

**Regional Police Development Committee
North Cornwall Township & North Lebanon Township
May 14, 2024**

Call to Order:

The May 14, 2024, meeting of the Regional Police Development Committee was called to order by Mike Wahmann at 5:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. In attendance were Justin Thompson, NCT Manager; Sgt. Paul Savini, NCT Police Department; Mike Wahmann, NCT Supervisor, Ron Sell, NCT Supervisor; Lori Books, NLT Manager, Chief Timothy Knight, NLT Police Department, Arden Snook, NLT Supervisor, Gary Heisey, NLT Supervisor and Dan Bost, District Director for Senator Gebhard.

Others in attendance are listed on the sign-in sheet.

Discussion/Action:

Approval of Minutes from March 27, 2024, Meeting – The Committee reviewed the meeting minutes from the March 27, 2024, meeting. Mr. Sell made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as written. Mr. Heisey seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Charter Agreement Update:

Mr. Wahmann explained that the Draft Charter Agreement had been sent to North Cornwall and North Lebanon Township's legal counsel for review after the March 27, 2024, meeting. Upon receipt of advisement from the attorneys, additions and deletions were made to the agreement. Mr. Wahmann reviewed the changes. Changes included adding that both participating municipalities would have to approve the Commission's borrowing of any funds totaling over \$50,000.00. References to Exhibits were deleted. Also, the Committee agreed to add an amendment allowing one or both municipalities to withdraw from the agreement if the finalized budget proposal for the Regional Police Department is over 7% higher than what was proposed. Such a withdrawal would have no penalties for the withdrawing Municipality.

Mr. Heisey commented that if either side is not completely satisfied with anything, they can back out at any time before the department becomes operational.

Mr. Snook explained to those in attendance that the charter must be agreed to, and the Regional Police Department must be formed to pursue other items such as pensions, health care, the final budget, and contracts.

Public Comment:

Cheri Grumbine asked for clarification of the withdrawal amendment that is to be added to the Charter Agreement after this meeting. Discussion followed.

Mr. Heisey asked Mr. Thompson to provide, for the record, the proposed budget numbers. Mr. Thompson responded that the original proposed budget contribution was \$2,165,254.08. With adjusted health insurance projections and 7% added, the new proposed budget reflects \$2,371,926.70 as the maximum contribution from each municipality. The published budget proposal will not show the 7% addition, added Mr. Wahmann.

Mike Webster asked the Committee if withdrawing from the agreement is just an option if the budget goes over the 7% increase. Mr. Wahmann responded that it is an option and an increase can be agreed to.

Dan Bost asked if the Committee had recent contact with DCED. Mr. Snook and Chief Knight have been in contact with the representative.

Jim Cikovic inquired about the opinions of the Police Union Presidents about this merger. Sgt. Savini responded that their (NCT) Police Association is supportive of the regionalization. Additionally, Sgt. Savini has not heard any animosity from members of the North Cornwall Township Police Department. Mr. Bost added that his discussions with police officers throughout the community have provided very positive feedback regarding the regionalization and he rarely receives negative feedback. Mr. Snook stated he has heard from the North Lebanon Township Police Union President and the concerns shared were regarding the final contract for officers.

Mr. Heisey made a motion to send the Charter Agreement with the amendment clause added from today's meeting to the North Cornwall and North Lebanon Township's Board of Supervisors to review and move for the approval to advertise an Ordinance accepting the Charter Agreement. Mr. Sell seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Adjournment: Mr. Sell motioned to adjourn at 5:54 pm. Mr. Heisey seconded the motion. All were in favor.