

MINUTES OF MEETING FOR NORTHERN REGIONAL POLICE BOARD
SEPTEMBER 24, 2025 **PINE COMMUNITY CENTER**

CALL MEETING TO ORDER (7:00 PM)

Chairman Jason Bragunier called this Northern Regional Police Board meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Members in attendance: John Marshall, Ray Kendrick, Donna Snyder, Dan Dimond, Jason Bragunier, J. Tracy, Pat Avolio, Ryan Colombo, Casey White. Also in attendance were Chief Bryan DeWick, Captains Jeff Jones and Matt Blough, Solicitor Jonathan Whalen, and Finance Director Ronata Lavorini.

There were ten members of the public present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

The motion was made by Casey White and seconded by Ryan Colombo to approve the Board meeting minutes from August 27, 2025. The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. Motion carried.

REPORTS

CHIEF REPORT

Chief DeWick presented his report. No additional comments were made.

TREASURERS REPORT

Donna Snyder presented the Treasurer's report. No additional comments were made.

The motion was made by Ray Kendrick and seconded by Ryan Colombo to approve the Treasurer's report for August 2025. The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM POLICE BOARD MEMBERS

Chairman Jason Bragunier announced that Marshall Township representative J. Tracy would attend future police board meetings, in alignment with the conclusion of Jack Candek's term. Jason Bragunier also spoke on the positive cultural change he had noticed during the NRPD promotional interviews and commended administrative personnel for their work.

OLD BUSINESS

UPDATE ON BUILDING PROJECT, LEASE, AND PROPOSED AGREEMENT WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

Chief DeWick stated that there were not many changes following the municipal manager's meeting, and that Pine Township was waiting for their current building's appraisal. The Chief also stated that he was working with Solicitor Blaine Lucas from Marshall Township to finalize the terms of the lease, but that St. Barnabas had no issues with the agreement as it stood. Several Police Board members asked questions regarding the lease. Chairman Bragunier questioned how to proceed, and Solicitor Jonathan Whalen responded that a motion could be made to approve the lease preliminarily with respect to a possible future amendment. Chief DeWick affirmed that he would prefer it if the lease were signed to maintain the land as an option. Board member Donna Snyder asked about non-legal costs of the land to the municipalities, and Chief DeWick responded that they were marginal. Police Board member Pat Avolio further addressed his concerns on budget constraints, capital investments, long-term expenses, and questioned the Police Board if there was a consensus on their spending limit for this lease. Board member Casey White expressed that he would like to wait until the Building Committee voiced their concerns or approval. Chief DeWick reiterated that they could back out of the lease within three years of signing, and Chairman Jason Bragunier summarized the lease terms, including that it could be turned over in 15 years to the Board. Chief DeWick concluded the discussion, mentioning that he was waiting on the last piece from Pine Township.

The motion was made by Ryan Colombo and seconded by Pat Avolio to table the building project, land lease, and proposed agreement discussion until the October Police Board meeting. The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. Motion carried.

UPDATE ON SERGEANT AND LIEUTENANT PROMOTION PROCESS

Chief DeWick shared that they had completed their written exams and interviews for twelve sergeant and four lieutenant candidates and were in the process of finalizing the scores. The Chief asked if the Police Board could make a motion to approve the promotion of these candidates at the October board meeting.

The discussion on sergeant and lieutenant promotion processes was moved to the executive session for personnel purposes.

UPDATE ON PENSION IMPROVEMENT CHALLENGE BY RETIRED OFFICERS

The discussion on the pension improvement challenge by retired officers was moved to the executive session for legal purposes.

NEW BUSINESS

UPDATE ON THE 2026 BUDGET

Finance Director Ronata Lavorini presented the proposed NRPD budget for 2026. In her report, she highlighted an overall increase in expenses, primarily due to wage and benefit changes in the Collective

Bargaining Agreement between the Northern Regional Police Department and Teamster's Local No. 249. Ronata pointed out several figures, including grant-funded purchases, transfers to capital, and budgeted new hires and promotions in 2026. The Police Board also recognized Pine Township manager Jason Kratsas and Richland Township manager Brian O'Malley at the podium. The managers presented their remarks to the Board with respect to the NRPD 2026 budget and beyond.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed increase in overall municipal contributions, unused budgeted funds for the new building, projected remaining fund balance for the fiscal year ending on December 31, 2025, and Seven Fields Borough's contribution in 2026. Board member Pat Avolio commented on the positive operating fund balance despite the budgeted increase in municipal contributions, stating that he would still like to see expenses spread out over a few years to drive the municipal contribution numbers down. Chief DeWick responded that he did not want to overburden Seven Fields, but that the income could be used to supplement in some capacity. He reiterated that the budget was as modest as possible and pointed to the CBA provisions as unanticipated expenses for 2026.

