

**PUBLIC MEETING  
YORK AREA REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION  
JANUARY 12, 2012**

A public meeting of the York Area Regional Police Commission was held on Thursday, January 12, 2012 at the York Area Regional Police Building, 33 Oak St., York, PA 17402

Those present were Paul Knepper, Commissioner, Paul Smith, Commissioner, Roger Guttridge, Commissioner, Albert Granholm, Commissioner, Rodney Sechrist, Commissioner, Ronald Smith, Commissioner, Thomas Gross, Chief of Police, and Tracy L. Fleming, Business Administrator.

Commissioner Paul Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance.

**REORGANIZATION**

Commissioner Paul Smith nominated Commissioner Knepper for the Chairman of the Board for 2012, seconded by Commissioner Guttridge, motion carried.

Commissioner Knepper nominated Commissioner Paul Smith for Vice-Chairman of the Board for 2012, seconded by Commissioner Guttridge, motion carried.

Commissioner Paul Smith nominated Commissioner Guttridge for Secretary/Treasurer of the Board for 2012, seconded by Commissioner Knepper, motion carried.

Commissioner Knepper introduced the two new Commissioners on the Board. Commissioner Roger Guttridge is the Citizen at Large and Commissioner Rodney Sechrist is the Windsor Township Alternate.

The Chief stated since Commissioner Kessler was no longer on the Commission, an appointment of a representative to the Pension Advisory Board was needed. The Chief explained the Board normally meets quarterly with the investment advisor. There are three Police Officers, one Commissioner, the York Township Manager, the Windsor Township Manager and the Chief on the Board. The Chief also stated that Andrew Blair and Leonard Hoffer were on the Board and have retired. The Police Association will be responsible to replace these two representatives. Commissioner Knepper made a motion to appoint Commissioner Guttridge as the representative to the Pension Advisory Board, seconded by Commissioner Paul Smith, motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kelly Henshaw a Red Lion Borough Councilman read a letter to the Commission from a citizen who was unable to attend the meeting, regarding drug activity in Red Lion Borough. He stated that he talked to the Chief and an undercover drug officer about three properties in the Borough where there are drug problems during the Citizens' Police Academy. He also spoke to

Corporal Good after a Red Lion Borough meeting regarding this issue. They stated the department is aware of these addresses but are unable to comment. He also stated he was told by two different officers that since there was a reduction in hours by the Red Lion Borough Council, there are not enough hours to adequately address these problems. This was before the new contract went into effect. One of the addresses noted was where the recent shooting occurred.

Dennis Klinedinst a Red Lion Borough Councilman stated they just received their police activity report. He wanted to know what made up the Administration hours. He also stated a couple months ago they asked to have Red Lion School District removed from their report because it makes them look bad.

Nevin Horne, III of Butch Horne's Body Shop, East Broadway, Red Lion stated these drug problems go back at least 37 years. He stated that Red Lion Borough wants to point fingers at York Area Regional Police when part of the problem is theirs. He stated the Borough needs to do something about nuisance properties. He stated both sides need to sit down and work with each other. Pointing fingers at each other is just a waste of time.

Kathy Horne of East Broadway, Red Lion wanted to know why the hours were reduced because she does not feel safe anymore. She stated she was not happy when she read that Red Lion Borough threatened to use the State Police instead of York Area Regional Police. She said there is a lot of animosity going on right now. She stated she is upset that Red Lion Borough did not have a meeting to allow residents to voice their opinions on the reduction in hours so she is here to voice them to the police department. She would like to hear from the police department what coverage she has because she has been lied to by Red Lion Borough.

Commissioner Knepper stated all Public Comment concerns would be addressed during the Commissioner Comments section.

#### **APPROVAL OR AMENDMENT TO MINUTES OF DECEMBER 8, 2011 AND DECEMBER 20, 2011.**

Commissioner Ronald Smith stated he had a correction to make to the December 8, 2011 minutes. The minutes reference that he was absent at the meeting but was actually in attendance. He would like a correction to include him in attendance for the December 8, 2011 meeting. Commissioner Paul Smith made a motion to approve the December 8, 2011 and December 20, 2011 minutes with an amendment to the December 8, 2011 minutes including Commissioner Ronald Smith in attendance, seconded by Commissioner Guttridge, motion carried.

#### **RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution 2012-01 was read by the Chief recognizing retired Sergeant Rodney E. Varner for his thirty-one years of dedicated service to the department. Commissioner Paul Smith made a motion to approve Resolution 2012-01, seconded by Commissioner Guttridge, motion carried.

Resolution 2012-02 was read by the Chief recognizing retired Sergeant Andrew K. Blair for his twenty-five years of dedicated service to the department. Commissioner Guttridge made a motion to approve Resolution 2012-02, seconded by Commissioner Paul Smith, motion carried.

Resolution 2012-03 was read by the Chief recognizing retired Officer Leonard R. Hoffer for his twenty-six years of dedicated service to the department. Commissioner Paul Smith made a motion to approve Resolution 2012-03, seconded by Commissioner Guttridge, motion carried.

