

Pennridge Regional Police Commission

Meeting Minutes

October 29, 2025

The regular business meeting of the Pennridge Regional Police Commission was held at 5:00pm on October 29, 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
	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.
- The next meeting will be held on November 20, 2025, due to the Thanksgiving Holiday

Presentation:

- There was none.

Consent Agenda

- A. September 24, 2025, Meeting Minutes
- B. October 29, 2025, Financial Report
- C. October 29, 2025, Payment of Bills totaling \$101,191.25.
- D. September 2025 Chief's Report

On motion by Mr. Schirmer seconded by Mr. Keyser, to approve October 29, 2025, Consent Agenda. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

Solicitors' Report: Matthew Hoover.

There was none.

Business

2026 Draft Police Budget.

The fourth draft of the 2026 Pennridge Regional Police Budget was present to the commission. Chief Dickinson began the final presentation with a statement thanking both East and West Rockhill Township's for their continued financial support. The Chief went on to explain that the hiring of a 14th officer was to allow for the department to be staffed with a second detective role. Chief Dickinson continued that the role was necessary due to the type of crimes that were being committed and resources that need to be

allocated to adequately investigate those crimes. In the Chief's statement he provided explanations of the amount of time and evidence that was being collected and how that affected the efficiency of the department. In closing it was stressed the need for a 14th officer to be hired to allow for a second detective role and that delaying the purchase of a police vehicle would be detrimental to the maintenance of the capital improvement plan. (Copy of this statement has been added to the meeting packet)

Mr. Keyser addressed the commission explaining that West Rockhill Township had several meetings discussing the police budget and that he and his fellow supervisors have decided that the hiring of a 14th officer was not a sound financial decision. He went on to explain further that the West Rockhill board was not opposed to purchasing a car based on the mileage of the vehicle and other maintenance records.

Mr. Nyman expressed concerns about the lack of support for the 2026 budget from West Rockhill Township and discussion regarding the lack of support for the recommendations of the Chief.

Ms. Morano questioned the decision not to hire the 14th officer, to provide a second detective role for the department based on the presentations by the Chief during the budget process.

Mr. Nietupski stated concern for the lack of support for the police budget based on the decision not to fund the 14th officer based on the Chief's recommendation. He also said that East Rockhill has voted to support the budget as it was originally presented.

Mr. Volovnik added that the Chief had presented evidence that the organization needed an additional detective based on the changing nature of crime and the way it needed to be investigated by the police.

Mr. Collingwood supported the statement by Mr. Keyser and provided an explanation that he and his fellow supervisors held several executive sessions to discuss the police budget and during the course of those sessions each supervisor expressed concerns about increased funding and agreed as a board that the hiring of the 14th officer shall not be approved due to the expected financial costs.

Chief Dickinson again addressed the commission and expressed the need for the 14th officer and explained that he had followed the direction provided to him by the Public Safety Committee. Those recommendations included presenting the commission with the resources that the department needed, why there was a need for the resources and finally the benefits of the resources to the department. He also added that the Public Safety Committee meets monthly and that the concerns and needs of the department are regularly communicated with the members of the committee. Additionally, the committee has regularly recommended that department commit to a two year hiring process. The Chief stressed that he had followed all of the recommendations of the Public Safety Committee throughout this budget process.

On motion by Mr. Keyser, seconded by Mr. Schirmer, to approve the draft of the 2026 budget without the hiring of the 14th officer. The nomination passed 2-1 with Mr. Volovnik voting in opposition.

Discussion and adoption of Bucks County Co-Responders MOU

Chief Dickinson presented the commission with an updated draft of the MOU between the Pennridge Regional Police Commission and Bucks County in regard to maintaining the Co-Responder program in Upper Bucks County. The chief added that changes were made after review of the participating departments chiefs and that the MOU was reviewed and approved by the commission solicitor.

On motion, by Mr. Keyser, seconded by Mr. Schirmer to authorize the Chairperson to execute the Bucks County Co-Responder MOU dated to expire on December 31, 2026. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

Discussion and adoption of Resolution 2025-02 and 2025-03 in regard to destruction of specific municipal records.

Chief Dickinson presented the commission with Resolution 2025-02 in regard to adopting the intent to follow the schedules and procedures for disposition of records in the municipal records manual. Additionally, the chief provided Resolution 2025-03 regarding which specific records would be disposed of in conformance with Resolution 2025-02.

Mr. Collingwood expressed that the records should be retained until the next West Rockhill Historical Shredding event, which would be held sometime in October 2026. He expressed concern about the cost of the destruction of records and that he believed the police department should support the non-profit organization. He inquired about the cost, expressing the Historical event was \$5 a box of documents.

Chief Dickinson responded that he was not aware of the exact cost of the shredding but estimated only a few hundred dollars. The current totter cost is \$45.

Ms. Morano expressed that the cost was minimal when the shredding of documents occurs for East Rockhill Township, estimating around \$150.

On motion, by Mr. Schirmer, seconded by Mr. Volovnik, to adopt Resolution 2025-02 as presented. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

On motion, by Mr. Schirmer, seconded by Mr. Keyser, to adopt Resolution 2025-03 as presented. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

Consideration of Resolution 2025-04 adoption of Professional Staff Employee Handbook.

Chief Dickinson addressed the board expressing the need to develop a Professional Staff Employee Handbook based on the upcoming retirement of Professional Staff Member Lisa Owens. The need for the handbook was due to there being no official document that addresses professional staff needs/rules. The Chief added that the handbook was reviewed by the commission solicitor and recommended changes were made.

On motion, by Mr. Keyser, seconded by Mr. Schirmer, to adopt Resolution 2025-04 as presented. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

Citizen Comment #2:

- Mr. Nyman inquired about the success or lack of success in regard to the Co-Responder program in Upper Bucks County, specifically the number of responders.
- Chief Dickinson responded that there are two co-responders, and they are based out of Perkasio Borough and Quakertown Borough Police headquarters. The chief continued that there has been some success, but unfortunately there was some overturn of responders, which resulted in issues as far as consistency. Overall, the chief expressed that the program shows protentional for success but the large concern is continued funding both for and of the program.

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