

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Northwest Regional Lancaster County Police Commission
Held on November 22, 2005**

1. Gerald G. Cole called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. in the Mount Joy Township Municipal Building at 159 Merts Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022. Mr. Cole led the pledge of allegiance.
2. Roll call: Present – Gerald G. Cole, Roger M. Snyder, Charles W. Ricedorf, Stephen J. Speers and Charles A. Tupper.

Others Present: Charles M. Kraus, III and Richard E. Forry.

3. Public Comment:

John R. Emrick, Jr., 2007 Sheaffer Road, Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Earl H. Kean, 231 Dogwood Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Amos L. Sands, 126 Stonemill Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Wayne T. Groff, 304 Parkwood Drive, Lancaster, PA 17603

Shawn W. Dowd, 53 Old Forge Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Gregory S. Wahl, member of the Northwest Regional Lancaster County Police Department

Mike Lyons – no address given

Elwood G. Tobias, Jr., 1953 Rhoda Avenue, Mount Joy, PA 17552

Frank H. Ember, Jr., member of the Northwest Regional Lancaster County Police Department

Mr. Emrick expressed his concern with the possible disbanding of the police department. He feels the department does an outstanding job. The furloughing of officers would be detrimental to the force. Mr. Kean is concerned with the rate of solving crimes. The residents of West Donegal Township are not being served very well. He suggested disbanding of the regional police department and going back to the two individual Township police departments. Mr. Sands has contacted the regional police department several times concerning speeding along Maytown Road and the response has not been good. He no longer knows the officers since the departments have been regionalized. Mr. Groff disagrees with Mr. Kean. As a retired police officer, he stated the crime reports can be construed however you want. The drug problem is on the rise. It is everywhere, not just in the city. The Commissioners need to explain to the public why the contract is in arbitration. Mr. Dowd has no problem paying higher taxes to keep the police force. The hiring of a detective would be beneficial to the force. He strongly urged the renegotiation of the contract. Officer Wahl explained how he came up with the number of incidents. Not all incidents take one officer. More and more incidents take multiple hours and officers. He suggested a committee be organized to study the history of the two departments and also the regional police department and make an informed decision once the data is collected. A West Donegal Township resident complained she never sees the police driving through her development. She had a mailbox damaged by vandals and subsequently found out from her neighbors the person was caught and could have been reimbursed for the damage. Mr. Lyons feels if a detective were to be hired, response time would improve. The detective would investigate the incidents and do more of the paperwork, thus allowing the officers more time on the road to patrol. Mr. Tobias stated the furloughing of officers is not the solution. Officer Ember is proud to be a member of the regional police department and losing officers will not make the department more efficient.

Mr. Cole explained the agreement between the municipalities does not state a detective or additional officers will be added to the department. This was discussed at a public meeting but was not included in the final agreement. This is a regional department and just because the public does not see the officers patrolling, it does not mean they are not doing so. The Townships are still holding discussions. The Commission must live within the funding provided by the member Townships. The Commission expressed its appreciation of all comments presented at this meeting.

4. Consent Calendar:

- a. Approval and ratification of the minutes of the October 25, 2005 meeting.
- b. Accept and ratify the Treasurer's Report for the period of October 1, 2005 through October 31, 2005, subject to audit.
- c. Approve payment of all bills via Bill List #21-2005 in the amount of \$79,708.89; and Bill List #22-2005 in the amount of \$28,536.41; and ratify payment of all payrolls for the period of October 15, 2005 through November 11, 2005, inclusive, in the amount of \$74,910.56, which represents two pay periods.
- d. Approve and ratify the preparation and transmittal by the Chief of Police of a "Supplemental Notice of Recommendation of Suspension Without Pay" dated November 2, 2005.

A motion was made by Charles W. Ricedorf and seconded by Roger M. Snyder to approve the Consent Calendar as written. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

5. Lease Agreements with Mount Joy Township & West Donegal Township for Year 2006:

Mark E. Wagner, Mount Joy Township Administrator, asked the Commission to approve a lease agreement between Mount Joy Township and the Northwest Regional Lancaster County Police Commission, in the amount of \$34,500.00, for calendar year 2006. The Township will also be obtaining a lease agreement with the Mount Joy Township Authority. Mr. Wagner explained how the formula for the rent was devised. The rent is based on square footage and using the cost needed for maintenance and utilities only. Mr. Tupper questioned Chief Casey Kraus if it would be cheaper to decrease the space used and possibly rent a trailer and place it at the West Donegal Township building as a sub-station. Chief Kraus will research this suggestion. The problem Chief Kraus sees currently is storage space, which is at a premium. The space currently occupied is used to its fullest potential. Additional space is needed. A \$200,000.00 state grant would be available for the construction of a new building. Also, 2% loan money is available from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development. West Donegal Township is asking for \$8,000.00 for rent of space in their Municipal Building. Mr. Cole suggested Mount Joy Township charge the net between the two.

A motion was made by Gerald G. Cole and seconded by Charles A. Tupper to approve the lease agreement with Mount Joy Township for calendar year 2006 in the amount of \$26,500.00. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

There was a lengthy discussion on how the fines are being distributed.

6. Correspondence:

- a. Police Report – October 2005.
- b. Police Overtime Report – October 2005.
- c. Police Mileage Report – October 2005.
- d. Police Accrued Compensatory Time Report – As of November 16, 2005.

7. Other business:

There was a discussion on the implementation of the budget, which was approved at the October 2005 meeting. The furloughing of two officers would balance the budget. Chief Kraus explained several different ways to keep the two officers.

A motion was made by Charles A. Tupper and seconded by Roger M. Snyder to implement the Calendar Year 2006 budget as approved at the October 25, 2005 meeting. Charles A. Tupper voted in favor of the motion. Gerald G. Cole, Charles W. Ricedorf, Roger M. Snyder and Stephen J. Speers voted against the motion. The motion was defeated, as four (4) members of the Commission voted against the motion and only one (1) member of the Commission voted in favor of the motion.

8. Next regularly scheduled meeting of the Northwest Regional Lancaster County Police Commission will be held on December 27, 2005, beginning at 6:30 P.M. Mr. Cole stated a special meeting of the Commission might be held prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting.
9. A motion was made by Stephen J. Speers and seconded by Charles A. Tupper to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 P.M. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

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