnest Smyser & Burg. Either the Chief or Chairman can sign the engagement document. Commissioner Buchanan

made a motion that the agreement be entered into, seconded by Commissioner Schnabel. There was no vote.

INSURANCE & PENSION

- No report.

PERSONNEL

- No report.

FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT

- No report

BUDGET

- No report

CONTROL AND TRACKING DOCUMENT

- One item remaining to be completed, which is to implement the consultant's recommendations.
- Any commission projects or activities should be added to the tracking document.
- Interviews with the officers should be added to the document. Schedule for this activity is pending.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- Nothing to report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Chairman Trout requested a motion to allow the alternate members to remain for the Executive Session. Commissioner Blum made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Ribeiro. There was no vote on this motion and the alternates remained for the session. A personnel matter was discussed.

MOTION

- After the Executive Session, a motion was made by Commissioner Schnabel that Southern Regional Police Commission hire the law firm of Pillar + Aught, specifically Attorney Cory A. Iannacone, Esquire to perform an internal employment investigation. The investigation is to commence as soon as appropriate arrangements are made. The rate is to be \$250.00 per hour. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Blum. The motion passed by an Aye vote with no objection.

OLD BUSINESS

- Chairman Trout led a continued discussion regarding a potential merger with Northern Regional PD. New Freedom representatives have led this activity. Commissioner Blum said that they did not contact Southwestern Regional PD. Southwestern had heard by rumor that there were discussions going on with Northern Regional. Chief Bean contacted Tanya at New Freedom Borough asking if he could put together a similar offer. He has prepared a letter to start discussions. He asked for information regarding what the expectations might be of the department with a merger. Alternate Commissioner Sharkey suggested that SRPC lead in discussions with SWRPD or YARP or other interested departments. The differences between offers and discussion regarding Northern and Southwestern is that Northern is approaching from a merger, even a new department made of the combined resources, compared to

Southwestern asking what services our communities want and they'll take over from Southern Regional. There was a lively discussion regarding what's in it for each of the departments and municipalities. Chief Boddington pointed out that the PPU cost for Northern Regional is higher than ours.

- Commissioner Blum recommended that we responded to Chief Bean's questions and share those answers with both of the offering departments/commissions. Discussion ensued.
- Chairman Trout stated that doing nothing is not an option. He proposes a continuation meeting to discuss our expectations for submission to both Southwestern and Northern.
- Commissioner Buchanan recommended notifying the surrounding municipalities, including the townships, regarding these discussions in case they'd choose to participate and/or be informed. This would include Shrewsbury Twp., Hopewell Twp., and Codorus Twp. Chief Boddington suggested including North Hopewell Twp., who already have a two-man part-time department.

NEW BUSINESS

- Commissioner Ribeiro stated that Election Day may be risky in Glen Rock. There was a discussion regarding how this should be managed.

CONTINUATION:

A motion was made by Commissioner Blum, seconded by Commissioner Buchanan, for a continuation meeting on November 21 at 19:00. The motion passed by Aye vote at 20:43.