

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Northwest Regional Lancaster County Police Commission
Held on January 24, 2017**

- 1) Debra E. Dupler called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Mount Joy Township Municipal Building, 159 Merts Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022. Debra E. Dupler led the pledge of allegiance.
- 2) Roll Call: Present – John O. Yoder, III; Lisa S. Heilner; Debra E. Dupler; and Philip F. Dunn. Absent: Douglas A. Hottenstein. Mr. Hottenstein joined the meeting several minutes later.
- 3) Organize for Year 2017:

A motion was made by Lisa S. Heilner and seconded by Philip F. Dunn to appoint John O. Yoder, III as Chair. All members voted in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Debra E. Dupler and seconded by Philip F. Dunn to appoint Lisa S. Heilner as Vice Chair. All members voted in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Debra E. Dupler and seconded by Lisa S. Heilner to appoint Richard E. Forry as Secretary/Treasurer. All members voted in favor of the motion.

- 4) Lancaster County Drug Task Force:

District Attorney Craig Stedman and Detective Sergeant John Burkhart were in attendance noting the drug issue is the worst seen in years. D.A. Stedman indicated the Task Force was formed in collaboration of officers dedicated to enforcement with mid and upper level drug dealers being the target. The Task Force is specially trained so they are capable of running undercover operations noting that the Task Force relies on officers contributed by the municipalities and funding from the \$1.00 per person voluntary contribution from each municipality based on the census. The Attorney General's office gives a little under \$200,000, and the rest is made up through drug forfeiture money which is proceeds proven to come from drug dealers from dealing drugs. These monies are used to reimburse salaries, equipment, and training. D.A. Stedman noted that through those funds, the officer's salary will be paid and \$10,000 worth of benefits is paid after 2 years of service.

Detective Burkhart stated the advantage of having an officer on the Task Force is you may also get the DEA office out of Harrisburg and the Homeland Security out of Philadelphia, investigators from of the Attorney General's office, and sometimes the State Police and their Vice Unit. Detective Burkhart indicated there would be around 17 officers on the Task Force this year. Ms. Debra Dupler asked how long before the officer completes training. Detective Burkhart noted they will have a training officer work with the officer for 3 months and it would take 1 to 2 years before an officer is able to handle investigations on their own. Ms. Dupler asked if there was a time commitment. Detective Burkhart noted there is a Memorandum of Understanding asking for a 3-year minimum commitment. If a manpower issue occurs within a department and nothing else can be done but bring the officer back, then that occurs. Ideally, a municipality uses the reimbursement money to hire someone to replace the officer that is serving on the Drug Task Force. Ms. Dupler asked what the average stay has been for officers. Detective Burkhart stated it varies with some staying 30 years and some for 7 or 8 years and some are 3 and out with departments replacing them with someone else so they can also gain experience. Ms. Lisa Heilner asked if the officers on the Task Force have the same functions or are they teams. Detective Burkhart indicated they pretty much conduct the same functions of investigations although some have different areas of expertise. Detective Burkhart stated the Task Force will reimburse the Commission the officer's salary and overtime and after 2 years will contribute \$10,000 annually for benefits.

Resident – How much time can the officer spend in this area? Detective Burkhart noted the officer could spend as much as 80% of his time locally.

Resident – How do you know where to find the drugs which are now being presented to small children? Detective Burkhart indicated getting information from people, informants and school resource officers. D.A. Stedman noted

that an outreach coordinator has been hired for prevention who contacts the schools, developing joint programs particularly focused on drugs, as well as texting and bullying.

Chief Mark Mayberry indicated that there is a TIP sheet on the website with Ms. Dupler indicating residents can go to the different police department sites and submit the TIPs so police can follow up on them. D.A. Stedman noted that the mandatory sentencing for drug dealers was removed a couple of years ago and if residents are interested in having that reinstated, they should contact Harrisburg and the Governor.

Resident - Are efforts are being made to address the mental health issue of the individuals? Detective Burkhart noted there is a Mental Health Court and a Drug Court that looks at those types of things and tries to design the sentence around what individual needs. Detective Burkhart indicated not everyone has a mental issue that is on heroin as there is a genetic disposition to some of the addictions and you don't know until you take it.

President John Yoder, III requested residents who wish to speak to come to the podium and list their name and address for the record.

Ruby McKain (35 Beech Lane) – Ms. McKain stated within one month of her son's overdose, the Lancaster County Drug Task Force had the dealer off the streets and thanked the Task Force for what they've done.

Lisa Brenner (225 Cliff Lane) – Ms. Brenner indicated her son had passed away after snorting only one bag of dirty heroin. Ms. Brenner stated all parents are interested in having a narcotics officer appointed to be able to get dealers off the street so heroin cannot be so easily obtained cutting down on the number of new people being exposed it to; they want answers as to who sold the drugs to their children; and want to do whatever can be done to spare others the experiences they have had.

Nelson Bechtold (Bainbridge) – Chaplain Bechtold noted that police chaplains are noticing that many more death notifications have to do with heroin overdoses. Chaplain Bechtold encouraged the Commission to put an officer on the Drug Task Force.

Holly Altamonte (51 Ramsgate Lane, Lancaster) – Ms. Altamonte noted she had lived in Elizabethtown for over 10 years and is a recovering addict with 13-years of sobriety. Ms. Altamonte indicated 13 years ago, due to an Oxycodone addiction, she lost her license as a registered nurse and went to the streets to obtain drugs. During this time she went to 5 rehabs and several halfway houses and never got clean. Eventually there was an arrest that broke a huge Oxycodone ring where she was living and she could no longer get drugs. She finally called her parents who put her in rehab again and she was able to obtain a new career as a veterinary technician working at the Elizabethtown Animal Hospital and after 10 years was able to re-obtain her nursing license. Ms. Altamonte stated if you separate the addict from the drug, the addict has a chance for recovery.