### **CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chief stated that a letter was sent to Tim O'Donnell of East PA Post-Collections for a donation of \$2,500 which was used towards the purchase of the message board and speed timing device purchased by the department.

### **CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION REPORT**

The Chief informed the Commissioners that Reverend Carl Scott's term has expired on the Civil Service Commission. His term expired the end of 2011. It is a three year term. Commissioner Guttridge made a motion to appoint Reverend Carl Scott to the Civil Service Commission for a three year term (2012, 2013 and 2014), seconded by Commissioner Paul Smith, motion carried.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Chief advised there was nothing new to report under Grants.

The Chief reviewed the Monthly Financial Report. He stated the Revenues were over what was budgeted by approximately \$260,000 and the Expenses were under what was budgeted by approximately \$16,000. He stated there will be a revised year end report at the next meeting that will include year end journal entries. He reviewed a few line items that were over or under budget. There was a discussion on Gasoline and Vehicle Maintenance line items.

### **Approval of Expenses for December 1 to December 31, 2011 - \$407,211.40**

Commissioner Knepper asked for a motion to approve the expenses for December 1 – 31, 2011 in the amount of \$407,211.40. A motion to approve the expenses was made by Commissioner Paul Smith, seconded by Commissioner Guttridge, motion carried.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

There was no report.

### **POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT**

The Chief reported that Officer Joshua Crimmel has returned from his deployment with the U.S. Army to Afghanistan and will be returning to work on January 23, 2012.

The Chief reviewed a Commendation to Detective Buschman, Officer Sampere, Officer Montgomery and Officer Zinn for the pursuit and apprehension of two individuals from the Washington, D.C. area that had been involved in stealing from numerous drug stores in several states including the Rite-Aid on West Broadway in York Township.

A letter of appreciation was received on Officer Krzywulak for an investigation he did on contractor fraud in Dallastown Borough.

A card was received in appreciation for the efforts of Corporal Damon in his attempt to revive an individual who ultimately did not survive.

The Chief reported on a Personnel Order issued for personnel changes. Effective January 4, 2012 Sergeant Barley, Jr. will be the Investigative Unit Supervisor and will also be assigned as the Head Evidence Custodian. As part of the change in Evidence Custodian an audit was performed by Sergeant Barley and outgoing custodian Sergeant Blair. The Chief reviewed the audit process. Effective January 9, 2012 Sergeant Dunbar will be the Administrative Supervisor and will also be assigned as Accreditation Manager and Right to Know Officer. Sergeant Dunbar will also oversee the Public Information Officer's duties and the School Resource Officers. Effective January 4, 2012 Officer Montgomery will be the Assistant Public Information Officer along with his other duties.

The Chief informed the Commissioners they will be starting the annual performance evaluations.

The Chief stated that in Officer Montgomery's report he had 84 Volunteer Hours in December, 2011. There was a discussion on the speed sign reports provided by Officer Montgomery. The Commissioners stated they did not need copies of these reports each month. The reports would be available if at any time a Commissioner would like to review them.

The Chief reported the DARE graduation is February 3, 2012 at 1:00 or 1:30 pm at the Dallastown Intermediate School in Jacobus. This will be the 15<sup>th</sup> year in providing this program to the school. Officers Dave Barley, James Varner and C. Lee Morris are involved in providing this class. There will be approximately 400 graduates. The Chief stated the Commissioners are invited to this graduation.

### **MEETING DATES FOR 2012**

Commissioner Knepper discussed the meeting dates for February 2012 to January 2013. The meetings will be the second Thursday of the month except for November, 2012. In November it will be the first Wednesday of the month which is November 7, 2012. A discussion occurred on why the November meeting needed to be changed. It is due to the Second Class Township's Convention being held on that night. A motion was made by Commissioner Paul Smith to advertise the meeting dates as the second Thursday except for November when it will be the first Wednesday, seconded by Commissioner Guttridge, motion carried.

### **COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

Commissioner Knepper stated he would start this session by commenting on the Public Comments. He stated he is not going to comment on the letter read by Kelly Henshaw that this is something for an Executive Session.

The Chief stated he would be willing to discuss with the Red Lion Borough Manager the time regarding the Red Lion School District. He stated he does not believe we are charging the

School District time to the Borough. He said we are listing the incidents that occur at the School District under the Red Lion Borough section in the Incident Report given to the Municipalities. He stated we are reporting them under Red Lion Borough in the incident report because they are incidents that do occur in the Borough. Commissioner Knepper asked Chief Gross to meet with the participating municipalities like he did with York Township in the next 30 days and explain how the time is recorded. He stated this was very helpful to York Township.

Commissioner Knepper stated that York Area Regional Police do not get involved in Building Code issues this would need to be addressed by Red Lion Borough.

Commissioner Granholm stated the one citizen concern was how do we know what our coverage will be. He asked how do we let our citizen's know where and when the patrols are being conducted. The Chief stated we do not provide when and where we patrol that is not public information. He also stated the shooting is an active investigation and he cannot comment on this issue. He said we are aware of the drug activity and does not believe we have stated the drug dealing is inconsequential. He also stated the officers are instructed not to discuss the hours of service or their opinions on the hours of service the municipalities purchase with the citizens. Our intent is to provide the hours that are obligated and do our best law enforcement service for the hours purchased. He stated the police officers are human beings and he does not doubt that these comments may have been made.

