

**MADISON DEPARTMENT OF  
POLICE SERVICES  
REGULAR MEETING – May 11, 2006  
9 CAMPUS DRIVE, MADISON– 7:30 PM**

Attendees: Commissioner Emile Geisenheimer, Commissioner Thomas Cartledge; Commissioner David Smith, Commissioner Michael Rollinson, Commissioner Michael Heaney; Lt. Robert Stimpson.

Absent: Chief Paul Jakubson

Also Present: Members of the community; press; department officers; Charles Walz, Board of Selectmen Liaison; James Deephouse, Board of Finance Liaison; members of the community, former commissioner Bob Cerosky.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM by Chairman Geisenheimer, followed by the Pledge

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Geisenheimer asked for public comments.

Donald Sullivan – Introduced himself as an employee of the Town of Madison since 1997; a dispatcher doing fire, police ambulance & 911. He referenced a letter NAGE (National Association of Government Employees) sent to the first selectman and school superintendent regarding the dispatch move to Guilford and the deficit to citizens that will occur; that calls will go to Guilford and 97% of them will come back to Madison for dispatching. He said he would ask the Police Commission to make public comments on their feelings for the moving of dispatch functions to Guilford. There is a meeting on May 15 to sign a contract with the Town of Guilford for 911 functions. He said he feels this is a disservice to Madison and its residents. How can the Board of Finance address a move of such substantial magnitude involving hundreds of thousands of dollars? Madison will no longer be a 911 center; in addition, Section 5-18 of the State of Connecticut Statutes means Guilford will not be a regional dispatch center since they will not be dispatching police.

He concluded by asking, who will take cell calls from people on the highway with medical emergencies or those calls of a person in town? He asked that they read the letter and provide their comments on the move.

Jim Deephouse, 11 Linden Lane. Mr. Deephouse commented on the traffic lights at East Wharf /Boston Post Road & Island Avenue/Boston Post Road. Both lights are dramatically different. Before the re-paving job last year they operated the same. He is requesting that the Island Avenue light be ‘demand’ activated; seems both lights are now on timers. Chairman Geisenheimer stated, as the Police Commission is the traffic authority, they will research this. Commissioner Heaney asked, what is the specific problem? Mr. Deephouse replied, the East Wharf light senses the car’s approach within 10-15 seconds. The Island Avenue intersection light stays red for ½ to 1 minute – it doesn’t function the same as the East Wharf light; before the paving they were the same.

Former Commissioner/Chairman Bob Cerosky commented that the State Traffic Commission has responsibility, but the Police Commission can make a request to have it investigated.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION** by Smith, second by Rollinson to accept the minutes of the special/regular meeting of April 18, 2006 with two amendments requested by Commissioner Heaney. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

With regard to the Traffic Report in the Consent Agenda, Commissioner Heaney commented that there has been a huge increase over last year; the traffic officers are to be commended. In March it doubled; speeding and DWI went up 50%.

Lt. Stimpson explained, there is a new shift commander on midnight who is very pro active on traffic; also, DWI shifts on weekends have been more productive as of late. A lot of that is determined by the weather. This answered Chairman Geisenheimer's comments regarding the increases. Lt. Stimpson continued, we are the recipient of the Department of Transportation mini grant to commence 5/18; it will be in place for 4 days, non consecutively. Throughout various locations of town the police will operate in conjunction with the Clinton Police Dept. We are reimbursed 100% of payroll costs. He advised townspeople to heed the seat belt laws and have children in appropriate child seats.

Commissioner Cartledge asked if the new shift lieutenant is a permanent assignment; Lt. Stimpson advised, it is done on a shift bid basis. He concluded by commending Lt. O'Connor for his diligence.

**MOTION** by Rollinson, second by Smith to accept the Consent Agenda, minus the traffic recommendation. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Lt. Stimpson reviewed the Asst. Director of Public Works and Town Engineer Michael Ott's request for the construction of playing fields adjacent to Polson Middle School in the area of Copse & Green Hill. This request from P & Z is for 'no parking signs' along Green Hill Road from the Polson entrance to Copse Road. Traffic Officer Bryan Baxter concurs with the engineer's request. Chairman Geisenheimer noted that there are residences in the vicinity. Lt. Stimpson advised, there has never been 'on road' parking in that area.

