

**Southern Police Commission
Monthly Meeting
May 2, 2018**

A public meeting of the Southern Police Commission was held on Wednesday, May 2, 2018 at the New Freedom Borough Council Chambers, 49 East High Street, New Freedom, PA 17349.

Commission Members Present: Jeff Blum (Seated Alternate), Buck Buchanan, Roy Burkins, Rob Herzberger, Larry O'Brien, Mike Sharkey, Andrew Stewart, John Trout

Solicitor: Peter Ruth

Police Department Staff: Chief James Boddington, Financial Administrator Gail Prego, Sgt. Teague, Officer Heffner, Officer Hanson

Alternate Members Present: John-Paul Whitmore, Kenton Kurtz

Members Absent: Bruce Merrill

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Trout at 19:00 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.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Trout announced that there will be an Executive Session later on. He also said that there's been no update from the Borough of New Freedom since the last continuation meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Trout welcomed comments from members of the public present at the meeting. He asked each person to state their name and municipality prior to their comments.

- Melinda Smith, New Freedom Borough: If New Freedom Borough continues to not make progress, at what point have we lost our ability to keep the Police Department in New Freedom? Is there a date? Chairman Trout replied that the absolute drop dead date is December 30, 2018. July first we have to have a separation agreement signed. He, Solicitor Ruth, and Commissioner Buchanan (by question/comment) provided some details on the content and timeline requirements of that agreement.
- Charles King, New Freedom: Asked the Commission representatives from New Freedom Borough why there had been no progress since the last Commission meeting? Commissioner O'Brien responded that an earlier meeting had been requested of the New Freedom Council President and the issue was that the upcoming Council meeting had already been advertised for the 14th to be moved to the Community Center again for the second time. They have been working to remedy the situation behind the scenes. Commissioner Blum clarified that no one has the ability to call a special meeting except the President of the Council.
- Erica Reardon [sic] of New Freedom: When will there be updates? Commissioner Blum replied that you'll get them on the 14th. He reiterated that conversations are taking place in anticipation of progress to resolve the issues at that meeting. Commissioner O'Brien added that he is trying to get New Freedom Council to agree to stay as a full member of the Commission. That was not the motion on the table (or voted for) at the last meeting. He is hopeful.
- An un-named audience member wearing green asked: What are you hopeful for? Commissioner O'Brien answered that the two New Freedom Commission members present are working to get New Freedom Council to agree to be full Commission members. Commissioner Blum provided further detailed clarification of the action sought.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF APRIL 2018 CONTINUATION MEETING MINUTES

- Secretary Kirschman addressed change requests and corrections received from several Commissioners.
- A motion was made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner O'Brien, that the April minutes be approved. The motion was approved by an Aye vote.
- (Secretary's Note: The minutes presented were for the April Continuation meeting only. The April Scheduled meeting minutes were not made available for approval due to an oversight, and will be presented for approval at the next scheduled meeting.)

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF MARCH 2017 EXPENDITURES

- Expenses for March 2017 were presented by Finance Administrator Prego to leading the discussion.
- The School District has asked for additional time due to school violence escalation all over the county.
- Det. Shafer's absence for illness has skewed the salary results somewhat.
- Officer Bishop had resigned and his salary and benefit costs continue to be re-allocated to cover overtime to fill in. The part-time officer is being utilized to a greater extent to fill in the schedule.
- Vehicle expenses aren't bad.
- Operating expenses are as expected.
- Bishop's vest was purchased by the Department that he's joined for \$600.00.
- Training expenses will be affected by sending an additional officer to SRO training.
- Building and Equipment Maintenance expenses are up a bit due to some equipment being replaced as no longer repairable.
- Commissioner Buchanan asked if there were any items in the checks requiring clarification or review. Administrator Prego answer no.

A motion was made by Commissioner Blum to approve expenses for March check detail for 6 ACH's and check numbers 10758 through 10785 for \$148,730.22. The motion was seconded by Commissioner O'Brien. There was a discussion about how the money received from the sale of Bishop's vest would affect the expenses presented. As a result of that discussion, the motion was revised to reflect the amount of \$149,330.20. The motion passed with an Aye vote.

Commissioner Herzberger inquired about the status of the audit. Nothing to report.

CHIEF'S REPORT

- Chief Boddington discussed the report through the end of March that had been provided. While there are fluctuations from month to month the time reported was close to expected results. (This report is posted on the Web site.)
- Commissioner Blum inquired about increased time reported for New Freedom. Chief Boddington replied that much of that time was during February and March and the details of each call are not available in the meeting room. Speed enforcement is up a bit.
- Chief requested information regarding the Radar Bill. Secretary Kirschman reported on the bills in progress, especially as it related to the House Bill HB2148 and the counter-law-enforcement and special interest content, including the PA Chief's accreditation requirement. Chief Boddington mentioned that many of the calls he receives from citizens have to do with speeding, what to do to reduce it, and why we aren't using radar. We don't because we can't. Commissioner Buchanan asked Chief Boddington to

expand on accreditation. Chief explained that, while the intent is good and provides strict standards for police operations, the record keeping and recording requirements are such that it would require an officer's full time to maintain the required paperwork, files and reports. SRPD is a member of the PA Chief's Association, operates in accordance with the guidelines of the put forth by them, but we can't afford the costs associated with engaging in the program and the reporting requirements.

