

**Southern Police Commission
Monthly Meeting
June 6, 2018**

A public meeting of the Southern Police Commission was held on Wednesday, June 6, 2018 at the New Freedom Borough Council Chambers, 49 East High Street, New Freedom, PA 17349.

Commission Members Present: Roy Burkins, Rob Herzberger, Bruce Merrill, Larry O'Brien, Mike Sharkey, Andrew Stewart, John Trout, John-Paul Whitmore (Seated Alternate)

Solicitor: Peter Ruth

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

Alternate Members Present: Jeff Blum

Members Absent: Buck Buchanan

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Trout at 19:03 with the pledge of allegiance to the flag and a moment of silence for fallen first responders, police officers, firefighters, and EMT's who lost their lives in the line of duty.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Trout welcomed comments from members of the public present at the meeting. There were none.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Chairman Trout announced that there will be an Executive Session.
- The April meeting minutes will be approved at this meeting.
- For the July meeting, due to the carnivals and that Independence Day, July 4, is a Federal holiday; the Commission would normally meet on the alternate date, and will be meeting on Tuesday, July 17.
- Chairman Trout read a letter from New Freedom Borough dated after May 18. It states that, at its May Borough Council Meeting, New Freedom Borough Council passed a motion rescinding its letter of termination and withdrawal from the Southern Regional Police Commission and renewing its commitment to the Southern Regional Police Department for five (5) years. A copy of that letter is being made a part of these minutes. Copies of the letter were provided to each of the Commission members to be shared with their municipalities.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF APRIL 4, and May 2, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

- April 4, 2018 minutes were read and there were no changes or questions. Commissioner Sharkey moved that those minutes be approved, seconded by Commissioner Stewart. The motion was approved by an Aye vote of those voting, with Commissioner Merrill abstaining.
- May 2, 2018 minutes were read and there were no changes or questions. A motion was made by Commissioner Burkins, seconded by Commissioner Stewart, that the May 2 minutes be approved. The motion was approved by an Aye vote of those voting. Commissioner Merrill abstained.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF MAY 2018 EXPENDITURES

- Expenses for May 2018 were presented by Finance Administrator Prego leading the discussion.
- The Southern School District has asked for additional police service time due to school violence escalation all over the county.

- Overtime remains up due to staffing shortfalls, and costs are covered by funds normally used for officers' salaries that are not currently on staff.
- Vehicle expenses aren't bad.
- Operating expenses are as expected.
- There were some expenses associated with camera repairs.
- Legal expenses are up due to contract negotiations.
- The vehicle purchase is currently on hold.

A motion was made by Commissioner O'Brien to approve expenses for May check detail including several ACH's and check numbers 10786 through 10816 for \$156,923.03. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Herzberger. The motion passed with an Aye vote.

CHIEF'S REPORT

- Chief Boddington discussed the report from March 25 through April 21 that had been provided to the Commissioners. The report covers the incidents and time analysis for that period.
- There are 3 carnivals coming up. Coverage will be provided in spite of the staffing shortfalls. Sgt. Teague was recognized by the Chief for doing a good job of keeping the schedule and workload covered with the minimum overtime possible.
- There was a discussion with Alternate Commissioner Blum about there being one less day for the New Freedom carnival. Chief said that there will be support from the Sheriff's Department as there had been in the past.

Chief Boddington reported the following events:

- Susquehannock graduation went real well.
- Glen Rock had their Arts and Brew Fest with no issues
- South Eastern's graduation was pending for the next evening.
- Shrewsbury VFC has a Circus scheduled.
- Spring Training was completed at the range.
- Chief Boddington recommended that we seek hiring 3 additional officers to cover the resigned officer plus the 2 SRO's, for a total of 12 officers. (Secretary's note: The discussion that resolved to these numbers included Sgt. Teague, who administers the officer rotational patrol shifts scheduling. His schedule requires 12 officers to make it work. In addition, there are two (2) investigators (Detectives) and one (1) Chief, all three of whom are not regularly scheduled for patrol shifts but may cover shifts as needed. There's also one part-time officer who can fill in a few hours as needed due to unexpected circumstances. After the three new hires have completed training and are placed on the schedule, the full complement will be 15 full-time, and one part-time, sworn officers in the SRPD).
- The school districts have each committed to 3 years.
- Commissioner Herzberger led a discussion presenting some financial information based on the PPU formula to include the changes introduced with the implementation of the SRO's.
- Chief Boddington reiterated his request for 3 additional officers. Commissioner O'Brien moved to hire the 3 additional officers to cover the SRO and departed officers' positions pursuant to the signing of the SRO agreements. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Sharkey. Commissioner Merrill requested clarification on the number of hours being used currently with Southern School District. Chief Boddington provided the answer. The Chairman requested a vote on the motion, and it passed unanimously.
- Chief Boddington mentioned that we'd already budgeted for a new vehicle and requested authority to explore what vehicles are currently available and provide recommendations and pricing to the Commission at a future meeting. Chairman Trout agreed that this was an appropriate activity. There was detailed discussion about vehicle usage.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

INSURANCE & PENSION

- No report.

