

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Northwest Regional Lancaster County Police Commission
Held on February 23, 2021**

- 1) Douglas A. Hottenstein called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. in the Mount Joy Township Municipal Building, 8853 Elizabethtown Road, Elizabethtown, PA 17022.
- 2) Roll Call: Present – Debra E. Dupler; Ralph F. Horne; Eric W. Kreider; David W. Sweigart, III and Douglas A. Hottenstein. Absent: None.
- 3) Public Comment: None.
- 4) Consent Calendar:
 - a) Approval and ratification of the minutes of the January 26, 2021 meeting.
 - b) Accept and ratify the Budget Report for the period of January 1, 2021 through January 31, 2021, subject to audit.
 - c) Approve payment of all bills via Bill List #1-2021 in the amount of \$ 38,731.64; Bill List #2-2021 in the amount of \$8,163.44; and ratify payment of all payrolls for the period of December 26, 2020 through January 23, 2021, inclusive, in the amount of \$ 174,118.98, which represents two (2) pay periods.

A motion was made by Debra E. Dupler and seconded by Ralph F. Horne to approve items a. through c. of the Consent Calendar as presented. All other members voted in favor of the motion.

5) Hiring of Police Officer:

Chief Mayberry requested approval of the Commission to begin the hiring process for a full-time police officer, which was included in the budget, with an official start date of April 2021. This hire was previously postponed due to COVID and will bring the number of officers back to the usual manpower. Commissioner Dupler asked how long the process would take. Chief Mayberry indicated he would start by contacting applicants who had applied previously and from there, if necessary, would advertise, do pre-background checks and oral interviews within a month and a half.

A motion was made by Debra E. Dupler and seconded by Eric W. Kreider to authorize beginning the hiring process of a full-time police officer. All other members voted in favor of the motion.

6) Drone Purchase:

Detective Frank H. Ember, Jr. presented the benefits of purchasing a drone for the Department. The primary use of a drone is locating lost or missing children and elderly persons as well as situational awareness for officer security at crime scenes. It can also be used for photography and evidence recovery as well as crash reconstruction. This particular drone has a thermal camera and could benefit the K-9 unit. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) Pilot Certification conducted through the FAA is preferred for operators with police officers being able to obtain waivers from this requirement. The minimum number of operators required is three (3). The program process involves pilot training; applying for waivers for unrestricted flights and night flights through the FAA; developing policies and procedures and training of patrol officers on the ability of the drone and what it can be used for. Recertification with the FAA is required every two (2) years. Commissioners expressed their concerns regarding overtime and potential need for additional officers. Chief Mayberry indicated he did not see an impact to the budget. The cost of the drone is approximately \$6,240. and with additional batteries, chargers and propellers would be \$7,200. A cost of \$5,000 was budgeted for and donations of \$2,500 have been received.

A motion was made by Debra E. Dupler and seconded by Ralph F. Horne to authorize the purchase of a drone for the Department. All other members voted in favor of the motion.

7) Advisements:

- Officer Gavin Kline attended a one-month training with the Lancaster County Drug Task Force.

8) Correspondence:

- a. Calls for Service – January 2021.
- b. Police Activity Report – January 2021.
- c. Overtime Report – January 2021.
- d. Police Cruiser Mileage Chart – January 2021.

9) Other Business: None.

10) Next scheduled meeting of the Northwest Regional Lancaster County Police Commission to be held on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 beginning at 7:00 P.M, at the Mount Joy Township Municipal Complex, 8853 Elizabethtown Road, Elizabethtown, PA 17022.

11) Adjournment:

A motion was made by David W. Sweigart, III and seconded by Eric W. Kreider to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 P.M. All other members voted in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Heilner
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer
Northwest Regional Lancaster
County Police Commission