

MINUTES OF MEETING FOR NORTHERN REGIONAL POLICE BOARD

MARCH 23, 2026

RICHLAND TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING

CALL MEETING TO ORDER (7:00 PM)

Chairman Ryan Colombo 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, Richland Alternate George "Skip" Allen, Dan Dimond, Ryan Colombo, J. Tracy, and Jack Donahue. Jason Bragunier attended remotely. Also in attendance were Chief Bryan DeWick, Captains Jeff Jones and Matt Blough, and Solicitor Jonathan Whalen.

There were seven members of the public present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING

The motion was made by John Marshall seconded by Ray Kendrick to approve the Board meeting minutes from February 25, 2026. Board member Ray Kendrick abstained from the vote. Motion carried with seven aye votes.

MINUTES OF THE MARCH SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

The motion was made by Ray Kendrick and seconded by Dan Dimond to approve the Special Board meeting minutes from March 11, 2026. Board members Jack Donahue and John Marshall abstained from the vote. Motion carried with six aye votes.

REPORTS

CHIEF REPORT

Chief DeWick presented his report. He announced that Lieutenant Andrew Bienemann had been accepted into the FBI National Academy Session 300 and was scheduled to begin the ten-week course in September of 2026. Chief DeWick emphasized that it was an honor that the Lieutenant was selected and explained that he would be up against other law enforcement officials from western Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

The motion was made by Ray Kendrick and seconded by John Marshall to approve the Chief's report for February 2026. The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. Motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT

J. Tracy presented the Treasurer's report and noted year-to-date increases of about 4% in revenues, mentioned the two state grants last year at this time, and highlighted a slight decrease in operating

expenses, concluding that all numbers were in line with budgeted figures.

The motion was made by John Marshall and seconded by Skip Allen to approve the Treasurer's report for February 2026. The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM POLICE BOARD MEMBERS

No public comments were made.

OLD BUSINESS

UPDATE ON NEW STATION PROJECT

Chief DeWick informed the Board that the NRPD had met with the managers and Buchart Horn Architects, referencing the memorandum included in the packet. He then invited Richland Township Manager Brian O'Malley to address the Board. Manager Brian O'Malley stated that the Building Committee had made solid progress in identifying planning and operational needs. He further explained that the next steps included determining available funding, proposing a municipal spending cap of \$10 million and pursuing additional grant funding to cover costs exceeding the established cap. Manager O'Malley added that the NRPD and municipal managers were collaborating with federal and state representatives on grant opportunities.

Police Board member Ray Kendrick asked for the managers' perspectives on the building project estimates, and Manager O'Malley responded that they were surprised by the total square footage and were looking for ways to reduce it. Board member Jack Donahue questioned whether grant money would be used to cover project costs over the \$10 million municipal spending cap. Manager O'Malley replied that if grant funds received exceeded the total project costs, remaining funds would be returned to the municipalities. Chief DeWick reiterated that the new building was currently projected to cost \$13.6 million and the NRPD was not looking to surpass that. Manager O'Malley stated that they were working with BHA to evaluate their estimate, determine whether existing structures in Pine Township's building could be repurposed to reduce costs for items such as flooring and drywall, and if alternatives to the proposed covered parking structure existed that would satisfy NRPD needs.

Manager Brian O'Malley confirmed that the goal for this Police Board meeting was to appoint a project manager and establish a municipal spending cap. Several police board members commented and asked questions regarding the potential need for a project manager, the \$13.6 million project estimate, the level of construction project expertise on the building committee, and details related to grant funding. Manager O'Malley advised the Board that it was not necessary for the Building Committee to hire a project manager at this time and explained that they did not want to slow the project timeline. He also expressed confidence in ongoing discussions with Pennsylvania State Representative Jeremy Schaffer to potentially obtain funding. He clarified for the Board that the \$13.6 million dollar figure included contingency funding; without it, the goal would still be to pursue a \$10 million dollar project without reducing essential NRPD operations. Chief DeWick noted two possible funding opportunities were included in the packet, but that they were open to exploring others and still intended to apply to Pennsylvania Local Share Account (LSA) and Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grants. Ray Kendrick remarked that the NRPD's positive reputation in the community should assist in their efforts to secure funding.

