

**NORTHERN REGIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT
JOINT POLICE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, November 18, 2021

Township of Pine Community Center

The meeting of the Northern Regional Police Department Joint Police Board was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Chairman; Jason Bragunier.

Members attending in-person were Chairman; Jason Bragunier, Vice-Chairman; Pasquale D. Avolio, George P. Allen, Anthony Jack Candek, Raymond P. Kendrick, John A. Marshall and Victoria-Laird-Pongrace. Also in attendance were Dean Bastianini, Ryan Colombo, Jack Donahue, Jan Kowalski, Jason Kratsas, Douglas Marsico, Captain Bryan DeWick and Chief John Sicilia.

Prior to the regular meeting, there was recognition of retiring officers – Sergeant Bertram F. Lott and Officer Roy J. Chiaramonte.

Approval of Minutes

Raymond P. Kendrick wants the first item on page four redacted from the October 27, 2021 board meeting because it was inaccurate.

John A. Marshall said they voted to “table” discussion of the Administrative Services Agreements until next year and would like that corrected.

Motion was made by George P. Allen, seconded by John A. Marshall, to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2021 meeting with corrections. The aye vote was unanimous with Pasquale D. Avolio, Ryan Colombo and Jack Donahue abstaining. Motion carried, with corrections to be made on the October 27, 2021 minutes.

Chief's Report

Chief Sicilia entertained questions concerning his written report.

Captain Bryan DeWick briefed the board on the following:

October 28th an arrest at Target in Richland Township of a man exposing himself in the parking lot.

October 31st a suicide at Comfort Inn in Marshall Township.

November 11th a reported sex assault at Massage Envy in Richland Township.

November 18th a Pine Township resident negligently shot himself in the leg, this will be investigated by the ATF.

A quick update on cases Detective Scott Rick is working on:

The Bentley Caper, they recovered one more vehicle so that's a total of three of the six that have been recovered.

A fourteen-year-old Marshall Township resident who has been solicited for child pornography from a gentlemen in Texas, the F.B.I. will be handling this.

This past month Pine-Richland High School and Middle School and Marshall Middle School have received multiple threats this is keeping our school resource officer and detectives busy.

Motion was made by Raymond P. Kendrick, seconded by Anthony Jack Candek to approve the Chief's Report as presented. The aye vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Jan Kowalski entertained questions concerning the October 2021 Financial Statement.

Jan Kowalski said the Police Department finally received from the Federal Government their Bullet Proof Vest Grant in the amount of \$15,725.00 that they applied for over a year ago.

And in the month of October, they made the transfer of the minimum municipal obligation to the pension plan in the amount of \$745,873.00 to Wells Fargo.

Motion was made by Raymond P. Kendrick, seconded by George P. Allen, to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of October 2021. The aye vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Comments from Police Board Members

Victoria Laird-Pongrace commented that a relative of one of our police officers approached her three times while she was working at a polling place on election day and blaming her for the outcome of the officers' arbitration award.

Pasquale D. Avolio commented that he does not condone anybody taking that approach with her.

Chief Sicilia made a suggestion about canceling the Police Board Christmas Party scheduled for December saying that the money would be better spent elsewhere.

Motion was made by John A. Marshall, seconded by Anthony Jack Candek, to cancel the Police Board Christmas Party. The aye vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

John Marshall made a comment that it was very nice of the families, friends and other officers coming to celebrate the retiring officers tonight.

Old Business

1. Discussion of Agreement to Provide Administrative Services between NRPD and the Township of Pine, with possible motion to approve.
2. Discussion of Agreement to provide Administrative Services between NRPD Pension Trust Committee and Township of Pine, with possible motion to approve.
3. Continuation of Discussion of Finance Committee Responsibilities.

After a discussion, a motion was made by Raymond P. Kendrick, seconded by Victoria Laird-Pongrace, to table the following for the January 2022 meeting.

1. Discussion of Agreement to Provide Administrative Services between NRPD and the Township of Pine, with possible motion to approve.
2. Discussion of Agreement to provide Administrative Services between NRPD Pension Trust Committee and Township of Pine, with possible motion to approve.
3. Continuation of Discussion of Finance Committee Responsibilities.

With Pasquale D. Avolio opposing. Motion carried.

4. Discussion of Association's request to revisit CBA items not addressed by the Arbitration Award.

Board Chair Jason Bragunier received an email from Regis Welsh, on behalf of the Police Officer's Association, requesting that the Board consider reopening the Collective Bargaining Agreement to address certain non-monetary items that were not addressed by the arbitrator. Chief Sicilia stated the he was looking for a motion to either agree or not agree to talk to the officers. Raymond Kendrick stated that it seemed to him that the motion should be to either reopen the contract or not. Jason Bragunier said no, they're not proposing to reopen the contract. Raymond Kendrick reiterated that he thought Officer Welsh's email stated they were requesting to reopen the contract. Pasquale Avolio said there was a past practice of modifying a contract with a Memorandum of Understanding to incorporate items not addressed in the arbitration. Jason Bragunier stated that he believed the terminology used in the email was inaccurate and that's why we need to talk to Rich Miller. Victoria Laird-Pongrace noted that the email was received on October 29, 2021 and asked if Chair Bragunier had reached out to labor counsel to determine if the items were indeed non-monetary and if it was in violation of Article 3, Section 26 of the Pennsylvania Constitution. Chair Bragunier stated he had not, since he felt it should be discussed as a Board first. He is looking for direction from the Board on how to proceed.