Laurie Thompson (43 Briar Rose Trail) – Ms. Thompson stated she lost her son, Joshua, September 26, 2016, who died as a result of heroin laced with fentanyl. Ms. Thompson encouraged the Commission to lend an officer to the Lancaster County Drug Force to help make a difference in the fight to get dealers off the street.

Gail Viscome (915 Spring Road) – Ms. Viscome indicated she is the Director of the Elizabethtown Communities that Care and noted they have a federal grant with the goal of engaging the community in an effort to reduce the abuse of drugs and alcohol and to teach and prevent our young people and parents how to help prevent drug abuse and invited everyone to attend the next meeting being held on February 13 at EMS at 6:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Debra E. Dupler and seconded by Lisa S. Heilner to appoint an officer to the Lancaster County Drug Task Force. All members voted in favor of the motion.

5) Consent Calendar:

- a. Approval and ratification of the minutes of the December 20, 2016 meeting.
- b. Accept and ratify 1) the Treasurer's Report for the period of December 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 subject to audit; and 2) the Commission Treasurer's Certificate of Deposit summary report.
- c. Approve payment of all bills via Bill List #/26-2016 in the amount of \$ 61,180.93; Bill List #01-2017 in the amount of \$ 16,172.80; and ratify payment of all payrolls for the period of December 10, 2016 through January 20, 2017, inclusive, in the amount of \$ 193,163.53, which represents three (3) pay periods.
- d. Calendar Year 2016 Audit: Authorize the chair of the NRLCPC to sign the engagement letter from White, Rudy & Company LLP dated December 5, 2016 whereby the scope of the annual audit to be performed of the calendar year 2016 records is set forth.

A motion was made by Douglas A. Hottenstein and seconded by Philip F. Dunn to approve items a. through d. of the Consent Calendar as presented. All other members voted in favor of the motion.

6) 2012 Dodge Charger - Disposition:

Chief Mayberry asked the Commission for direction on the disposition of the 2012 Dodge Charger noting the trade-in value is \$3,000. and that the Commission had tabled this item at the previous meeting. Ms. Dupler recommended the Chief look at other vehicles that may be in worse shape and dispose of them first. Council directed Chief Mayberry to look at the other vehicles and make a recommendation at the next meeting.

7) Articles of Agreement:

Mr. John O. Yoder, III noted both the Boards of Mount Joy Township and West Donegal Township approved the concept of establishing a committee to discuss having an audit versus a review and amending the Articles of Agreement to note such. Committee members: John O. Yoder, III, Douglas A. Hottenstein, David W. Sweigart, and Gerald Becker. Mr. Yoder suggested the committee be scheduled to meet at 5:30 p.m. prior to the February 28, 2017 Commission meeting and requested a copy of the Article of Agreement be sent to Philip Dunn.

8) PA Local Government Investment Trust (PLIGIT):

Mr. Richard Forry noted the Commission had never joined PLIGIT as they were investing through Morgan Stanley and the bank rates are now very low and can get a higher rate through PLIGIT. Requested a motion to a) adopt Resolution 1-2017 whereby the Northwest Regional Lancaster County Police Commission (NRLCPC) is authorized to join and become a member of the PA Local Government Investment Trust for the purpose of investing its available funds; and b) appoint Richard E. Forry as the NRLCPC's designated representative.

A motion was made by Debra E. Dupler and seconded by Philip F. Dunn to adopt Resolution 1-2017 whereby the Northwest Regional Lancaster County Police Commission (NRLCPC) is authorized to join and become a member of the PA Local Government Investment Trust for the purpose of investing its available funds; and b) appoint Richard E. Forry as the NRLCPC's designated representative. All other members voted in favor of the motion.

9) Police Department Facilities:

Ms. Dupler indicated the painting is being done and the locker room issue has been resolved with an estimated move-in date of August. Mr. Yoder asked about having an open house. Ms. Dupler recommended an open house for all of the entities.

10) Hiring of Full-Time Police Officer:

Chief Mayberry requested a motion to hire Frank Jones as a full-time police patrolman of the NRLCPC, who is to be compensated at the rate of \$29.96 per hour and serve a one-year probationary period with a potential starting date of mid-February.

A motion was made by Debra E. Dupler and seconded by Lisa S. Heilner to hire Frank Jones as a full-time police patrolman of the NRLCPC, who is to be compensated at the rate of \$29.96 per hour and serve a one-year probationary period. All other members voted in favor of the motion.

11) Promotion to Sergeant – Officer Michael R. Bryant:

Mr. Yoder asked for a motion to take action relative to the promotion of Officer Michael R. Bryant to the rank of Sergeant.

A motion was made by Lisa S. Heilner and seconded by Debra E. Dupler to promote Officer Michael R. Bryant to the rank of Sergeant. All other members voted in favor of the motion.

12) Correspondence:

- a. Calls for Service – December 2016.
- b. Police Activity Report – December 2016.
- c. Overtime Report – December 2016.
- d. Police Cruiser Mileage Chart – December 2016.

13) Other Business:

Ms. Dupler asked for a timeline with the Lancaster County Drug Task Force as to what/who/when. Chief Mayberry indicated he would contact Detective Burkhart and find out where to go from here.

14) Next scheduled meeting of the Northwest Regional Lancaster County Police Commission to be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2017 beginning at 7:00 P.M, at the Mount Joy Township Municipal Building, 159 Merts Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022.

15) Adjournment:

A motion was made by Debra E. Dupler and seconded by Lisa S. Heilner to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 P.M. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard E. Forry
Secretary/Treasurer
Northwest Regional Lancaster
County Police Commission