Pine Township Manager Jason Kratsas addressed the board and concluded that the managers were in a good position with the communities, Police Board, and NRPD and making headway on the project. He stated that the current focus was on understanding municipal costs versus potential grant funding and accommodating the needs of all parties. Marshall Township Manager Bob Grimm confirmed that the plan is to seek grant funding for project elements such as the covered garage, and once those items were addressed, reduce the overall municipal contribution.

Board member Jack Donahue asked whether it made sense to bid the building project to other architects, and Manager Brian O'Malley responded that Burchart Horn Architects has sufficient experience in public safety buildings, has been professional and trustworthy throughout the process. Manager Jason Kratsas added that it would, however, be appropriate to let BHA know upfront that they would not be serving as the construction manager. Board member Dan Dimond asked about the grant funding timeline, and Manager O'Malley replied that they ranged from summer to early next year, though they may hear back sooner on RACP and congressional funding by the end of summer. Board member Jason Bragunier asked whether the municipalities would be expected to upfront funding and if the memorandum should be reviewed by the municipalities, and Chairman Ryan Colombo responded that most grants were reimbursement-based and agreed that each municipality should agree to the goals as presented in this Police Board meeting and suggested distributing the materials for review.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION TO APPROVE AND SIGN ENGAGEMENT LETTER WITH SAXTON & STUMP TO PROVIDE CONSULTING AND LOBBYING SERVICES FOR THE PURPOSES OF GRANT FUNDING

Chief DeWick presented an engagement letter with Saxton & Stump and a separate agreement with Econ Partners for consulting, grant writing, and lobbying services to support funding of the building project, noting that both firms were recommended by other eastern police departments that had successfully received funding through their assistance. Chairman Ryan Colombo stated that he felt these services were costly based on his previous experiences working with lobbyists and suggested that the NRPD obtain a quote from a grant writer for the department's specific needs. Board member Jack Donahue emphasized the existing connections available and voiced that it may be advisable to pause consideration of the two agreements until the Board could review the potential grant writer's track record and successful case stories and encouraged the NRPD to fully explore opportunities with local representatives. Chairman Colombo proposed that the two agreements be tabled for a later discussion, and Chief DeWick agreed to keep exploring their options. Discussion ensued on the status of various grant applications.

The motion to table signing the engagement letter with Saxton & Stump was made by Ray Kendrick and seconded by Jack Donahue. The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. Motion carried.

MOTION TO APPROVE AND SIGN CONSULTING AGREEMENT WITH ECON PARTNERS TO PROVIDE CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE PURPOSES OF GRANT FUNDING

The motion to table signing the consulting agreement with Econ Partners was made by Ray Kendrick and seconded by Jack Donahue. The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. Motion carried.

MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2026-2 "PROCEDURES FOR SELECTION OF NEW UNIFORMED POLICE OFFICERS"

Chief DeWick reminded the Board of the prior year's Resolution 2025-2 and noted that the NRPD had identified some deficiencies in the hiring policy that limited their ability to secure qualified candidates. Solicitor Jonathan Whalen described the four changes included in Resolution 2026-2, as follows:

1. Establishes the number of candidates to be interviewed based on exam participation, specifying that initially, only the top 15 scorers on the written exam will be interviewed to streamline the hiring process.
2. Clarifies that candidates who fail the oral interview may reapply after a two-year waiting period, reducing the likelihood of repeatedly interviewing the same individuals.
3. Adds language affirming the NRPD's right to extend a new officer's probationary period as deemed necessary.
4. Authorizes the NRPD to rehire officers who resigned in good standing within the last three years and maintained the necessary qualifications, allowing them to bypass the full nine-step hiring process. This is provided that the officers continue to meet Act 57's requirements and successfully pass the background check.

The motion was made by John Marshall and seconded by Skip Allen to approve Resolution 2026-2 "Procedures for Selection of New Uniformed Police Officers." The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. Motion carried.

MOTION TO APPROVE TESTING FOR NEW OFFICER CANDIDATES

Chief DeWick proposed advertising in early April 2026 to support the new officer testing process beginning in June 2026.

The motion was made by Ray Kendrick and seconded by John Marshall to approve testing for new officer candidates. The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

No additional comments were made.

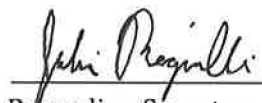
EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board agreed to cancel the executive session listed on the agenda. No additional comments were made.


ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn was made by John Marshall and seconded by Ray Kendrick. The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.



Recording Secretary – Julia Reginelli


Chief Bryan DeWick