

## **SOUTH WARREN REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION**

**March 19, 2013**

The meeting of the South Warren Regional Police Commission was called to order by Mayor Steinhardt at 9:00 am. The meeting was held at the Lopatcong Township Municipal Building located at 232 S. Third St., Phillipsburg, New Jersey. A silent prayer was offered followed by the Oath of Allegiance.

Mayor Steinhardt stated “adequate notice of this meeting has been provided indicating the time and place of this meeting in accordance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975 by advertising a Notice in The Star Gazette and The Express-Times and by posting a copy on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building.”

Present: Mayor Steinhardt, Mayor Kern, Councilwomen McCabe and Van Lieu. Also present were Lopatcong Township Chief of Police Scott Marinelli, Pohatcong Township Acting Chief of Police Greenemeir and CFO Dobes.

### **Old Business:**

**Minutes** – Mayor Steinhardt asked for a motion to approve the minutes of February 19, 2013. Motion by Mayor Kern, seconded by Councilwoman Van Lieu. Roll call vote:  
AYES: Councilwomen McCabe and Van Lieu, Mayor Kern and Mayor Steinhardt  
NAYS: None

**Meeting DCA/Civil Service** – Mayor Steinhardt reported that both he and Councilwoman Van Lieu met with Nancy Malool of the Department of Community Affairs and Grace Kelley from Civil Service and several other representatives from the DCA on March 11, 2013 at 10:00 am in Trenton for the purpose of going over with them our actions to date and what guidance and assistance these two agencies can offer us in moving the concept of the commission forward. The DCA’s multiple liaisons will be available to consult with us in the course of the ongoing process. A retired Essex County Police Chief is available to assist and work with us in the ongoing formation. We were asked to compile a list of documents for Civil Service and the DCA which includes a seniority list, commentary on healthcare after retirement ordinances in the respective municipalities, the most current collective bargaining agreements, and tables of organizations, chief’s contracts, ordinances establishing the respective police departments and copies of the municipal budgets that include explanations on any fringe packages. They will work with us to revise and refine the bylaws that we had begun several years ago when Marc Pfeiffer was at the DCA. They went over the various forms and formats, offered guidance on that and then ultimately left it in our hands to compile this information to give to them so they can move forward and work with us on the next couple of steps.

Mary Van Lieu reported that they discussed Civil Service versus Non-Civil Service and that would be if we organize now with just the two municipalities, then we are locked into the Civil Service Laws. So if another municipality came in, whether they were Civil Service or not, they would be locked into the Civil Service Laws. If we had another municipality come in now while

we are still organizing then we would not be locked into Civil Service Laws if they were not a Civil Service municipality. If they did come in now, they would have to provide all the same information that we have. So that is a decision we have to make. We would have to decide whether we want to invite another municipality to come in.

Mayor Steinhardt indicated, as he understood it, that there would not be an objection to broaden the group, that the potential resources available would be more for the bigger undertaking and that they seemed to encourage us to move in the direction of a non-civil service entity.

Mayor Kern has set up a meeting to start the process of putting together a budget for 2014 to see what that would look like compared to what is being spent now.

**Committee Reports:**

Councilwoman Van Lieu – Reported some additional information on Civil Service.

Mayor Kern – Finance Committee has scheduled a meeting for Friday to begin the 2014 budget.

Councilwoman McCabe - We should get some questions/answers up on the website this week.

Mayor Steinhardt – On the collective bargaining side, I spoke to the representative in Lopatcong Township and it is my understanding that as soon as the Pohatcong agreement is squared away, we will then be in a position to get together collectively.

**Audience Participation:** Questions and comments were addressed.

Mayor Steinhardt asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Councilwoman Van Lieu, seconded by Councilwoman McCabe.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret B. Dilts  
Secretary