

Pennridge Regional Police Commission

Meeting Minutes

March 22, 2023

The regular business meeting of the Pennridge Regional Police Commission was held at 5:00pm on March 22, 2023 in the meeting room at the Pennridge Regional Police Headquarters, 200 Ridge Road, Sellersville, PA 18960.

Present:	Jay Keyser	Commissioner
	Hal Schirmer	Commissioner
	Gary Volovnik	Commissioner
	Paul T. Dickinson Jr.	Chief
	Matt Hoover, Esq.	Solicitor
	Marianne Morano	East Rockhill Township Manager
	Greg Lippincott	West Rockhill Township Manager
	Jim Nietupski	East Rockhill Supervisor
	David Nyman	East Rockhill Supervisor
	David Collingwood	West Rockhill Supervisor
	Pedro Ruiz	Pennridge Regional Police Sergeant

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm by Mr. Keyser with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizen Comment #1

- Harry Lawell, 521 Thousand Acre Road, stated his neighbor Jason Stoneback, 811 Thousand Acre Road is setting off commercial grade fireworks, has large parties and believes he set off an explosion the weekend of March 17, 2023 and would like the FBI, ATF and the EPA advised.
- Dennis Csondor, 605 Thousand Acre Road, stated he did not believe the police responded correctly on March 17, 2023 based on seeing one police car and believes Mr. Stoneback's behavior will get progressively more dangerous and police action needs to occur.
- Jim Miller, 916 Thousand Acre Road, stated Mr. Stoneback uses a firearm in the fields on his property where a high volume gas line is located and Mr. Stoneback's behavior is getting more volatile.
- Mike Ellinger, 1010 Thousand Acre Road, stated he did not hear a gunshot but that he did hear the explosion causing his house to shake and Mr. Stoneback's behavior is to upset the neighbors.
- Karine Rilling, 217 Thousand Acre Road, stated concern for the explosion on March 17, 2023 and it is an ongoing issue between Stoneback and neighbors.
- Anthony Thornhill, 30 Thousand Acre Road, stated he was not home when the explosion occurred however the noise woke up his children and affected his children's ability to fall asleep.
- Linda Marx, 710 Thousand Acre Road, stated her large bay window has a crack as a result of Mr. Stoneback explosion on March 17, 2023.
- David Rilling, 217 Thousand Acre Road, stated Mr. Stoneback actions are intentional and ongoing and he should be made aware he has disrupted so many neighbors.
- Stanley Heller, 710 Thousand Acre Road, believes Mr. Stoneback's behavior is in response to actions taken by the residents a few years ago following a petition to block him from being able to hold weddings on his property. He is concerned the behavior will escalate and ultimately result in someone being hurt.
- James Ganley, 720 Thousand Acre Road, stated he heard rapid fire shooting.

- Harry Lawell, 521 Thousand Acre Road, stated his wife advised him the noise on March 17, 2023 occurred from 4:20pm to 7:30pm and would like to see livestock protected.
- Ada Miller, 916 Thousand Acre Road, stated the explosion shook her house and scared her daughter and believes a Police Officer is a friend of Mr. Stoneback and is disappointed in police response.
- Dennis Csondor, 605 Thousand Acre Road, stated there is also livestock on Mr. Stoneback's property that should be protected.

Chief Dickinson responded a follow-up investigation would be conducted and stated the Police can only enforce when they have evidence a law was broken. A meeting has been scheduled with West Rockhill Township Manager and Township Solicitor for what could be done regarding this incident.

Announcements:

Officer Mark Rosenfeld was introduced to the commission.

Consent Agenda

- February 22, 2023 Meeting Minutes
- March 22nd 2023 Financial Report
- March 22, 2023 Payment of Bills totaling \$66,928.76
- February 2023 Chief's Report

On motion by Mr. Volovnik, seconded by Mr. Schirmer, to approve the February 22, 2023 Consent Agenda. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

Solicitors Report: Matthew Hoover

There was no report.

Business

Discussion and consideration of memorandum addressing manpower needs of the department.

Chief Dickinson presented many concerns regarding the staffing of the police department, which were outlined in a memorandum attached to the meeting packet.

Mr. Keyser expressed his concerns about the cost associated with adding officers to the force, adding that the average cost for an officer is \$150,000.00. He added that they may result in the need to raise taxes for the township residents.

Mr. Nietupski had a few questions regarding the study in regards to staffing and supervision responsibilities of the sergeants.

Mr. Keyser tabled the discussion and indicated the topic would be explored more at the next meeting.

Discussion and consideration of memorandum addressing replacement of detective vehicle 7702

Chief Dickinson presented a memorandum regarding the failing transmission in police vehicle 7702. The memorandum is included in meeting packet. Chief expressed options of repairing the vehicle at a cost of \$4,600.00, selling 7702 and replacing with Chief vehicle when new vehicle is received or purchasing a replacement vehicle.

Mr. Keyser expressed that the mileage on the vehicle was not excessive, 131,500 for a ten year old vehicle. He added that the vehicle should be repaired.

Mr. Volovnik expressed that every year there is discussion about vehicles and that these expenses need to be included in the budget. He added that the vehicle should be repaired and he does not support removing funding from the capital reserve.

On motion by Mr. Keyser, seconded by Mr. Volovnik, to repair police vehicle 7702 transmission for the estimated cost of \$4,600.00. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

Update on heating system

Chief Dickinson has not received a response from the vendor. Mr. Volovnik will contact Air Management.

Discussion regarding the audit conducted by Zelenkofske Axelrod LLC.

Chief Dickinson presented the audit report, and the board took the note of the presentation.

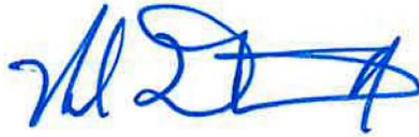
Citizen Comment #2:

There was none.

Adjournment

On motion by Mr. Volovnik, seconded by Mr. Schirmer, to adjourn into executive session. With no additional discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Dickinson Jr.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul T. Dickinson Jr. Chief of Police