FINANCE & BUDGET

- No report

PERSONNEL

- No report.

FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT

- No report from the Committee.
- Alternate Commissioner Blum discussed the potential of using another location for the police department in which case New Freedom Borough would use some of our currently occupied space in the building in lieu of some of the public works space expansion that had been planned.
- Commissioner Herzberger pointed out that the citizens of New Freedom Borough had repeatedly stated, in our meetings, how much they valued having the police department located in New Freedom. He indicated that the value expressed should encourage New Freedom Borough to reduce the rent of the police department space substantially. A discussion ensued.
- Chairman Trout recommended that New Freedom's facility people meet with the Commission Facilities and Equipment Committee to discuss formulating a lease.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- Two SRO agreements were presented. Discussions are on-going with the School District Solicitors.
- The agreements are based on 1640 hours and allow flexibility for them to cut back or pay more for additional services. Expected revenue for each is \$144,344.00.
- Agreements are for 3 years, locked in. Six months' notice is required at the end of the period to withdraw.
- Changes to PPU pricing that effect subsequent SRO service years will be presented to the school districts effective July 1 of the following year.
- Other details were covered.
- Commissioner Merrill asked questions regard 60 hours of admin time mentioned during the SRO contract discussion. Solicitor Ruth explained that those numbers were derived from similar agreements between other police departments and school districts. The discussion continued. Financial Administrator Prego provided additional explanation, including that all SRO time, administrative, investigative, or patrol, are covered by the total amount being paid by each school district for the SROs. Chief Boddington reiterated that the assigned officers are committed to the contracted school district for 8 hours each school day. Additional time for extra work or incidents at the schools that may require additional officers to respond will be billed at the appropriate rate.
- Commissioner Sharkey asked about the differences in distance between SRPD HQ and each of the school districts. Chief Boddington explained that the differences would be made up in that Southern is requesting 24/7 coverage, where Southeastern is requesting school hours only coverage.
- Detailed discussion continued regarding services expected by the parents and school districts.

Chairman Trout requested Commissioner Herzberger to lead the finance committee to a meeting with the Financial Administrator to gather detailed information regarding costs.

Chairman Trout stated that the starting date for the agreements is 1 July. He requested a motion to approve both SRO agreements with Solicitor Ruth working out remaining details to meet the required start date. Commissioner O'Brien made the motion to approve both agreements subject to finance committee approval of the numbers and final Solicitor review. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stewart. The requested financial information should be provided to the Solicitor and will be reviewed at the July 17 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Dave Schlenoff, in the audience, commented regarding Commissioner Herzberger's comments regarding the rent wherein he suggested a reduced rate. He felt that the additional growth of houses in Stewartstown would provide sufficient revenue to compensate for Stewartstown's portion of the costs of rent. Commissioner Herzberger responded that if those houses cause an increase in police work in Stewartstown, they will be charged for the additional PPU's associated with delivering those services.

There was a cake donated and Chairman Trout indicated that it was to be shared with all attendees. He also announced that there will be a short Executive session.

Ed Molinsky in the audience, a former Borough Council member and Police Commissioner here, shared a few comments from a historical perspective.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Chairman Trout requested a motion to allow the alternate members to attend the Executive Session. Commissioner O'Brien 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 after obtaining refreshments.
- The executive session began at 20:21 and ended at 20:45. A personnel matter and contract negotiations had been discussed.

Chairman Trout asked the Contract Negotiations Committee for their report.

CONTACT NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE SPECIAL REPORT

Commissioner Sharkey reported that the committee had met three times. Meetings had been suspended in Mid-May awaiting New Freedom's decision. Now that we have that decision, contract negotiation meetings are scheduled and we are making good progress. Major negotiations are happening with reference to the salary increase for the officers. At the July meeting we hope to have everything wrapped up. Commissioner Sharkey has an appointment with the labor attorney to review his points and where we are in the process.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

- The refreshments for the evening were provided by Ed and Kay Hughes. Applause appreciation was provided by all present.

ADJOURNMENT: There was some discussion regarding a continuation meeting. No continuation meeting seemed necessary. A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner O'Brien, seconded by Commissioner Stewart, to adjourn. Consent was reached with an Aye vote and the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at approximately 20:54.