

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the  
Northwest Regional Lancaster County Police Commission  
Held on November 27, 2007**

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

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

3. Public Comment.

Mr. Earl H. Kean, 231 Dogwood Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022, expressed concern with the hiring process used to fill the vacancy of the Police Chief. He objects to hiring the person as a consultant a month prior to the actual hire date. Mr. Kean feels there is a very qualified individual within the current force to be promoted to Police Chief, i.e. Lt. Carl D. Steinhart.

4. Consent Calendar:

- a. Approval and ratification of the minutes of the October 23, 2007 meeting.
- b. Accept and ratify the Treasurer's Report for the period of October 1, 2007 through October 31, 2007, subject to audit.
- c. Approve payment of all bills via Bill List #25-2007, in the amount of \$4,734.12; Bill List #26-2007, in the amount of \$19,749.65; Bill List #27-2007, in the amount of \$580.90; and Bill List #28-2007 in the amount of \$19,038.47; and ratify payment of all payrolls for the period of October 13, 2007 through November 23, 2007, inclusive, in the amount of \$118,165.80, which represents three pay periods.
- d. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Grant Program – “Smooth Operator” Aggressive Driving Enforcement Project: Approve, ratify and confirm 1) the NRLCPC's participation in the “Smooth Operator” Aggressive Driving Enforcement Project; and 2) the execution of all necessary documents by the Chief of Police and the Commission's Secretary/Treasurer.

Chief Kraus explained item “d”. This is a federal grant program to help with traffic enforcement, specifically targeting aggressive driving. The grant is based on the number of accidents and aggressive driving accident a municipality experiences. Unfortunately the department qualified for the program. The grant money will be used to reimburse the department for the wages of an officer when he is doing traffic enforcement.

A motion was made by Charles A. Tupper and seconded by Gerald G. Cole to approve the Consent Calendar as written. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

5. Employment Position – Chief of Police:

- a. A motion was made by Roger M. Snyder to 1) approve, ratify and confirm the preparation and revision of an employment agreement, between Carl D. Steinhart and the NRLCPC, by the Commission's Solicitor; and 2) authorize the Chair or Vice-Chair and Secretary of the NRLCPC to execute the same upon acceptance of the same by Mr. Steinhart and the NRLCPC. **The motion died for lack of a second.**

A motion was made Charles A. Tupper and seconded by Gerald G. Cole to 1) approve, ratify and confirm the preparation and revision of an employment agreement, between Samuel H. Gatchell, III and the NRLCPC, by the Commission's Solicitor; and 2) authorize the Chair and

Secretary of the NRLCPC to execute the same upon acceptance by Mr. Gatchell and the NRLCPC.

Mr. Snyder feels there should be a provision in the agreement requiring the police chief to live in either Mount Joy Township or West Donegal Township. Item 1.B. of the Agreement should be removed. Mr. Snyder feels the vacation should be changed to 2008 = 3 weeks and then moving up to 4 weeks. The vacation in 2008 should also be accrued. Item 5 of the agreement seems like a very nice perk. Mr. Snyder also requested the area of severance pay should be removed. Mr. Snyder expressed concern with Items 8, 9, 11 and 12 as well.

Voting in favor of the motion was Charles A. Tupper, Stephen J. Speers and Gerald G. Cole. Voting in opposition was Roger M. Snyder. Motion passed by a 3-1 vote.

- b. A motion was made by Charles A. Tupper and seconded by Gerald G. Cole to hire Samuel H. Gatchell, III as Chief of Police of the NRLCPD, effective January 3, 2008 and who will be compensated \$80,000.00 during 2008, contingent upon the successful completion of a favorable background investigation by the PA Chiefs of Police Association, subject to review by the Chairman, Secretary and current Police Chief.

Voting in favor of the motion was Charles A. Tupper, Stephen J. Speers and Gerald G. Cole. Voting in opposition was Roger M. Snyder. Motion passed by a 3-1 vote.

- c. A motion was made by Charles A. Tupper and seconded by Gerald G. Cole to hire Samuel H. Gatchell, III as an hourly consultant, who will be compensated at an hourly rate of \$38.46 for each hour worked as a consultant, effective December 1, 2007. Mr. Gatchell will continue to serve as a consultant to the NRLCPD until his fulltime employment begins.

Mr. Snyder expressed his disapproval with the hiring of a consultant. Everything ran smoothly when the current Police Chief experienced health problems.

Voting in favor of the motion was Charles A. Tupper, Stephen J. Speers and Gerald G. Cole. Voting in opposition was Roger M. Snyder. Motion passed by a 3-1 vote.

- d. A motion was made by Gerald G. Cole and seconded by Charles A. Tupper. to accept the resignation of Charles M. Kraus, III as Chief of Police of the NRLCPD, effective January 2, 2008, due to his retirement. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

6. Correspondence:

- a. Incident Report – October 2007.

7. Other business:

8. Next regularly scheduled meeting of the Northwest Regional Lancaster County Police Commission will be held on December 18, 2007, beginning at 6:30 P.M., at the West Donegal Township Municipal Building, 1 Municipal Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022.
9. A motion was made by Charles A. Tupper and seconded by Gerald G. Cole to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 P.M. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard E. Forry  
Secretary  
Northwest Regional Lancaster  
County Police Commission