Chairman Geisenheimer feels the concern is people attending playing fields activities will park on the road. Lt. Stimpson said there have been fairly severe motor vehicle accidents in this area. Typically, with athletic fields and kids, the parents park anywhere that is convenient. This intersection is not conducive to parking on the street. Chairman Geisenheimer asked if there is an adequacy of parking? Lt. Stimpson said the point is, there is plenty of parking at Polson and at Hand. They can also park at Jeffrey School, which is not that far. Chairman Geisenheimer feels that this is similar to the issues of parking in town and the center; once town bodies get involved, it becomes his concern. Various commissions get involved in approval processes for their projects; he thinks it useful if the Commission sees 'who has what authority for what' in this category. Mr. Cerosky added, the Police Commission has responsibility under state traffic laws for parking on town & state roads. Some things have to be cleared with DOT on state roads. Chairman Geisenheimer said he was not aware of the process to coordinate with P & Z to follow rules for off-street parking and is not sure how the data is pulled together.

Commissioner Rollinson stated, he believes the Town entered in a contract 2-3 years ago and we are paying with an option to buy. These plans have been in the works for 2-3 years. This is adjacent to town owned property; he thinks it was the intention to use the schools' parking lots. Chairman Geisenheimer noted, there was a public meeting when this was discussed at which time the neighborhood objected due to parking safety on Green Hill Road. P & Z is specifically requesting, 'No Parking' on Green Hill Road. He is concerned as to exactly what the plan is for parking. Selectman Walz commented, this project is moving forward; the timeline is to be operational by next spring. The Town just got \$500,000 from the state. Commissioner Heaney noted, what is missing here is, there is no designation on the blueprint for the closest parking. Doesn't know exactly how close the schools are; what is pedestrian access from the schools to the fields? There are no sidewalks; it needs to be relatively convenient. Mr. Walz answered, the sidewalks run from the lots to the front of the schools and across the existing parking at Polson. These fields are between Green Hill & Polson and abut existing fields. It is not unreasonable to think parking would be at the existing parking lots. These will also be athletic fields for the schools. Lt. Stimpson added, this parcel abuts the land adjacent to Jeffrey School. It might be prudent for the town to put a clearly marked, designated walkway between Jeffrey School & the fields. There are a lot of youth lacrosse and little league games this time of year. Commissioner Rollinson said the bigger concern with this plan is parents dropping off players on Green Hill. Chairman Geisenheimer feels he doesn't have enough information; needs to know the parking areas, pedestrian access, handicapped access. Parking restrictions make sense and he would like a conversation with other boards and the town engineer.

**MOTION** by Cartledge, second by Smith to authorize the placement of 'No Parking' signs along Green Hill Road as indicated along the map. Commissioner Cartledge addressed the press by saying their

comments could allude to the reasons we are doing this and they could add sketches or drawings in the article to make people aware of changes taking place.

Commissioner Smith added, he feels the signs should say “No Parking” and “No Standing”. The motion was then amended to:

**MOTION** by Cartledge, second by Smith to authorize the placement of ‘No Parking’ and ‘No Standing’ signs along Green Hill Road as indicated along the map. All in favor. None opposed. So moved

Mr. Deephouse added, the high school entrance is on the other side of the properties – another 300-400 feet. Commissioner Rollinson stated, that road is not conducive to parking – with all the traffic, teenage drivers, buses, etc., it makes it difficult to get in and out. Chairman Geisenheimer called the amended motion. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Overtime Results**

Lt. Stimpson explained, the report is broken down by category; it is important to note that although the OJI (on the job injury) replacement was \$4,028, it will be repaid by CIRMA (Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency). He listed the amounts of the overtime expenses. The officer is now back to work following surgery for his injury.

- **Accreditation Process – Status**

Lt. Stimpson, who is the coordinator of this process, reported that as of this month, his committee submitted another 3 policies to the chief for his review & signature. They are getting through general operations – traffic, accident, pursuits, etc. His hope is to get Tier 1 done by the end of the year. The state just reviewed the accreditation standards. The impact to us is that the policies we have already done could potentially have to be redone. The state says we have until the end of the year to get the tier we are in completed without having to address the new standards. “The press is on”.

He continued, the committee is more than half way through. They are not trying to reinvent the wheel; they are using other department policies and tweaking them to have them work for Madison. The initial Tier 1 accreditation is taking a little longer but the balance of policy work will be a lot shorter. His target is November; he is confident in that date. This is a committee process to get officer buy in and get all opinions. The committee is a wide range of officers with different proficiencies. While he tries to make sure the entire committee is present for these meetings, sometimes they cannot delay to accommodate schedules.

