

MINUTES OF MEETING FOR NORTHERN REGIONAL POLICE BOARD

September 23, 2026

PINE TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY CENTER

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

SWEARING IN OF NEW OFFICERS

Prior to the regularly scheduled agenda items, Police Board Chair, Ryan Colombo administered the Northern Regional Oath of Office to Jarrod Chiaramonte and Mykael Paakanen.

ROLL CALL

Members in attendance: John Marshall, Ray Kendrick, Donna Snyder, Bradford Woods Alternate Victoria Pongrace, Ryan Colombo, Jason Bragunier, and Pine Township Alternate Casey White. Also in attendance were Chief Bryan DeWick, Captain Jeff Jones, Solicitor Jonathan Whalen, and Finance Director Ronata Lavorini.

There were eleven members of the public present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Greg Guty of Seven Fields Borough addressed the Board, thanking them profusely for their assistance in his son-in-law's case. He remarked that Chief DeWick and the responding NRPD officers were incredibly respectful and supportive to him and his family in their time of need. He asked that the officers be recognized, perhaps with a letter of commendation for their work, and expressed his positive impression of the Department's caring culture.

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST BOARD MEETING

The motion was made by John Marshall and seconded by Jason Bragunier to table approval of the meeting minutes from August 26, 2026. The aye vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

REPORTS

CHIEF REPORT

Chief DeWick presented his report. He announced that Lieutenant Andrew Bienemann was set to leave on September 29th for leadership and development training with the FBI National Academy for ten weeks in Quantico, Virginia. In reference to the officer candidate interview conducted prior to the meeting, the NRPD anticipated a start date for Officer Akin Obiri of November 2, 2026, and that they had also extended a conditional offer to Officer Alex Stefora, to start January 25, 2027. The Chief confirmed that this completed their current hiring cycle.

Chief DeWick and Captain Jones invited Keith Hagan from VIPR to speak on the new LPR cameras.

Chief DeWick concluded his report by explaining the call volume changes in calculation as included in

the monthly packet. Captain Jones said the new calculations did not significantly impact percentages or municipal ranking. Board member Ray Kendrick questioned if potential false calls in Richland Township could affect the call volume numbers., and Chief DeWick replied that the NRPD cannot disregard EMS calls, but he would talk to him following the meeting. Bradford Woods Alternate Victoria Pongrace asked if the call volume reports would be presented in the same format moving forward, and Captain DeWick confirmed, explaining the improved report style for transparency. Chairman Ryan Colombo asked if the NRPD's internal policy with VIPR LPR cameras could be published soon and Chief DeWick agreed.

The motion was made by John Marshall and seconded by Casey White to approve the Chief's Report for August 2026. The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. Motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT

Board member Jason Bragunier presented the Treasurer's Report in J. Tracy's absence. The motion was made by Casey White and seconded by Ray Kendrick to approve the Treasurer's Report for August 2026. The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM POLICE BOARD MEMBERS

No comments were made.

OLD BUSINESS

VIPR License Plate Recognition Presentation and Discussion

Following the Chief's Report, Captain Jones introduced Keith Hagan, the Western Pennsylvania representative from VIPR, to speak on the new LPR cameras with Sean Petty attending remotely. He stated that he was a former police officer for 25 years and had a deep appreciation for police accountability. He confirmed that Flock cameras were replaced with VIPR cameras after twelve years due to VIPR's improved auditing features for administration to keep their officers accountable. Mr. Hagan addressed widespread media misinformation regarding the cameras, stating that VIPR LPR cameras merely capture license plates and not personal information. He voiced that the cameras are incredibly beneficial, such as in the case of a recent Amber Alert and search for a missing juvenile out of West Virginia, as well as eight silver alerts out of Westmoreland County in 2025 where all missing persons were found due to the aid of VIPR LPR cameras. He stated that this was an improvement from early policing days, especially in cases of criminal activity.

Several board members asked questions on behalf of their communities regarding personal information stored on the cameras and policies, how policies are enforced, and usage. Mr. Hagan again replied that no personal information was stored and VIPR's policy was to hold captured data for up to six months. He added that they were working with the District Attorney's Office continuously to develop improved policies and procedures, with the DA's Office conducting regular audits. Mr. Hagan stated that there was a lengthy agreement outlining procedures in the event of a data breach, but that additional information could be shared separately.

Captain Jones stated that that police departments using VIPR have sub-policies under the master VIPR policy, so a data breach or similar would be handled by someone at a higher tier, according to the agreement. Mr. Hagan concluded that all of Western Pennsylvania is expected to use VIPR eventually with 90% of Allegheny County having already made the transition, having the added benefit of a connected network in cases crossing county lines. Police board members John Marshall and Pine

Township Alternate Casey White voiced their support of the cameras and their effectiveness in solving recent crimes in the community.

