



Evans City/Seven Fields Regional Police
Commission Meeting Minutes

August 29, 2022 @ 5:15 p.m. (Evans City)

Members Present Dawn Servello, Dean Galitsis, Cheri Deener-Kohan, Dean Zinkhann, Patty Tumminello-Murphy, Sandy Hein, Chief Joseph McCombs, Tom Smith, Regional Police Administrator, and Matt Racunas, Solicitor.

Sandy Hein made a motion to approve the July 25, 2022 meeting minutes contingent on a review of the meeting notes and audio recording as requested by Patty Tumminello-Murphy for a comment that may need to be included. Dawn Servello seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The payables (7/15-8/26/2022) were presented. Sandy Hein made a motion to approve the payables as presented at this meeting. Dawn Servello seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Commission Members reviewed the Evans City Seven Fields Regional Police Department's Calls for Service for July 2022. Regional Police Administrator Smith noted that Evans City Borough had 54 calls and the Borough of Seven Fields had 87 calls. Chief McCombs presented statistical data from 1/1/2015 thru 8/15/2022. He stated that there was a total of 10,264 events for traffic enforcement and non-traffic citations totaling \$279,193 in fines. 54.6% of this total was traffic enforcement. Of the 355 motor vehicle accidents in Seven Fields, none occurred on Mars Crider Road. He noted that there were 1,500 stops on Mars Crider Road and added that the Borough of Seven Fields has added 2 portable radar units and pedestrian crossing signs for traffic calming. The high-end speed violations on Mars Crider Road consisted of one out of 1,400 cars driving 15-20 miles over the speed limit. Dawn Servello noted that radar sign data for twelve days from 7/2-8/15/22 have reflected high-speed alerts between 50-62 mph, but she does not have the total number of vehicles. Chief McCombs responded that we don't know how many of those drivers were pulled over by the ECSF Regional police and that over 100 citations were issued on that road this year but there were no accidents. Chief McCombs suggested possibly the borough can put in removable composite speed bumps again to help address the resident's speed concerns. Regional Police Commissioner Smith said himself, Chief McCombs, and Corporal Longdon could meet with the traffic engineer, Damon, who previously had concerns regarding the speed bumps. Chief McCombs said that a police officer cannot be dedicated to Mars Crider Road all the time due to having 324 total open shifts the past year. This is a savings of \$52K in payroll costs. Regional Police Administrator Smith said there was a drop in this month's open shifts and it has been improving. He complimented Chief McCombs for a great job managing the schedule. Chief McCombs said that the Citation Log by Officer report will no longer be included in the meeting packets for there is information in that report that should not be public.

Regional Police Administrator Smith presented the resignation of Officer Leo DiCesare which was effective 8/14/2022. Patty Tumminello-Murphy made a motion to accept the resignation of Officer DiCesare. Cheri Deener-Kohan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Regional Police Administrator Smith requested the authorization of a \$4,000 payment to Hosack, Specht, Muetzel, and Wood LLP for the 2021 external financial audit. Sandy Hein made a motion to pay \$4,000 for the 2021 financial audit. Patty-Tumminello-Murphy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Regional Police Administrator Smith requested a motion to approve the ECSF Regional Police Pension 2023 Minimum Municipal Obligation (\$64,193) and for it to be earmarked in the 2023 ECSF Regional Police Department's budget. He explained we will get state aid to help offset this. Sandy Hein made a motion to commit \$64,193 for the Pension MMO in the 2023 ECSF Regional Police Department Budget. Dawn Servello seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Regional Police Administrator Smith requested approval for the ECSF Regional Police Department to obtain a PLGIT P-card. He explained that it is similar to a credit card, has no annual fee, and up to 4 cards can be issued. Sandy Hein commented that her company uses these types of cards and they are very manageable and flexible per person, and you cannot take cash out. Patty Tumminello-Murphy asked if the card had fraud protection. Mr. Smith replied yes. Sandy Hein made a motion to approve the opening of a PLGIT P-card for use by the ECSF Regional Police Department and to gather more information on what PLGIT will need. Patty Tumminello-Murphy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Regional Police Administrator Smith requested a motion to approve the annual payment for the two 2020 Ford Interceptors of \$19,529.90. This is the 2nd out of 4 payments. Dawn Servello made a motion to pay Tax Exempt Leasing \$19,529.90 for the 2nd annual payment for the 2020 Fords. Dean Zinkhann seconded the motion. Motion carried. Chief McCombs commented that since it is budget time, he was notified by ISV the cost of buying a 2023 SUV after January 1st will increase by \$8,000 over buying a 2022 SUV this year. After Patty Tumminello-Murphy asked what he thinks the police department needed, Chief McCombs responded the police department only needs one vehicle to replace the 2017 Ford with 83,000 miles on it.