- **Radio System Update – Status**

Lt. Stimpson reported, officers are giving rave reviews about the new radio system, particularly with relation to its great penetration into large, metal buildings (high school). The digital system has been tested in the high school and has been flawless. It is a huge benefit to officer safety and hence the public’s. It is very good – works great.

Commissioner Smith asked, do you notify who is being tested? Lt. Stimpson said the Chief has advised Chairman Geisenheimer; the difference is in how we advise EMS personnel who have been given a portable radio with the digital system. We are never out of contact. Chairman Geisenheimer asked if when transmitting, can you use analog & digital? Lt. Stimpson answered no as these are mixed mode systems and they will operate in either analog or digital. If he is in digital, it still monitors analog. An analog radio cannot talk to a digital radio. Chairman Geisenheimer asked if they can transmit simultaneously? Lt. Stimpson explained, the ambulance association can transmit into the station and hear it back analog. If we are on digital, they cannot hear us although we can hear them. He continued, the police don’t do this on a permanent basis; they are testing. The ambulance association is getting ready to change and will upgrade to digital.

- **Status of Staffing Study**

Commissioner Smith said he has been reviewing the Crockett Report and is also reviewing the last two years and the first quarter of this year relative to staffing.

Chairman Geisenheimer added, they are searching for staffing simulations and are on a hunt. He asked for public input. Commissioner Smith continued, he would like to find an expert to help with operations analysis; it is intriguing. Commissioner Heaney added, some upper level studies at Trinity did a study of the Hartford Police Dept. to try to determine if they could come up with parameters to figure out if the staffing in a city department was correct. Also, there was an article in the *NY Times* last month about controversy in NYC regarding their staffing levels. The reporter talked to PDs in several large cities and put the cop/resident ratios to view. It is a very difficult area to pinpoint as to staffing with regard to cop/resident ratios.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- **\$100 Donation to Explorers Unit**

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Sonnichsen donated \$100 to the Explorers in appreciation of assistance received from Officer Neal Mulhern following their home burglary.

**MOTION** by Cartledge, second Smith by to accept a donation of \$100 from Mr. and Mrs. Sonnichsen to the Explorers Unit, with thanks. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

- **Acceptance of Ambulance Association Vehicle**

Lt. Stimpson reported on the donation of a 1992 ambulance by the Ambulance Association. The vehicle is in excellent condition with 143,000 miles. The plan to utilize the vehicle would be to convert it into a multi purpose vehicle which could transport traffic cones, traffic gear, etc. Lt. Stimpson has spoken with officials at Vinyl Tech Regional School; students will repaint and reconfigure the interior as requested. We only need to pay for the paint. It is a very low budget item as there will be no radio in it and it already has lights & sirens. The Ambulance Association's mechanic went through the vehicle, before they donated it. Commissioner Heaney asked if there are any outfitting costs the students can't do? Lt. Stimpson said it would just be to change the striping (currently red) to blue to match our cruisers and remove ambulance decals.

**MOTION** by Cartledge, second by Smith to accept the Ambulance Association vehicle, with thanks to the Ambulance Association and the students at Vinyl Tech. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

- **Special Appropriation Requests / Line Item Transfers**

- To increase Classified OT-Investigative, 1-100-3100-0000-1320-651-00: \$18,000.00
- To increase Gasoline, 1-100-3100-0000-6262-635-00: \$11,000.00
- To increase Class.Ot-Spec. Duty Pay, 1-100-3100-0000-1320-650-00: \$36,000.00

Commissioner Heaney commented, what was approved by the Borad of Finance is not what we traditionally spend; this area has an unrealistic budgeted allocation. He feels the \$18,000 is justified.

**MOTION** by Heaney, second by Smith to accept the requested Classified OT-Investigative special appropriation in the amount of \$18,000.00. All in favor. None opposed. So moved

Chairman Geisenheimer asked if the town locks in on gas prices? Mr. Deephouse answered, it varies from year to year how it is handled; the Board of Finance is not involved in the purchase. Mr. Walz added, for 10 years, energy has not been issue; now it has caught everyone off guard.