UPDATE ON NEW STATION PROJECT WITH BHA PRESENTATION ON PRELIMINARY ALTERNATE DEDUCTIONS AND BIDDING SCHEDULE

Scott Loercher of Buchart Horn Architects directed the Board to the documents in the packet, pointing out 25 items identified as potential alternate deductions to decrease the overall construction costs of the building. Mr. Loercher clarified that the overall square footage of the building would remain the same, and that some of the deduction options were mutually exclusive, but overall, they identified between \$1.2 – 2.4 million in potential savings to consider as they waited for funding sources. He reminded the Board that their overall estimate for the building project was \$10.4 million, not including the canopy structure or parking lot, but that they could not predict more accurately at this time with a fluctuating economy and this was their best estimate.

Mr. Loercher brought up the bidding schedule as well, adding that they expected to see some grant funding come in in January or February of 2027, but it was still an unknown. Chief DeWick stated that they expected some grant funding in November of 2026, with LSA expected in fall of 2027, and RACP funding in the works. He responded to Donna Snyder's question, mentioning that they structured the project this way so that alternates were treated separately from the base project. Jason Bragunier expressed concerns about evidence lockers or other deductions and mentioned that he'd like to see the finances covered first, stating that he wanted the station to be functional. Chief DeWick stated that they would continue to apply for grants for the duration of the project, and the Department currently had \$3.5 million in potential funding coming in. Discussion ensued around whether to wait until more grant funding came in, such as early Spring, with Mr. Loercher adding that bidding during the holiday season was probably not the best idea. Victoria Pongrace asked several questions regarding the structure of the project and a scenario in which funding was not received. Chief DeWick replied that in that event, they would not be able to pursue the alternates. He further stated that the NRPD would need to review the list of proposed deductions with BHA but confirmed that items like evidence lockers might not be removable. Victoria Pongrace commented that she felt the project was moving too quickly, and Jason Bragunier stated that he'd still like to see an explicit agreement to financial support from the four municipalities. Chief DeWick replied that the numbers were all included in the 2027 capital budget for review.

Police Board member Ray Kendrick expressed concerns regarding the structure of the lease and how it would be financed. Richland Township Manager Brian O'Malley replied that the capital funding agreement and lease were almost completed, and the managers were simply ensuring it was structured to last twenty years. He added that they hired a consultant to come up with a fair price for the property, and that the lease outlined how the four municipalities would collectively finance the project. Manager O'Malley stated that the lease was based on flooring and walls as a price for the square footage, adding that it was comparable to the current lease. Pine Township Manager Jason Kratsas continued, confirming that the base rent of the new lease would be \$9.78 per square foot, not including Pine's assistance with maintenance, which is cheaper than the present lease. Manager Kratsas stated that they had discussed certain maintenance services, suggesting that the NRPD negotiate would negotiate a rate with Pine Township, separate from the lease, to continue providing these services for them, while the department assumed control over building maintenance. Chief DeWick stated that the proposed 2027 budget accounted for four months at the current lease rate, and eight months at the new lease rate. Jason Bragunier asked if buying the building was a better alternative to renting based on a twenty-year lease.

Mr. Loercher addressed the Board again, stating that they were looking for potential grant funding to be issued in the upcoming months, with recommendation for award in early 2027. Chief DeWick questioned why they were not considering bidding in December of 2026, and Manager O'Malley replied that we probably won't know for sure about federal funding until February of 2027, adding that bidding during the holidays was difficult. Chief DeWick proposed that they bid earlier but extend the length of time it was out. Mr. Loercher confirmed that this was an option and at present, they are currently considering a six-week bidding period. Board members Donna Snyder and Jason Bragunier commented that they'd like to see the bid date pushed out until all municipal budgets were approved. Mr. Loercher proposed authorization to bid for January 1, 2027, with bids due February 15, 2027, leaving the Police Board three months to decide. Manager Jason Kratsas requested that if the bid went out January 1, 2027, that BHA provide a bid form that showed the alternates and deductions. Mr. Loercher confirmed that he would include a revised schedule and bid schedule for either the October or November Board meeting and ask for authorization at that time, adding that he and Chief DeWick should meet and discuss the cost deduction alternates provided and narrow down the options, with the Building Committee included in discussions.