Further discussion ensued regarding NRPD's organizational hierarchy, budgeted new hires, and potential promotions. Pat Avolio commented on the number of retiring officers and those entering the DROP, and Chairman Bragunier inquired about a succession plan. Chief DeWick responded that they expected to lose ten officers before 2030, emphasizing that they are bottom-heavy and struggling with understaffing in day-to-day operations. He reminded the Board that hiring additional officers will lower overtime costs and ensure the department's long-term sustainability. Jason Bragunier asked for confirmation and Chief DeWick affirmed that they hired four officers in 2025 but did not hire in 2024. Ray Kendrick and Pat Avolio also addressed their concerns regarding the number of officers on the road. Chief DeWick reiterated that the purpose of promotions is for sergeants to be on the road more often. Documents were handed out detailing dates of hire and retirement, as well as the cost of the promotions. Captain Blough reminded the Police Board of the previous study results, and that they indicated a need for a higher number of both patrolmen and leadership personnel than the department currently has. Captain Jones emphasized that it takes ample time to train officers on the skillset required for leadership positions.

Several Police board members expressed their wish to reflect on the numbers provided in the proposed 2026 budget. Chairman Bragunier stated that the Board would need to look at the municipal managers' projections and Chief DeWick agreed. The discussion concluded with the NRPD agreeing to meet with the managers in early October.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE NRPD UNIFORM FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT AND MINIMUM MUNICIPAL OBLIGATION FOR THE 2026 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Chief DeWick presented the NRPD Uniform Financial Requirement and MMO for the 2026 budget. He added that it must be approved and signed by September 31, 2025, but that the agreement could be amended after Acrisure had concluded their revisions.

The motion was made by Pat Avolio and seconded by J. Tracy to approve the NRPD Uniform Financial Requirement and Minimum Municipal Obligation for the 2026 Budget. The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ON POTENTIALLY PROVIDING POLICE SERVICES TO VALENCIA BOROUGH

Valencia Borough resident Roger Grey addressed the board regarding his proposal for Northern Regional Police Department to provide police services to their community. The resident provided geographic information, a sample budget, and described the policing needs of the area. Police board members Ray Kendrick and Chairman Jason Bragunier questioned the financial implications and

whether Valencia Borough was a part of any current negotiations, and Roger Grey replied that they were not.

The discussion on potentially providing police services to Valencia Borough was moved to the executive session.

MOTION TO APPROVE INCREASE IN PRIVATE CONTRACT OVERTIME RATES

The motion was made by Ray Kendrick and seconded by Casey White to approve the increase in private contract rates. The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. Motion carried.

MOTION TO APPROVE AND SIGN AGREEMENT WITH THE OFFICE OF THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY FOR PARTICIPATION IN PROJECT LIFESAVER

Chief DeWick presented the agreement for Northern Regional Police Department's participation in Project Lifesaver. Chief DeWick explained the project's intent as to allow for neighboring departments to provide equipment and aid in the search for missing people, noting that the NRPD has already been a participant for several years and has four certified officers in the program.

The motion was made by Ryan Colombo and seconded by John Marshall to approve and sign the agreement with the Office of the Allegheny County District Attorney for participation in Project Lifesaver. The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. Motion carried.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE USE OF CAMPBELL DURRANT LEGAL SERVICES IN 2026 AND RELATED INCREASE IN SOLICITOR FEES

The motion was made by J. Tracy and seconded by John Marshall to approve the use of Campbell Durrant legal services in 2026 and the related increase in solicitor fees.

CORRESPONDENCE

No comments were made.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The motion was made by John Marshall and seconded by J. Tracy to adjourn into the executive session. The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. Motion carried.
The time was 8:31 PM.

The motion was made by Ryan Colombo and seconded by Casey White to adjourn the executive session. The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. Motion carried.
The time was 8:58 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn was made by Ray Kendrick and seconded by John Marshall. The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. Motion carried.
The meeting adjourned at 8:59 PM.


Recording Secretary – Julia Reginelli


Chief Bryan DeWick