Commissioner Knepper stated he respects the Chief's comments very highly. He also commented it is Red Lion Borough Council's decision on how many hours they purchase. It is not the decision of the York Area Regional Police Commission, the Chief or any member of his staff. It was Red Lion Borough's decision to reduce their hours by 37%. Your issue is with them not here.

Lieutenant Redifer will follow up with the Horne's on the speeding issues.

Commissioner Granholm stated he wanted to thank the citizens who did come out tonight and for making comments. He commented it is very important to have the citizens come to the meetings. He stated there seems to be a breakdown in communication that needs to be worked on. It is important because people want to know where their dollars are going.

Commissioner Sechrist had no comments.

Commissioner Ronald Smith wanted clarification on the overtime billing that may or may not occur. He wanted to know if we were going to bill municipalities for overages. He stated he would like to know this because this can play havoc with municipal budgets. He said it had been mentioned this was not a practice in the past. The Chief stated we have not billed in the past and no one has directed him to start this practice. Commissioner Knepper stated this may become necessary since Red Lion Borough has cut their hours considerably. There was a brief discussion on this issue.

Commissioner Ronald Smith's second item he stated that he comes from the old fashioned school when I pay for something I like to know what I am getting for my money. When it comes down to the hours, I understand the Chief made the comment earlier there are certain things he is not permitted or will not give out to the public. I am going to disagree and say the municipal government or governing board is not the public and is entitled to specific information. We can disagree that is fine. I want to know how the total number of hours is derived. I would like some kind of verification we are getting what we pay for. Anybody can jot down numbers on a piece of paper and say there is my log. Commissioner Knepper stated I had the same questions. I think when the Chief shares with your manager and maybe yourself and the other managers you will understand it more clearly.

Commissioner Guttridge had no comments.

Commissioner Paul Smith would like all the new commission members (and other members if they need them) to receive a copy of the charter agreement and the by-laws. Commissioner Ronald Smith would also like copies. He would like to have listed on next month's agenda the topic of adding a contribution for health insurance to any newly hired non-uniform employees.

Commissioner Knepper thanked Commissioner Ronald Smith and former Commissioner Janna Smith for their participation in the contract negotiations. He thinks we came out with a very good contract. He brought along a picture of a police car to show a decal on the car representing a grocery store. This grocery store gave \$12,000 to the police department towards the purchase of this vehicle. He thought this is something we could look into.

Commissioner Knepper stated it is his opinion that in any municipality, it is the responsibility of the Finance Director to prepare the budget. He stated next year I would like to see Mrs. Fleming prepare and present the budget. He would also like the agenda to be printed on the front and back of the paper. He also would like to have the audit for the year 2012 be put out for bid around August.

Commissioner Knepper said to Sergeant Rodney Varner – We have as a municipality (York Township) appreciated your information sharing. He said to the Chief we hope the new person that takes over for Rodney Varner continues with that same information sharing. He thanked Rod again for his communication with the Township and told him he appreciated it.

Commissioner Knepper stated he stopped at District Magistrate Scott Laird's office to discuss the possibility of night court to cut down on overtime for the department. He spoke to a secretary. He stated this will not happen for a couple of reasons – A new District Magistrate by law cannot change their hours for the first year. Also the Public Defender's Office is included in some of those hearings and they do not work past 4:30pm. So if there is going to be a change it will have to be on this end. He is not saying how to do it but would like to see the overtime hours cut down.

Commissioner Paul Smith stated that District Magistrate Fishel may have to move to Brogue due to a contract that the County has in real estate which is a lot more travel. He stated that Windsor Township is working with the Magistrate's office and the County and has given them

approval to use the Township's facilities for some of these cases. They would be held in the Township conference room as much as two days a week. This is being done at no charge. This would be a savings to the department because of travel and also a service to the public in the area. The Chief stated the department has objected to the move of that District Magistrate Office.

There was no Executive Session.

Commissioner Knepper thanked everyone for coming tonight. He appreciates everyone's concern. He stated they should come more often.

A motion was made by Commissioner Guttridge to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 pm, seconded by Commissioner Paul Smith, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted and recorded by,

Tracy L. Fleming  
Business Administrator

**UPCOMING MEETING DATES**

February 9, 2012	March 8, 2012	April 12, 2012
May 10, 2012	June 14, 2012	July 12, 2012
August 9, 2012	September 13, 2012	October 11, 2012
November 7, 2012	December 13, 2012	January 10, 2013

**Others Present:**

Rod Varner	Greg Gross
Deb Varner	Rick Lee
Dianne Price	Mark Price
Elizabeth Heathcote	Nevin Horne, III
Dennis Klinedinst	Kathy Horne
Walt Hughes	
Brad Smith	
Kelly Henshaw	
Andy Blair	
Robin Blair	
Megan Blair	
George Jones	
Bob Frutiger	
Tina Frutiger	
Jennifer Gunnet	
Paul Redifer	
George McGee	
Leonard Hoffer	