Mr. Loercher addressed their additional service request, stating that the canopy and parking alternates and associated design documents were added after the original contract was discussed. He felt that BHA met the requests as outlined in the original agreement, and he therefore requested additional funding for the alternates. Discussion ensued and Chief DeWick reminded the Board of the importance of protecting their cars from weather and other hazards. Marshall Township Manager Bob Grimm asked about the timeline of the LSA grant, and if it was premature to authorize the design without confirmation of funding. Victoria Pongrace agreed with Manager Grimm's opinion. Mr. Loercher replied that BHA had already completed the design documents, and they were requesting funding for services and designs that they had already provided but would postpone additional work on the design until further authorization was approved. The municipal managers and Police Board agreed that BHA's additional service request was valid, and they were owed payment for their completed work. Mr. Loercher also requested authorization to prepare the bid forms, taking into consideration the proposed cost deduction alternates. Chairman Ryan Colombo asked if the cost of alternates would change after discussions, and Mr. Loercher replied that they could, and that BHA wanted to document everything for flexibility on bid day. Jason Bragunier reminded the Board that he'd like to see a verbal commitment. Manager Kratsas stated that the lease and cost sharing agreement would ultimately acknowledge the municipalities' agreement. He added that he'd be comfortable presenting these items to the Pine Township board in the weeks to come.

The motion was made by Victoria Pongrace and seconded by John Marshall to accept task two cost reductions and bid alternates, in the amount of approximately \$13,000. The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

UPDATE ON PROPOSED 2027 BUDGET

Finance Director Ronata Lavorini presented the proposed NRPD budget for 2027. She prefaced her report by stating that the managers were still working to consider the allocation of capital contributions, stating that the allocation in the proposed budget was based on the 2027 call ratios.

In her report, Director Lavorini stated that there was an overall increase in expenses of 7.09%, mainly due to five items in the budget. These items included legal services, the building lease and associated utilities, accommodating for eight months at the new rate with the square footage increase. Director Lavorini added that officer salaries and healthcare benefits were expected to increase with the

proposed addition of two new officers, and non-uniform salaries were expected to increase with the addition of the social worker position. She added that medical expenses increased in 2026 and this increase was reflected in the proposed 2027 budget, assuming employees elect the same healthcare as they did in 2026. Director Lavorini projected that member contributions would increase by 6.77%, for a total of \$7.82 million in the proposed budget. She added that the operating fund balance was projected to be at \$870,000 by the end of the 2026 fiscal year, which would constitute a loss, but this did not factor in distributed surplus from 2025. Therefore, she projected a 2026 surplus balance of \$370,000 that could be used to offset member contribution costs, adding that discussion should occur as to whether these funds will offset operating or capital expenses in 2027, taking into account that the municipalities can only go out for debt with capital expenses.

Director Lavorini stated that Seven Fields contributions would only be used to offset operating expenses in the proposed 2027 budget, a difference from 2026, adding that this was an item for discussion. She pointed to the employee count comparison and added that added that 15 officers are at or will achieve full rate in 2027, and ten officers hired prior to January 1, 2013, remained on payroll. She highlighted these numbers due to their overall effect on pension contribution.

In the capital reserve fund, Director Lavorini pointed out \$12.9 million in revenues and expenses of \$13.6 million in expenses in the capital reserve account, with most of the expenses related to the building project. She stated that grant revenue and offsetting alternate building expenses were broken out, and the assumption was made that base municipality contribution would be \$10 million, as opposed to net of prior and future building expenses. Director Lavorini added that regarding the fund balance, all items previously approved by the Board will either be under a purchase order or be spent, to prevent rebudgeting in 2027. She stated that in the municipal contribution calculation, she added a few columns to demonstrate the contributions with and without 7 Fields and surplus numbers.

Director Lavorini recommended a minimum fund balance of \$500,000 and estimated a 2026 fiscal year-end balance of about \$870,000, leaving a surplus as discussed. She stated that the vehicle grant in the amount of \$93,000 was not yet reflected in the budget and could change prior to final budget approval. She elaborated further on Seven Fields, healthcare expenses, gasoline, utilities, and school resource officer (SRO) figures. She added that the NRPD was expected to sell three vehicles in 2027. Discussion ensued regarding the new hires, with Chief DeWick reminding the Board of their need for 46 uniformed officers and 3 non-uniform staff, having lost five officers in 2026 already. Police Board members asked questions regarding future retirees and the DROP program and potential resignations. Director Lavorini also referenced the interfund operating transfer, stating that total capital project expenses were expected to be \$10 million.

Chairman Ryan Colombo requested that the municipal managers speak with Chief DeWick prior to the October meeting about their budgetary comments and concerns. Chief DeWick asked the Police Board for guidance on the five factors increasing the budget significantly, including legal services and staffing. Discussion ensued around the social worker position, with several board members asking questions as to the duties of social workers and police officers, and whether interns or grants could be considered for this position. Chief DeWick replied that interns, and grant funding for these positions were hard to come by but assured the Board that hiring a social worker would prevent repeat mental health calls in the long-term and increase police attention to areas such as traffic. Solicitor Jonathan Whalen stated that the social worker position would not be in the CBA, and asked if the Police Board could go into executive session to discuss.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The motion was made by Victoria Pongrace and seconded by Donna Snyder to enter executive session. The vote on the motion was unanimous. Motion carried.
The time was 9:10pm.