Regional Police Administrator Smith requested a motion to approve a donation of \$600 to the Evans City Sportsman Club. The police officers use this shooting range year-round. Patty Tumminello-Murphy made a motion to donate \$600 to the Evans City Sportsman Club. Dawn Servello seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Regional Police Administrator Smith presented the quote for the purchase of a new Taser X26P at the cost of \$1,686.91. He explained the 2022 Taser budget is \$1,056, but as Chief McCombs mentioned, personnel costs are down \$52K so we can transfer funds to cover the additional cost. Dawn Servello made a motion to purchase a Taser X26P at the cost of \$1,686.91. Sandy Hein seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Regional Police Administrator Smith presented the three quotes for new patrol unit laptops explaining the last time laptops were purchased was in 2018. They were budgeted in the 2022 capital reserve budget at \$19,795. Chief McCombs explained the current laptops are lagging and this upgrade would also replace the Jetpacks with Cradle Point Wi-Fi routers, a major upgrade allowing Butler 911 the ability to see the patrol units on the county map via GPS. Dawn Servello made a motion to purchase four laptops from Dell Technologies, as presented to include the installation by Innovative Safety and Cradle Point routers at the total cost of \$18,376.84. Patty Tumminello-Murphy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chief McCombs stated that the ECSF Regional Police Department received notification they were awarded a 50/50 match grant (\$9,929) from the Small Rural Tribal Body-Worn Camera (BWC) Program, which will pay half of the cost of purchasing body-worn cameras. 400 agencies were awarded funds nationwide with 19 agencies in the state of Pennsylvania. He added the current two Watch Guard Windows 7 desktop towers at each station will need to be upgraded from the servers to Cloud data storage so the in-car cameras can sync with the Body-worn cameras. This purchase of \$7,060 is in addition to the cost of the body-worn cameras. Regardless of the various vendor prices, Corporal Longdon explained that Motorola's BWC can be compatible with the department's current in-car camera system. If we go with a different vendor than Motorola, we would need to replace the entire in-car camera system. It was

decided that 3 quotes for body-worn cameras and additional information on the grant requirements will be reviewed at the next meeting to be able to accept the BWC grant.

Chief McCombs asked to discuss the current practice of the ECSF Regional Police Department's officers being allowed to use a payroll deduction to purchase weapons may be removed from the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) currently in negotiations. He continued that if the payroll deduction was removed, it takes away the ability to upgrade a weapon, therefore, the police bargaining unit requested that each officer be provided a duty weapon and have those costs included in future budgets. The police commission would be the owner of that weapon. Matt Racunas, the Solicitor, stated that the ECSF Police Commission is legally bound to the past practice of the current CBA of allowing the police officer to use a payroll deduction to purchase weapons.

Cheri Deener-Kohan requested a motion to retain Campbell, Durrant, and Beatty, P.C. as labor legal counsel for the police negotiations for the Collective Bargaining Agreement (Act 111 Sec 3). Matt Racunas, the Solicitor, said they are an excellent firm. Tom requested that David Mitchell be the labor counsel. Cheri Deener-Kohan asked that the person they use does not have an existing relationship. Matt Racunas said a motion is not needed to retain labor legal counsel.

Robert Reppert, Evans City Borough council member, addressed the ECSF Regional Police Dept. Police Commission. With a son who is a police officer in Pennsylvania, he feels the body cameras will help eliminate the possibility of a future lawsuit, thus saving the police department money. Adding, one lawsuit would wipe out the investment in the BWC. He hopes that items, such as training requests, will positively move through the commission with less procrastination even though items have already been budgeted.

Dawn Servello made a motion to adjourn for an executive session at 7:15 pm. Sandy Hein seconded the motion. The executive session ended at 7:27 pm.

To get clarification on the discussion about the weapon payroll deduction, Corporal Longdon stated that the union's standpoint is that the ESCF Police Commission will have to purchase duty weapons if they cannot use a payroll deduction. Matt Racunas, the Solicitor, explained that we cannot change past practices and are legally bound to the past with the current contract that allows the officers to buy a weapon using a payroll deduction. In a future contract, it could be negotiated. Corporal Longdon asked if he can assure the union they can still use payroll deductions to order weapons and that the ECSF police Commission would not instruct Chief McCombs not to approve a payroll deduction. The ECSF Regional Police Commission agreed.

Patty Tumminello-Murphy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 pm. Cheri Deener - Kohan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Brooks
ECSF Regional PD Secretary