

Southern Police Commission
Continuation Meeting
December 15, 2015

A public Continuation Meeting of the Southern Police Commission was held on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at the New Freedom Borough Council Chamber, 49 East High Street, New Freedom, PA 17349. The purpose of this meeting was to review budget concerns in the light of uncertainty of budget approval from 2 member Borough Councils.

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Richard Buchanan, Roy Burkins, Jeff Halapin, Ann Merrick, John Trout, Robert Herzberger, Peter Schnabel
Police Chief: Chief Boddington
Solicitor: Peter Ruth
Alternate members present: Ben Wetzel, Nate Kirschman continuing as Secretary pro tem
Commissioners Brady Terrell and Bill Gemmill were unable to attend due to illness

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order at 19:02 with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Bruce Merrill of New Freedom Borough presented alternate funding formula ideas.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Gina Mumaw is being offered conditional employment as an additional part-time administrative employee pending completion of the required background check.
- Chief Boddington and Chairman Trout met with Chiefs of 4 police departments including York Area Regional, Spring Garden Township, Southern Regional and Southwestern Regional, who had met previously. A Northern Regional Police representative also joined this meeting, in addition to Steven Hovis, Esq. The meetings were arranged for to discuss preliminary ideas for consideration of creating a larger department. The purpose is to share ideas regarding increased efficiency resulting further cost reduction, in addition to making resources more available where they're needed. A report document with a preliminary description of goals and advantages of this initiative was distributed to the SRP Commission members.

BUDGET

- Commissioner Buchanan led a discussion regarding consideration of a 2016 budget that operates the department with no increased total expenditure over the 2015 budget. Some planned capital expenditures would be delayed and consideration may have to be made regarding replacement officer staffing levels for 2016. He provided a document providing questions and definitions to be dealt with during the discussion to the Commissioners.
- A motion was made by Commissioner Buchanan, seconded by Commissioner Schnabel, to continue to use the current cost allocation formula with a no-increase in total expenses budget for 2016 pending the work of the "formula committee". The motion passed by a show-of-hands vote of 6 to 1.

- The contract with the officers' bargaining unit, created as a result of binding arbitration, states that the officers are to receive a 3 ¼% increase in pay beginning 1 January 2016. Commissioner Buchanan moved for approval of the Commission to honor that increase. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Halapin and the motion passed by unanimously.
- Commissioner Buchanan opened a discussion about not filling the 2 open police officer positions. Commissioner Halapin recommended continuing with identifying and interviewing potential officer candidates but to hold off hiring pending further funding discussions.
- Commissioner Buchanan shared a presentation entitled Patrol / Administration Hours. He had shared this presentation with New Freedom Borough Council the previous evening to explain the relationship between "billed" patrol and investigative hours within a member municipality and the administrative workload for those officers that results from the actual patrol, arrest, and investigations conducted by the officers. He also explained, in his presentation, that the reported "patrol hours" for each municipality were costing far less than had been calculated by others due, in part, to the non-consideration of the administrative workload in their calculations. He also demonstrated that the average cost per hour for member municipalities was less than the cost to "customer" municipalities when the administrative cost attribute was applied.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- At 21:18 the Chairman announced that the Commission would go into executive session to discuss personnel issues in the Council meeting room. Members of the public and the Chief were asked to step out for a few minutes. The motion and vote to invite the alternate commissioners present to the session to participate was waived. At 22:05 the public meeting was resumed.

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- none

ADJOURMENT

At 21:20 motion to adjourn was offered by Commissioner Burkins, seconded by Commissioner Schnabel and voted affirmatively by voice unanimously.