**MOTION** by Rollinson, second by Heaney to accept the requested Gasoline special appropriation of \$11,000. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

The special appropriation request in the amount of \$36,000 for overtime costs for special duty for payroll is for outside duty contractors and was explained as basically being a 'wash'. Payroll funds are reimbursed

back to the town by the contractor. Chairman Geisenheimer commented, we do not do the billings or collections from contractors. Repayment by contractors tends to inflate this item in the budget; spending will be reimbursed by contractors. Mr. Deephouse suggested the Police Commission look carefully at the rates the town charges for this. This has gone up recently; he suggested that all these expenses are in the budget and the Commission needs to put pressure on to make sure enough money is returned. Chairman Geisenheimer said he has suggested that these monies should come to the Police Department, which should be responsible for the charges. We don't know if all the hours that went into this cost have a matched collection. He continued, let us manage the revenue and expense. Mr. Deephouse said he doesn't think we are charging enough for outside jobs. Chairman Geisenheimer reiterated, make the Police Department responsible for collections. Nobody knows who is in charge. Mr. Deephouse added, it is not current year billing but it is current year collections. Chairman Geisenheimer concluded, he doesn't know if revenues match costs.

**MOTION** by Rollinson, second by Heaney to accept the requested Class.Ot-Spec. Duty Pay special appropriation of \$36,000. All in favor. None opposed. So moved

Line Item Transfer Requests:

- From Wages 1-100-3100-0000-1040-635-00 to Replacement 1-100-3100-0000-1320-635-00 \$21,000.00
- From Wages 1-100-3100-0000-1040-635-00 to Sal. Admin.: \$500.00
- From Wages 1-100-3100-0000-1040-635-00 to Holiday Differential 1-100-3100-0000-1040-655-00: \$9000.00
- From Wages 1-100-3100-0000-1040-635-00 to Class OT-Ed and Training: \$3,000.00
- From Staff Uniforms 1-100-3100-0000-6550-635-00 to Classified OT-Investigative: \$5,000.00
- From Staff Uniforms 1-100-3100-0000-6550-635-00 to Staff Development: \$500.00

**MOTION** by Smith, second by Heaney to approve four line item transfers from the wages account to other accounts in the amount of \$33,500. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Lt. Stimpson explained, there are two requests to transfer funds from staff uniforms because there is a surplus in that account. He took advantage of grants to obtain officers' vests, which have not had to be funded by our budget. This also takes into account the outstanding balance in officer uniform accounts. The staff development account has been overextended due to lieutenant and sergeant promotions, which require additional training. We have been short FTOs (field training officers) so we have had to train 3 new FTOs to get them ready for the new recruits who will graduate from the Academy the end of this month.

**MOTION** by Heaney, second by Smith to approve two line item transfers totaling \$5,500 from Staff Uniforms to Classified OT-Investigative and Staff Development, as explained. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Rollinson commented that the present commission was not sitting when the dispatch issue came up. He cannot comment on Mr. Sullivan's letter. Mr. Sullivan stated, as this is short notice, he asked that this be part of Old Business at the next meeting.

Commissioner Heaney summarized, the complaints of NOMAD (North Madison Fire Dept.) are an old issue spanning the past couple of years. The First Selectman gathered a committee to review this, although the Commission was not directly involved. John Bowers was assigned to head the study, which Commissioner Heaney said he thought was very well done. John Bowers identified the problems; there were several alternatives. The two main ones were to transfer a portion of dispatch to Guilford under a joint program or to leave all dispatching here, as traditionally it has been. In December it came to a head; he said he feels the Board of Selectmen felt rushed by the volunteer firemen. He is not pointing fingers but it took a long time and the firemen were frustrated. He understands the cost to move to Guilford Vs the cost to remain in Madison was essentially the same, except for a one-time cost to gear up and upgrade Guilford's radio system to be compatible with ours for \$70,000+. Other than that, the way the fire

departments represented this move was that the costs would be the same. In December, the Board of Selectmen voted to proceed with the Guilford option and forwarded it to the Board of Finance to figure out how to raise additional money.

Mr. Sullivan commented, that is pretty much it. The point made by the fire department was they didn't feel safe in the field with one dispatcher on duty. Since January, there has been double dispatch; since March, dispatch has been supervised by the Town's Department of Emergency Management. There have been no issues; some small radio problems. What they do is no less or no more than what Guilford will do. To be a regional dispatch, it was supposed to include North Branford, Madison and Guilford. As it stands now, it can't be regional or funded; someone will have to pay. The new fire chief of North Branford has opted out and doesn't want to move; Madison Hose doesn't want to move; the Ambulance Assn. doesn't want to move; only the NOMAD fire chief is pursuing this. The relocation is more than \$75,000. We will lose our PSAP Center (Public Safety Answering Point). It will all be in Guilford. Since Ed Brunt has taken over via the Town's Department of Emergency Management, he has seen these issues. Mr. Sullivan said he does not condemn the First Selectman; there are a lot of people in town who don't want this move.