Chief Boddington reported the following highlights:

- There were no major incidents.
- Stewartstown seems to be the current "hot spot"
 - A stolen wallet report was made, and our officers were able to investigate and determine who the thief was. An arrest is pending and the property will be returned to its owner.
 - Someone decided to attach a chain to a street sign and their pickup truck and pull the sign down. An investigation is under way and an arrest is pending in that case.

Chairman Trout asked if there were any more questions for the Chief.

- Commissioner Stewart mentioned that Church Street in Glen Rock Borough had been resigned to emphasize the importance of no trucks on that street. The trucks continue to use Church Street regardless of the signage. Chief Boddington replied that the officers are enforcing the truck prevention requirement for Church St. and are issuing citations as appropriate. Commissioner Stewart commented about 18-wheelers coming down Church Street and has observed SRPD officers providing enforcement. Chief mentioned that the GPS units used by the truckers may be leading them to that route.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

INSURANCE & PENSION

- No report.

FINANCE & BUDGET

- No report

PERSONNEL

- Commissioner Sharkey reported that there has been work progressing regarding contract negotiation.

FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT

- Commissioner Burkins reported that fact-finding is continuing.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- An early draft of the SRO agreement has been sent around. Comments have been received from the school district Legal Council. Part of the negotiation is in regards to the SRO's activities after regular school hours and what the costs might be.
- A question was asked regarding Southeastern School District's interest in SRO. Southern School District is the one who requested to start discussions regarding the SRO, but nothing official has been heard from Southeastern. Chief Boddington added that there's a meeting on Monday with Southeastern regarding this matter.
- Commissioner Buchanan inquired about the effect the SRO would have on our regular patrol operations at the school. Chief Boddington replied that most of the calls at the school occur during school hours and that it's anticipated that the SRO would handle those calls for service. The possibility exists that the SRO may be tied up, for example, on an issue at the high school, and a custody incident, for example, might occur at another school building. In that case, the officer on patrol in that zone might handle it, which would result in additional time billed to the school district. At Southern, calls outside of school

hours will be handled in accordance with the current agreement. We have no such arrangement at this time with Southeastern.

Chairman Trout enquired regarding additional questions for the Solicitor. There were none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Chairman Trout requested a motion to allow the alternate members to attend the Executive Session. Commissioner Buchanan made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Burkins. There was an Aye vote to confirm the alternate members attending the executive session. The Commission members and alternates moved their executive session to another conference room.
- The executive session began at 19:34 and ended at 19:44. A personnel matter had been discussed.

OLD BUSINESS

- Commissioner Buchanan asked if New Freedom rescinds their current position to leave SRPD, do we need an agreement that extends to 1 JAN 2019 and beyond. Commissioner Blum responded that he'd asked Steve Hovis that question, and he's talked to Peter (Solicitor Ruth) to determine that the current agreement for 18 months and ongoing should be suitable as long as the Commission is still in existence. There was a discussion regarding evaluating the results of the PPU system. Commissioner Blum said he favors completing that evaluation prior to the onset of the budget season. He'd discussed with Attorney Hovis a question about a sunset provision and there isn't one.
- Commissioner Sharkey commented that if all 4 municipalities rescind their letters, there should be discussions regarding changes to the IGA that help us stay together. There was a discussion regarding a 5 year commitment. Commissioner Buchanan said that Shrewsbury is already committed to 5 years, and asked if Stewartstown was committed to 5 years. There was no coherent answer. Commissioner Stewart comment that Glen Rock's current commitment is to 3 years but they'd consider taking it back to the Glen Rock council for reconsideration.
- Commissioners O'Brien asked whether the withdrawal provisions could be suspended for the commitment period. A discussion about that concept continued without resolution.

NEW BUSINESS

- Chairman Trout brought up the discussion regarding a continuation of this meeting. Monday, May 14, New Freedom Council meets. The next day, May 15, would be the normal continuation meeting. That's Election Day. There was a discussion to consider a continuation for Tuesday May 22. Depending on the outcome of New Freedom Council meeting, continuation meetings may occur as needed for the various Borough councils could be considered their position prior to our continuation meeting. The discussion continued. Commissioner Blum committed to call Chairman Trout first thing Tuesday morning following the New Freedom council meeting to advise him of the outcome, or even after the meeting Monday evening.

ADJOURNMENT: It was decided to not schedule a continuation meeting at this time. A motion was made by Commissioner Herzberger, seconded by Commissioner Burkins, to adjourn. There was no more discussion. The motion passed with an Aye vote.