

Pennridge Regional Police Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2025

The regular business meeting of the Pennridge Regional Police Commission was held at 5:00pm on September 24, 2025 in the meeting room at the Pennridge Regional Police Headquarters, 200 Ridge Road, Sellersville, PA 18960.

Present:	Gary Volovnik	Commissioner, East Rockhill Township Representative
	Jay Keyser	Commissioner, West Rockhill Township Representative
	Hal Schirmer	Commissioner, West Rockhill Township Representative
	Paul T. Dickinson Jr.	Chief of Police
	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
	Matt Hoover, esq.	Grim Biehn and Thatcher

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

Citizen Comment #1:

There was none.

Announcements:

- An executive session will be held following the meeting to discuss personnel.
- An executive session was held on September 10, 2025 to discuss personnel.

Presentation:

Chief Dickinson presented Ofc. Stephanie Kolb with a letter of commendation in regard to the role she played in the apprehension of three suspects from a burglary that occurred in Hilltown Township.

Consent Agenda

- A. August 27, 2025, Meeting Minutes
- B. September 24, 2025, Financial Report
- C. September 24, 2025, Payment of Bills totaling \$73,301.92.
- D. August 2025 Chief's Report

On motion by Mr. Schirmer seconded by Mr. Keyser, to approve September 24, 2025, Consent Agenda. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

Solicitors' Report: Matthew Hoover.

There was none.

Business

2026 Draft Police Budget.

Chief Dickinson presented the commission with the third draft of the 2026 police budget. There were no changes in the contribution amounts proposed for each township. The only adjustments are to the

amount of grant funding to be provided under the proposed DCED grants. Additional decreases were made to a few line items with those decreases being attributed to the overall cost of medical insurance.

Mr. Keyser requested explanations for several line items to include administrative training, firearms equipment, and the fleet upgrades. Mr. Keyser advised that it was his position that the commission should consider not replacing a vehicle, outside of the proposed grant funds, and also delay the hiring of another officer in September 2026. Mr. Keyser added that the expense of medical insurance and increases in salaries were considerable.

Mr. Volovnik advised the commission that East Rockhill Township was ready to move forward with the 2026 budget as it was presented by Chief Dickinson, citing that they were in support of the recommendations of the Police Chief.

Mr. Keyser responded to Mr. Volovnik's statement that he understood and appreciated East Rockhill's position but that he was hesitant to move forward with the hiring and vehicle based on the overall expense of the budget. Adding his concerns about officers retiring all at one time and impact that would have on future budgets.

Chief Dickinson responded to the concerns of Mr. Keyser by reiterating that the police department for the past several years has replaced vehicles annually, placing the capital expenses on schedule to help ease the cost and maintenance of vehicles. Chief Dickinson continued that the construction of homes, and businesses in both townships would have an impact on the resources of the department and believed it important to hire the new officer to be prepared for this growth. The chief added that the Public Safety Committee has recommended on numerous occasions that hiring of officers occurs on two-year cycle to spread out retirements, while adding sufficient staffing. The addition of a 14th officer to the department would keep the department on that schedule and added that there are officers currently employed whose retirement would not span a 25-year period.

Mr. Nyman added that the retirement of officers does add lower salary requirements for the department.

Mr. Volovnik also reiterated the Chief's presentation at the first review of the budget where he provided explanations regarding the need for an additional detective to address criminal investigations that are more in depth than previous years.

Mr. Collingwood inquired about there being a five-year plan in place for the budget so the costs could be more adequately explained and if "pumping the brakes this year would have much of an impact."

The approval of the 2026 budget was tabled until the October meeting.

Discussion regarding the 2025 Police Pension MMO and state aid amount.

Chief Dickinson presented to the commission that the estimated state aid budgeted for 2025 was about \$56,593.26 less than what was budgeted for. Chief Dickinson added that concerns regarding budgeting of insurance costs were discussed in October 2024 and to help curb those concerns he requested that East and West Rockhill split the incurred heating and cooling maintenance costs of \$21,930.00.

On motion by Mr. Schirmer, seconded by Mr. Keyser to authorize Chief Dickinson to invoice each township \$10,965.00 to cover the incurred expenses for the maintenance of the heating and cooling system. With no additional questions, all present voted in favor.

Chief Dickinson continued that the budget based on additional costs was underfunded by \$73,070.00. The Chief requested that each township split the costs to be incurred at 46% - 54% split.

On motion by Mr. Keyser, seconded by Mr. Schirmer, to authorize the Chief to invoice East Rockhill Township \$33,612.20 and West Rockhill Township \$39,457.80 to meet 2025 budgetary expenses moving forward. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

Citizen Comment #2:

- Mr. Nietupski addressed the commission in regard to the Chief running the department and deploying resources to meet the funding requirements outlined in previous budgets. Consideration should be given to budget costs annually based on the actual deployment of resources and not on arbitrary numbers.

Adjournment

On motion by Mr. Keyser, seconded by Mr. Schirmer, to adjourn into executive session. With no additional discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Paul T. Dickinson Jr. Chief of Police