Commissioner Smith stated, from the study, there is time between when a call comes in and the dispatching is done. He wonders if that number may be jeopardized in this move? Mr. Sullivan said, Director George Pohorilak of the Office of Emergency Management in Middletown stated, this is the worst move that can be made. It will add seconds if not minutes; the possibility of losing a call in the transfer could be real. It could affect 911 calls from the highway. He suggested David Collins, who lives in Madison and is retired from SNET, could perhaps offer advice.

Commissioner Heaney asked Mr. Walz if he thought the Board of Selectmen would revisit this option? Mr. Walz advised that there will be a public meeting on Monday night (5/15) for town approval. It is not unanimously supported by the Selectmen; they voted twice but it was the only alternative on the table at the time. He continued, he agrees with Don (Sullivan) and doesn't agree with the move. When he had to vote, he had no alternative; the answer was we are playing with safety of citizens. The Board of Selectmen was hoping this would be a two-year test but then they learned North Branford was pulling out. Mr. Sullivan added, since then they have had double dispatch and a supervisor (Ed Brunt) managed by the town. He thinks the problems have been corrected, but no one wants to look at that. Mr. Walz answered, at the time the decision was made they did not have all the solutions. He agrees that the Selectmen have addressed the issues, but has it gone so far that he doesn't know if there will be a majority vote to reverse it. It came down to the major concern of citizen safety. He heard 100% of the calls (fire, 911, ambulance) will come back to Madison; that is, the calls will go to Guilford and then be sent back to Madison. Staffing will not be affected. He doesn't know if he can get NOMAD to change their minds.

Lt. Stimpson added, Ed Brunt is doing a fantastic job with his ability to manage the dispatch operation and give them the services they deserve. He is doing a great job. One of primary reasons Lt. Stimpson said he doesn't want the PSAP to leave is the advent of all cell phones being equipped with GPS. We use that technology and we really need it. The police deal with cell phone callers in domestics, motorists following drunk drivers, visitors to town, etc. Sometimes the only way we can locate the vehicle is via the GPS locator.

Commissioner Cartledge commented to Mr. Walz that it seems so obvious that we hear budget concerns from town, staffing at the police department and from citizens. From what Don Sullivan has just explained, it is a no-brainer. The driving force is NOMAD? What they want Vs the safety of the town and tracing calls with an expense of one-quarter of a million dollars – how is it conceivable that they can do this?

Mr. Walz said enough has changed in a very short period of time (30-45 days) that the image you see today is not what we had 45 days ago. There was open war between NOMAD, Madison Hose, the Ambulance Assn. and the police department for 18 months. They tried to get all parties together to solve issues, but it hasn't happened. His perspective is, dispatching fire trucks was breaking down – the safety of townspeople and the fire departments' arguments were strong enough to see it breaking down. The former Commission recommended moving to Guilford. Lt. Stimpson said, he had commented that with the department downsizing he didn't have time to supervise Dispatch. Mr. Walz added, it was a very dangerous situation

at the time. The Selectmen had John Bowers go through an extensive study; he identified a solution to go to Guilford. They looked at Valley Shore Regional Center but the fire departments wanted to go to Guilford. It was perceived as a supervision/management problem. Powerphone, when asked, had no recommendations.

Chairman Geisenheimer concluded that although this was not an agenda item, it was important to discuss. He will look into this further. Commissioner Smith asked if the cost of database migration is factored into this? That will be horrific. Lt. Stimpson answered, that is why we don't want to lose the PSAP, which automatically populates our CAD.

**CHAIRMAN COMMENTS:** None

**MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE**

Lt. Stimpson reviewed letters sent to the department to include a letter regarding the Madison Landing project and its approval of a road improvement certificate and a commendation of Officer Neal Mulhern and the EMT crew for their response to a medical situation.

**MOTION** by Rollinson, second by Cartledge to adjourn at 9:43 PM. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

Minutes Accepted: June 8, 2006