

**Minutes of the Special Joint Meeting of the
Northwest Regional Lancaster County Police Commission,
Mount Joy Township Board of Supervisors and West Donegal Township Board of Supervisors
Held on May 23, 2006**

1. Charles A. Tupper called the meeting of the Northwest Regional Lancaster County Police Commission to order at 6:32 P.M. in the Mount Joy Township Municipal Building at 159 Merts Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022. Mr. Tupper led the pledge of allegiance.

Blaine E. Miller called the meeting of the Mount Joy Township Board of Supervisors to order at 6:32 P.M. in the Mount Joy Township Municipal Building at 159 Merts Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022.

Roger M. Snyder called the meeting of the West Donegal Township Board of Supervisors to order at 6:32 P.M. in the Mount Joy Township Municipal Building at 159 Merts Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022.

2. Roll call: NRLCPC / Mount Joy Township / West Donegal Township

NRLCPC / MJT - Present – Blaine E. Miller, Ralph P. Miller, Charles W. Ricedorf, David W. Sweigart, III. Absent – Gerald G. Cole.

NRLCPC / WDT – Present – J. Clair Hilsher, Roger M. Snyder, Stephen J. Speers (arrived at 6:59 P.M.), Charles A. Tupper. Absent – Nancy Z. Garber.

Others Present: Charles M. Kraus, III, Richard E. Forry, Patricia J. Bailey, Mark E. Wagner, Nicholas J. Viscome and Josele Cleary, Esq.

3. Public Comment.

No public comment was offered at this time.

4. Consent Calendar:

- a. Approval and ratification of the minutes of the April 25, 2006 meeting.
- b. Accept and ratify the Treasurer's Report for the period of April 1, 2006 through April 30, 2006, subject to audit.
- c. Approve payment of all bills via Bill List #10-2006 in the amount of \$15,774.53; and Bill List #11-2006 in the amount of \$16,654.68 and ratify payment of all payrolls for the period of April 15, 2006 through May 12, 2006, inclusive, in the amount of \$73,322.09, which represents two pay periods.

A motion was made by Charles W. Ricedorf and seconded by David W. Sweigart, III to approve the Consent Calendar as written. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

5. Review of NRLCPC Financial Status:

Mr. Tupper stated Mr. Ricedorf requested, at the April meeting of the NRLCPC, a review of the budget for the first four months of 2006 and a projection for the remainder of the year. Mr. Tupper also had requested information on the possibility for repayment of the “start-up” money paid by each Township in the year 2003 when the Regional Police Department was formed. Upon review, there are two items of concern, legal fees and compensation. Mr. Ricedorf indicated fines are only half of what they should be. Legal costs were budgeted at \$15,000.00 for 2006. For the year 2005 through April 2006, over \$60,000.00 was spent with more bills expected. Mr. Tupper said it looks like the Commission will exceed the budget. He asked if the Townships are willing to cover the overage in the budget if there is a shortfall. Roger M. Snyder, Chairman for West Donegal Township and Blaine E. Miller, Chairman for Mount Joy Township each indicated neither one was willing to put

any more money into the Police Department. Both indicated their Township's budgets are tight. Currently, MJT contributes 52% and WDT is contributing 48%. This split was devised using their respective populations as per the 2000 U.S. Census. Mr. Ricedorf feels since it is a regional police department, the contributions should be a 50-50 split. WDT representatives feel since the majority of the incidents (70% MJT – 30% WDT) are in MJT it should be split accordingly. According to Mr. Snyder, there is a stipulation in the original agreement to revisit the funding formula within two years of the regional police department's creation. Mr. Sweigart stated MJT responded to WDT's request for a change in percentage by letter stating a 50-50 split. Mr. Tupper was under the impression the "start-up" money was a loan and would be paid back. In 2 ½ years no money has been refunded. WDT residents complain they do not see the police. Mr. Snyder indicated this would be true since only 30% of the calls are in his Township. The records show there are 1.6 incidents per officer per 12-hour shift. Officer Frank Ember commented some calls can last 6 to 8 hours, especially if a fatality is involved. He feels he spends most of his time in WDT. Officer Ember said a 1% increase after two years is unreasonable and that is why the Commission is in trouble financially. Several residents felt there should be more public input before anything is decided. The meeting was advertised three days prior to being held. Mr. Hilsher mentioned there have been five grievances filed this year so far at a cost of \$601.00 per week for legal fees and none have been resolved. Mr. Snyder stated he feels West Donegal Township could provide coverage to its residents at a lower cost. Mr. Tupper explained it is not his intent to dissolve the department. He feels WDT is paying too much. Mr. Edward Barlow, 8476 Elizabethtown Road, Elizabethtown, PA 17022, is willing to pay a higher tax to keep the Police Department intact. Mr. Barlow feels the elected officials are not listening to the residents. Officer Gregory Wahl suggested adjusting the split gradually over the next several years so it would not drastically affect Mount Joy Township's budget all at once. Mr. Ricedorf feels both Townships have about the same population and the split should be a fifty-fifty split since it is a regional police department. West Donegal Township representatives feel Masonic Village residents should not be included in the population count. Keith E. Murphy, 1991 Turnpike Road, Elizabethtown, PA 17022, does not feel he should pay for coverage for Mount Joy Township. Elwood G. Tobias, Jr., 1953 Rhoda Avenue, Mount Joy, PA 17552, stated the WDT Supervisors must present a business plan to the residents before dissolving the current department, especially since the space which was used by the West Donegal Township Police Department is being used by the Elizabethtown Area Water Authority. Several people mentioned the meeting was not well advertised to the residents. Mr. Tupper indicated the meeting was posted at both municipal buildings, advertised in the Lancaster Newspapers and announced at the last Mount Joy Township Board of Supervisors meeting. Officer Ember feels it will cost the Townships much more to disband and restart individual departments. The discussion continued with attendees offering comments for and against the department. There was a general consensus for additional public meetings to be held so more residents can offer their thoughts. Mr. Tupper asked the Supervisors from West Donegal Township and Mount Joy Township what they wished to do.

A motion was made by Charles W. Ricedorf and seconded by Blaine E. Miller to adjourn the Mount Joy Township Board of Supervisors meeting at 7:35 P.M. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Roger M. Snyder and seconded by Stephen J. Speers to adjourn the West Donegal Township Board of Supervisors meeting at 7:36 P.M. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

6. Correspondence:

- a. Police Report – April 2006.
- b. Police Overtime Report – April 2006.
- c. Police Mileage Report – April 2006.
- d. Police Accrued Compensatory Time Report – As of May 10, 2006.

7. Other business.

8. Next regularly scheduled meeting of the Northwest Regional Lancaster County Police Commission will be held on June 27, 2006, beginning at 6:30 P.M.
9. A motion was made by Charles W. Ricedorf and seconded by David W. Sweigart, III to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 P.M. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard E. Forry
Secretary
Northwest Regional Lancaster
County Police Commission