

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Northwest Regional Lancaster County Police Commission
Held on June 27, 2006**

1. Charles A. Tupper 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. Tupper led the pledge of allegiance.
2. Roll call: Present – Charles W. Ricedorf, Stephen J. Speers, David W. Sweigart, III and Charles A. Tupper. Absent – Gerald G. Cole.

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

3. Public Comment.

Chairman Tupper limited all public comment to three minutes with a total length for public comment set for twenty-five minutes due to the fact there is another meeting scheduled for the meeting room following the Police Commission meeting.

Officer Kenneth M. Henry, Northwest Regional Lancaster County Police Department
Tammy R. Marsh, 2144 Andrew Avenue, Elizabethtown, PA 17022
Donald E. Kreider, PO Box 102, Rheems, PA 17570
Teresa K. Rissmiller, 935 Hampden Road, Elizabethtown, PA 17022
Clair Martin, Jr., 22 Hunter Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022
Jayne F. Duncan, 426 Milton Grove Road, Elizabethtown, PA 17022
Arla Henry, 22 North River Street, Maytown, PA 17550
Chad S. Nagel, 412 Farmland Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022
Les Nery, Vice President of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP)

Officer Henry reported an officer called off for the 7:00 P.M to 7:00 A.M. shift and no officer was called in to replace him, leaving one officer on duty to cover two Townships. He asked the Commission why the night shift was not being covered. Mr. Tupper explained this is one night and does not have any other implications applied to the situation. Officer Henry asked how the calls will be covered. Mr. Tupper commented if there were two calls on any given night both officers would be tied up. The same will happen when there is one call and one officer. Ms. Marsh was speaking on behalf of her neighbors. They have concerns with going with the State Police or the laying off of any officers. She pays taxes and wants a police force. Mr. Tupper explained there is nothing on the agenda concerning disbanding the Police Department or the laying off of any officers. Mr. Kreider questioned how much taxpayer money is being spent on grievances. He also asked if anyone knew anything about House Bill 1599 concerning the police pension and making it state controlled. He is not in favor of paying higher taxes to support the police force. Ms. Rissmiller asked if the intent of the Commission has changed since the Regional Police Department was formed. She is paying for 24 hour coverage and that is what she expects. Mr. Martin is upset with only one officer on duty. He would not mind paying for a good Police Department. Ms. Duncan questioned if meetings concerning the possible disbandment of the Regional Police Department were held within the requirements of the Sunshine Act. Mr. Tupper explained the Commission is very limited in what can be discussed and to discuss something would need to occur in a public meeting prior to any action being taken. The only meetings held outside of a public meeting has been with legal counsel. She also questioned if the State Police were asked by the Commission to be on standby proceeding the last meeting. Could the issue of disbanding be raised at a meeting and action taken at the same meeting? Ms. Henry stated the reason to have two officers on duty is for safety. If something happens to her husband while on duty and understaffed, she will not take it lightly. Officer Henry states he was told by certain Commissioners, if the grievances were taken away everything would be fine. Mr. Tupper feels goodwill on both sides would go a long way to mending the situation. Mr. Nagel was alarmed to hear what is going with the Police Department. We should not have to rely on the neighboring municipalities for coverage. Mr. Nery has been having meetings

with the officers and administration. He hopes the Commission is just having growing pains. He asks the Commission to keep the status quo for the next 30 days to allow the FOP to meet representatives from all sides to help find a resolution.

4. Consent Calendar:

- a. Approval and ratification of the minutes of the May 23, 2006 meeting.
- b. Accept and ratify the Treasurer's Report for the period of May 1, 2006 through May 31, 2006, subject to audit.
- c. Approve payment of all bills via Bill List #12-2006 in the amount of \$8,687.84; and Bill List #13-2006 in the amount of \$24,262.46 and ratify payment of all payrolls for the period of May 13, 2006 through June 23, 2006, inclusive, in the amount of \$110,418.98, which represents three pay periods.

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

5. Correspondence:

- a. Police Report – May 2006.
- b. Police Overtime Report – May 2006.
- c. Police Mileage Report – May 2006.
- d. Police Accrued Compensatory Time Report – As of June 15, 2006.

6. Other business.

Mr. Ricedorf asked Chief Kraus the status of the new vehicle. Chief Kraus stated the vehicle is in New Jersey and waiting to be delivered.

Mr. Ricedorf suggested both Townships put together a finance report and have it mailed to all residents of both Townships and possibly hold a press conference. It was suggested the information be put on the website and to make it available at the Township municipal buildings. Ms. Rissmiller would like to see a questionnaire be sent out to the residents asking their opinions concerning the police department. Chief Kraus feels the budgets of the two former departments should be reviewed and project them out so it can be compared to the regional numbers.

John Hiestand, 2526 Mount Gretna Road, Elizabethtown, PA 17022 asked if a person can be charged for excessive calls to the police for insignificant reasons. Chief Kraus explained the police cannot charge for services.

7. Next regularly scheduled meeting of the Northwest Regional Lancaster County Police Commission will be held on July 25, 2006, beginning at 6:30 P.M.

9. A motion was made by Steven J. Speers and seconded by David W. Sweigart, III to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 P.M. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard E. Forry
Secretary
Northwest Regional Lancaster
County Police Commission