Pasquale Avolio mentioned that the items in the email were on the list of Issues in Dispute. Victoria stated her opinion that even though the arbitration award only addressed five issues, by not addressing the other Issues in Dispute the arbitrator was, in fact, addressing them, and followed by making a motion to not accept the Association's request to revisit items not addressed in the Arbitration Award. Raymond Kendrick seconded.

Pasquale Avolio requested further discussion and stated his opinion that it was short-sighted not having labor counsel review the request and evaluate whether it complies with applicable provisions and would benefit the Department. Ryan Colombo interjected that, as an employment lawyer, he feels that when labor counsel has been used in the past, it's generally a good idea and common sense when you get a letter such as this, to send it on to labor counsel for review because all the terms we are discussing have very specific definitions under state and national labor law. He recommended that the email be sent to Rich Miller and have him come to a future meeting to explain what it would mean.

Jason Bragunier reminded the Board that there was a motion on the table. Victoria Laird-Pongrace repeated that the motion is to Not Address the Association's Request to revisit the terms of the contract. Jason Bragunier said that he honestly would like Rich Miller to discuss this. Pasquale Avolio stated that we have a motion on the floor that has been seconded and there's been discussion and we need to vote on that motion.

A roll call vote was taken to not accept the Association's request to revisit CBA items not addressed by the Arbitration Award.

No votes

Jack Donahue
Pasquale D. Avolio
Ryan Colombo
Jason Bragunier

Yes votes

Raymond P. Kendrick
John A. Marshall
George P. Allen
Anthony Jack Candek
Victoria Laird-Pongrace

Motion carried by vote of 5 yes and 4 no votes.

New Business

Chief Sicilia asked for a motion to promote Officer Jennifer Abbondanza to position of Sergeant effective January 1, 2022.

Motion was made by Raymond P. Kendrick, seconded by Pasquale D. Avolio, to promote Officer Jennifer Abbondanza to the position of Sergeant effective January 1, 2022. The aye vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Chief Sicilia asked for a motion to promote Officer Regis Welsh III, to position of Detective effective January 1, 2022.

Motion was made by Raymond P. Kendrick, seconded by Pasquale D. Avolio, to promote Officer Regis Welsh III, to position of Detective effective January 1, 2022. The aye vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Chief Sicilia asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2021-3 – A Resolution of the Northern Regional Joint Police Board Relative to the Police Pension Trust.

Motion was made by Pasquale D. Avolio, seconded by Raymond P. Kendrick, to approve Resolution 2021-3 – A Resolution of the Northern Regional Joint Police Board Relative to the Police Pension Trust. The aye vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Chief Sicilia asked for a motion to set the 2022 Northern Regional Police Department Board Meetings for the 4th Wednesday of the month of January through October, November meeting on Thursday, November 17, 2022 and no meeting in December. Meetings to be held at the Pine Community Center, 100 Pine Park Drive, Wexford, PA 15090 at 7:00 P.M.

A motion was made by George P. Allen, seconded by John A. Marshall, to approve the motion to set the 2022 Northern Regional Police Department Board Meetings for the 4th Wednesday of the month of January through October, November meeting on Thursday, November 17, 2022 and no meeting in December. Meetings to be held at the Pine Community Center, 100 Pine Park Drive, Wexford, PA 15090 at 7:00 P.M. The aye vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Chief Sicilia asked for a discussion of a quote from Springbrook Software for the addition of the Accounts Receivable module.

After a discussion, a motion was made by Jack Donahue, seconded by Pasquale D. Avolio, to approve the quote Treasurer, Jan Kowalski received from Springbrook Software to purchase the addition of the Accounts Receivable module at a cost of \$2,547.30 annual fee plus implementation and training costs as required. The aye vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Chief Sicilia asked for a motion for the Acknowledgement of Retirement of Sergeant Bertram Lott, effective November 29, 2021.

A motion was made by Pasquale D. Avolio, seconded by John A. Marshall, to acknowledge the retirement of Sergeant Bertram Lott, effective November 29, 2021. The aye vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Chief Sicilia asked for a motion for the Acknowledgement of Resignation of Debra Zelina, effective November 19, 2021.

A motion was made by George P. Allen, seconded by John A. Marshall, to acknowledge the resignation of Debra Zelina, effective November 19, 2021. The aye vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Chief Sicilia requested permission for the Board to interview potential new hires (per 2022 Budget) on January 26th, 2022 prior to the Police Board Meeting.

A motion was made at 8:15 P.M., by Pasquale D. Avolio, seconded by Anthony Jack Candek, to adjourn the regular meeting and go into executive session. The aye vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

A motion was made at 8:45 P.M. by Victoria Laird-Pongrace, seconded by John A. Marshall, to adjourn the executive session and return to the regular meeting. The aye vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Pasquale D. Avolio, seconded by Jack Donahue, to approve the permission for the Board to interview potential new hires (per 2022 Budget) on January 26th, 2022 prior to the Police Board Meeting. The aye vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Any Other Business

None.

Correspondence

Three letters of thanks were acknowledged.

A motion was made at 8:46 P.M. by Jason Bragunier, seconded by Pasquale D. Avolio, to adjourn the regular meeting. The aye vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn J. Miller