

**Regional Police Development Committee
North Cornwall Township & North Lebanon Township
March 27, 2024**

Call to Order:

The March 27, 2024, meeting of the Regional Police Development Committee was called to order by Gary Heisey at 3:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. In attendance were Justin Thompson, NCT Manager; Chief Harry Ward, NCT Police Department; Mike Wahmann, NCT Supervisor, Ron Sell, NCT Supervisor; Lori Books, NLT Manager, Arden Snook, NLT Supervisor, Gary Heisey, NLT Supervisor and Dan Bost, District Director for Senator Gebhard. Absent was Chief Timothy Knight, NLT Police Department

Others in attendance are listed on the sign-in sheet.

Discussion/Action:

Approval of Minutes from March 7, 2024, Meeting – The Committee reviewed the meeting minutes from the March 7, 2024, meeting. Mr. Sell made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as written. Mr. Snook seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Charter Agreement: Mr. Heisey announced that there is no update on the Charter Agreement. The Committee has not received responses from the solicitors who received the agreement for review.

Proposed Shifts/Proposed Patrol Zones: Mr. Heisey and Chief Ward led a discussion of a 12-hour shift coverage proposal. In this example, the coverage area was divided into three zones, which would be covered by one sergeant and four officers per shift. The sergeant and one officer will float within the three zones while one officer will cover each of the three zones. If another officer is needed, he/she can be pulled from another zone, ensuring adequate coverage. Call volume will determine the zone the “floating” officer will be assigned. Mr. Snook added that currently, if an extra officer is needed, NLT must call another municipality to assist. An outside municipality cannot process the crime. This proposal allows for flexibility within the Regional Department itself to investigate and process the crime in a timely manner. In addition, the detective positions are not included in this proposed schedule. Rather, the detective positions are in addition to, and can be much more flexible in schedules.

Any other topics for discussion: None.

Public Comment:

Todd Dissinger requested a copy of the map showing the potential zones. The chart is only a proposal and is subject to change, which is why there are no copies available.

Rick Blouch requested further clarification of overlapping within the schedule. Chief Ward answered his questions.

A question was asked if the current direction is for a 12-hour shift. Chief Ward answered yes.

Emily Bixler inquired about driving distance from one zone to another. Mr. Wahmann replied

that the committee is currently considering a number of zone arrangements, and the plan they are discussing today is 2- 2.5 miles at the greatest distance.

An unknown member of the public asked if West Lebanon Township is within one of the three zones. Mr. Wahmann answered yes.

A brief discussion transpired about West Lebanon signing a 5-year contract. West Lebanon Township is currently in the middle of a five-year contract with North Lebanon Township. Mr. Bost stated that because the cost of policing can change significantly within five years, only a yearly contract for services should be signed.

Cheri Grumbine asked Mr. Heisey why he was considering a twelve-hour shift proposal when he was against it previously. Mr. Heisey responded that he requested both twelve- and ten-hour shift proposals and the twelve-hour shift was presented today. He will ask Chief Knight for the ten-hour shift proposal. He also wants feedback from the current police department on the two different shifts.

Todd Dissinger stated he was upset about the Regional Department budget numbers utilized for rent of NCT and NLT buildings for the Regional Dept. to use. He felt the price per square foot used was too low and encouraged the Committee to investigate that. Mr. Wahmann explained that funds from North Cornwall and North Lebanon Township's tax revenue would be applied to the Regional Budget. In turn, the Regional Department reimburses rent costs back to the municipalities.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be determined when the Committee has received responses from the solicitors about the Charter Agreement.

Adjournment: Mr. Wahmann motioned to adjourn at 3:22 pm. Mr. Sell seconded the motion. All voted in favor.