

MINUTES
LEBANON COUNTY REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION
September 25, 2024

The September meeting of the Lebanon County Regional Police Commission was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chairman of the Commission Mike Wahmann at the North Lebanon Township Municipal Building located at 725 Kimmerlings Road, Lebanon PA. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The following Board members and Township staff were present:

Michael Wahmann-Chairman of the Commission
Gary Heisey-Vice Chairman of the Commission
Arden Snook, Sr.-Commission member
Lori Books-North Lebanon Township Manager
Justin Thompson-North Cornwall Township Manager
Tim Knight-Chief of Police, North Lebanon Township

Absent;

Ronald Sell-Secretary/Treasurer of the Commission
Richard Blouch, Jr.-Commission member

Also present were;

Paul Savini-Sgt., North Cornwall Township
Tiffany Knight-Recording Secretary
A couple members of the public.

Approval of minutes from September 10, 2024 meeting

MOTION was made by Gary Heisey and seconded by Arden Snook to approve the minutes from September 10, 2024. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Mike Wahmann discussed who the authorized signatories for the Lebanon County Regional Police Commission should be. After some discussion, all members agreed that everyone on the Commission should be a signer. In addition, unnamed at this point, but with the title of Administrative Assistant for the Lebanon County Regional Police. There is no name yet, because the Administrative Assistant role is not filled. There will be six authorized signatories for the bank.

MOTION was made by Mike Wahman and seconded by Gary Heisey to approve the authorized signatories as Gary Heisey, Arden Snook, Mike Wahmann, Ron Sell and Rick Blouch as well as the person who will be hired as the Administrative Assistant. Motion passed unanimously.

Mike Wahmann addressed the Chief to discuss badges. The Chief explained that one badge is for the officer's duty shirt, one for their wallet and the third badge is a flex badge for their outer carrier vest. The total cost for all badges is \$8,241.75.

MOTION was made by Mike Wahmann and seconded by Arden Snook to authorize the Chief to purchase the Lebanon County Regional badges as discussed. Motion passed unanimously.

Mike Wahmann talked about the design for the patches and showed the artwork for the new patch. A total of 1,000 patches will need to be purchased. The lowest quote was \$1,249.33 from Golden Rule Creations.

MOTION was made by Mike Wahmann and seconded by Gary Heisey to authorize Chief Knight to purchase the patches from Golden Rule Creations. Motion passed unanimously.

Mike Wahmann discussed the healthcare proposals received to date. We currently received two proposals with a third one anticipated later this week. We are not ready for any action on the healthcare proposal tonight. The quotes received were from Hoaster Gebhard and Benecon (North Lebanon currently uses Benecon). The third quote will come from Zinn Insurance which is the agent that North Cornwall currently uses. Gary Heisey requested clarification on the proposal from Hoaster Gebhard. Mike Wahmann stated that the reason we are taking our time on this is because the healthcare costs are a consequential amount towards the budget.

NEW BUSINESS

The Chief discussed cell phones options. Currently each officer in North Lebanon is issued a cell phone for patrol purposes only, to use for complaints, pictures pertaining to crime scenes or crashes, and video if needed. North Cornwall provides cell phones to each vehicle. The Chief received a proposal from T-Mobile for \$32.00 per phone with priority calling. Priority calling is police priority over civilians for emergencies. The Chief is proposing 17 phones, one for each patrol car rather than one for each officer as well as one for administration for on-call purposes. The total amount for 17 phones would be \$544.00 a month which comes to \$6,528.00 a year. Justin Thompson suggested asking the phone company for a replacement phone in instances when a patrol phone would be tied up in the court system for a case. Mike Wahmann suggested the Chief ask T-Mobile questions for certain scenarios, before the commission would sign a contract.

The Chief asked the board to pass the required resolution for submission of the MAP Grant.

MOTION was made by Mike Wahmann and seconded by Ardy Snook to approve the application and adopt Resolution 1-2024 for the MAP Grant. Motion passed Unanimously.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT (Tim Knight)

Mike Wahmann mentioned the Chief and Sgt. Savini are working on two grant applications. The first one is from PCCD for the Regional Startup Grant. The Chief is applying for \$150,00.00 on this grant which needs to be submitted by October 15.

The second grant is a MAP grant, which is a Municipal Assistance Program through the Department of Economic and Community Development. They are applying for several items from this grant for the startup costs for the regional department. This grant requires a 50/50 match. The total of this grant is \$67,456.00 with our 50% match being \$33,728.42. Some of the things requested from this grant include uniforms (both pants and shirts), software, payroll services, new stationary, rebranding of the police vehicles, laptops and several other items. The grant will be submitted by the end of the week.

Mike Wahmann asked if there are any questions regarding the grant. Arden Snook asked if there are any limitations concerning the grant from PCCD. The Chief answered the PCCD Grant is for startup purposes of a new regional agency. The Chief will be using the grant to pay for body cameras, in-car cameras, and interview room cameras. Questions were asked by Gary Heisey on what will be done with the old cameras and the Chief explains that they will be put out of service.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS

Mike Wahmann discussed that he will sign a letter from Morgan, Hallgren, Crosswell and Kane. This is a standard retention letter indicating our retention of that firm hiring Josele Clearly to be the solicitor for the regional department. The firm will charge \$200.00 an hour for 2024 and \$205.00 for 2025. Mike Wahmann signed this letter on behalf of the Commission.

Gary Heisey commented that the Commission will continue to work on the various items needed to become operational. He also said he feels Josele Clearly is a great asset.

Arden Snook stated he is hoping to wrap up the health care within the next month. He also had questions on how the pensions will work. Justin informed everyone that there will be a brief presentation done by Stifel at the next regional meeting on October 8, 2024.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Webster asked questions regarding the plan for purchasing fuel for the vehicles. He stated North Cornwall is currently getting fuel from the Lebanon City gas pumps and North Lebanon buys their fuel from any gas station. Mike Wahmann explained that the North Cornwall police do get their fuel from the city, but they also have credit cards to purchase from any gas station in case of malfunctions with the city fuel pumps. Justin Thompson explained there is a program for fuel called Wex through Co-Stars that provides a savings off of the pump price.

Mike Webster asked about a call number through the county for the new regional department and the Chief answered that it will be 45. Mike Wahmann explained the county makes the assignment of numbers.

Mike Webster continued by asking about the upfitting of the cars and the rooftop lights vs the visor lights. The Chief will make that decision.

Mike Webster asked if there will be enough cars for the regional police department and the Chief answered there will be enough cars. Arden Snook and Mike Wahmann discussed leasing options versus purchasing of cars for next year. That will be explored at a later date.

Jim Cikovic had a question for Gary Heisey. He said at the NLT budget meeting Ed Brensinger asked about the fire police workers comp insurance and the pensions for existing officers and those that retired. He wants to know if those questions will be addressed at the pension meeting. Gary stated he believes they will.

Jim Cikovic asked if you don't use all the grant money what happens to that money? Sgt. Savini stated that the monies awarded must be used within a certain timeline and if they are not, they must be returned.

Jim commented that he thinks the Chief is doing a great job. Mike Wahmann and other commission members agreed and added that everyone on both sides are working hard to get this regional department started.

Mike Wahmann said the Fire Police from will fall under the Chief of Police for the regional department.

MOTION was made by Gary Heisey and seconded by Arden Snook to adjourn. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:09 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tiffany Knight
Recording Secretary