The motion was made by Victoria Pongrace and seconded by Donna Snyder to come out of executive session. The vote on the motion was unanimous. Motion carried.
The time was 9:15pm.

UPDATE ON PROPOSED 2027 BUDGET (CONTINUED)

Board member Donna Snyder expressed her concern that that a 7% increase in member contributions was not sustainable for the municipalities. Chief DeWick replied that the majority of the increase was based on the five factors as stated, but that this was why he requested guidance on staffing expenses for 2027. Chairman Ryan Colombo expressed hesitation to provide guidance with several board members missing. Chief DeWick also noted the new Allegheny County childcare leave policy, adding that it would be affecting two officers in the coming months.

Victoria Pongrace asked about trends among call volume. Chief DeWick replied that while calls have increased, the average call duration was increasing, especially regarding mental health. He added that these lengthy calls limit valuable police services, adding that they didn't currently have a reliable place to send these mental health cases without a social worker. Victoria Pongrace asked about SROs and if it would be worth looking into two social workers, and Chief DeWick replied that the department barely had the space for one at this time. He confirmed that a social worker cannot replace a police officer, and that officers will still respond to calls. Chief DeWick also stated that the school board was content with the current SRO services provided by the NRPD, and police were not responding to as many calls at the school.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE NRPD UNIFORM FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT AND MINIMUM MUNICIPAL OBLIGATION FOR THE 2027 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

The motion was made by John Marshall and seconded by Jason Bragunier to approve the NRPD Uniform Financial Requirement and Minimum Municipal Obligation for the 2027 Municipal Budget. The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. Motion carried.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE NRPD NON-UNIFORM FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT AND MINIMUM MUNICIPAL OBLIGATION FOR THE 2027 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

The motion was made by Ray Kendrick and seconded by Jason Bragunier to approve the NRPD Non-Uniform Financial Requirement and Minimum Municipal Obligation for the 2027 Municipal Budget. The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. Motion carried.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE HIRING OF OFFICER CANDIDATE AKIN OBIRI

The motion was made by John Marshall and seconded by Ray Kendrick to approve the hiring of officer candidate Akin Obiri, effective November 2, 2026. The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. Motion carried.

MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2026-3 "PROCEDURES FOR SELECTION OF NEW UNIFORMED POLICE OFFICERS"

Chief DeWick presented Resolution 2026-3, as an adjustment to the hiring policies and procedures outlined in Resolution 2026-2, specifically revising and loosening college credit requirements to allow for greater flexibility in hiring qualified candidates with a combination of police, military, and college

experience. He added that they had recently lost an officer candidate due to them having missed three college credits under the old policy and the resolution aimed to expand the hiring pool.

The motion was made by Donna Snyder and seconded by Casey White to approve Resolution 2026-3 "Procedures for Selection of New Uniformed Police Officers." The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. Motion approved.

UPDATE ON NEW OFFICER HIRING PROCESS

Chief DeWick reminded the Police Board that the hiring process takes approximately six months, and they were hoping to start a new one on November 5, 2026. However, the changes in the hiring process warranted amending the agenda.

MOTION TO AMEND THE SEPTEMBER POLICE BOARD AGENDA TO INITIATE THE HIRING PROCESS, INCORPORATING RESOLUTION 2026-3 "PROCEDURES FOR SELECTION OF NEW UNIFORMED POLICE OFFICERS"

The motion was made by Jason Bragunier and seconded by Victoria Pongrace to amend the September Police Board agenda to initiate the hiring process, incorporating Resolution 2026-3 "Procedures for Selection of New Uniformed Police Officers." The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. Motion approved.

MOTION TO APPROVE A NEW OFFICER CANDIDATE TESTING CYCLE FOR NOVEMBER 5, 2026, IN ACCORDANCE WITH RESOLUTION 2026-3

The motion was made by Victoria Pongrace and seconded by John Marshall to approve a new officer candidate testing cycle for November 5, 2026, in accordance with resolution 2026-3 "Procedures for Selection of New Uniformed Police Officers." The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. Motion approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

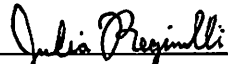
Chief DeWick reflected on his conversation with Mr. Guty and all officers involved in the investigation.

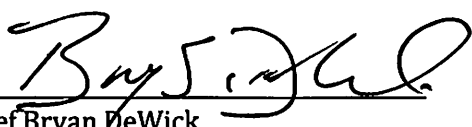
EXECUTIVE SESSION

The decision was made by the Police Board to forgo the executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn was made by Donna Snyder and seconded by John Marshall. The aye vote on the motion was unanimous. Motion carried.
The meeting adjourned at 9:36 PM.


Recording Secretary – Julia Reginelli


Chief Bryan DeWick