

**MADISON DEPARTMENT OF
POLICE SERVICES
REGULAR MEETING – October 11, 2007
9 CAMPUS DRIVE, MADISON– 7:30 PM**

Attendees: Chairman Emile Geisenheimer, Commissioner David Smith, Commissioner Thomas Cartledge, Commissioner Garry Gyenizs, Chief Paul Jakubson, Commissioner Larry Moon (arrives 8:20 PM)

Also Present: Lt. Dobbin; Charles Walz, Board of Selectmen Liaison; James Deephouse, Board of Finance Liaison

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Geisenheimer called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 PM and asked that all rise to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION by Smith, second by Cartledge to move the Wrecker List Lottery to the beginning of the meeting. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

• **Wrecker List Lottery**

Aronson's Auto Body; Guilford Automotive LLC; Guilford Texaco, Inc.; Guilford Tire Company; Madison Auto Body; Midway Service, Inc.; United Tire, Inc. are all interested in being on the wrecker list to be called in rotation.

Chief Jakubson explained that the Department policy regarding towing services is to hold a lottery once a year when there are more than five towing companies wishing to be on the call list. Seven towing companies have submitted their request; five will be drawn at random for this upcoming year.

Chairman Geisenheimer called on Mr. Walz to draw the five names from a box. The names were drawn: Aronson's Auto Body; Guilford Automotive LLC; Guilford Texaco, Inc.; United Tire, Inc Guilford Tire Company. Lt. Stimpson will notify the companies and they will be placed into rotation.

MOTION by Smith, second by Cartledge to enter Executive Session at 7:34 PM. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Present: Chairman Emile Geisenheimer, Commissioner David Smith, Commissioner Thomas Cartledge, Commissioner Garry Gyenizs, Chief Paul Jakubson, James Deephouse; Charles Walz; Christie Hodge, Board Clerk.

Discussion: Personnel Issues

REGULAR SESSION

Return to Regular Session at 8:06 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Charles Walz, One Advent Hill complimented the leadership of the commissioners for the handling of the matters they are currently addressing and secondly, addressed the townspeople by noting they have great Police Department with good officers. He feels it is important that residents approach the officers and show their support. He continued, he has respect for the officers.

GRIEVANCE (S)

- IBPO: 10-2007 – 2nd Step (Postponed pending MOU)

Chief Jakubson said this grievance is held in abeyance pending a discussion of a potential MOU (memorandum of understanding). He advised he is meeting with the Human Resources Director on October 18th to further review this MOU.

CONSENT AGENDA: Acceptance – Meeting Minutes – Regular Meeting of September 13, 2007

MOTION by Gyenizs, second by Smith to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of September 13, 2007. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Chief Jakubson pointed out a couple of line items on the Financial pages. He noted, under ‘Wages – vacation buy back’ does not show any reduction. He is working with the Finance Dept. to show the correct deductions. He noted the same situation with the ‘part time officer’ account which does not show reductions in that line item which have occurred.

The Chief discussed the reported Call Types for Time Analysis purposes with the average number of calls. This report is for the period 1/1-10/1/07 with the number of call breakdowns, average number of units which could be fire & ambulance, average time in queue, average travel time, average response time, total time – all units on scene; average time per call and average time per unit. This breakdown is a good start.

Commissioner Cartledge noted the travel times are sometimes so skewed, i.e., stolen property? The Chief said there is usually an explanation if a call seems to have sat in queue; most likely, he feels someone did not enter the time out in the computer. Chairman Geisenheimer agreed, this is a helpful start.

Training Report: Chief Jakubson noted that we are keeping up with our training schedules – the training sergeant keeps a list of every officer’s training requirements, based on recertification dates. They are trying to get people recertified in a shorter timeframe by putting them in a regional setting. The cost is approximately the same, but the time expended is shorter and replacement time is less.

Chairman Geisenheimer noted that last year we talked about the firing range and firearms training - has that been resolved? The Chief said we are complying with the state mandates. It is a matter of time & availability and getting the people there. Our primary firearms instructor is injured – he may not return to work. We are training Officer Ernie Boggs at this time to be the firearms instructor. The key class for him is instructor development. When he is done, we will have a certified firearms instructor. Clinton has installed a unique firearms training facility to include close quarters combat. They are using ballistic concrete blocks for absorption – we will be able to take advantage of their facility for training.

MOTION by Smith, second by Cartledge to accept the Chief’s Reports. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Committee Reports: None

8:19 PM

OLD BUSINESS

- Traffic Accident Study and Analysis – Lt. Dobbin

Lt. Dobbin was prepared to explain contributing factors of where accidents happen and the reasons. He handed out a Case Incident Report packet.

He explained, *Following Too Close* is a contributing factor with the most common cause for accidents and noted the locations where the most accidents occurred.

Moon arrives at 8:20 PM.

Lt. Dobbin’s report had case incident reports, noting common causes, to include the 31 contributing factors scored off the state’s report.

Chairman Geisenheimer was surprised at the small number of accidents noted with speed as a factor. Lt. Dobbin said ‘speed accidents’ which show a cause noted by an officer take a lot more time; the officers do a skid mark analysis. He explained how some ‘too fast’ accidents are classified as ‘following too close’. Chairman Geisenheimer noted, you can enforce speeding reasonably; Chief Jakubson added that if we actively pursued following too closely, there would be more people issued tickets.

Chairman Geisenheimer asked how you enforce following too closely? Lt. Dobbin said it is a judgment call by the officer, who uses 2 reference points. It is very difficult to determine.

Chairman Geisenheimer said he would like to get an analysis and perhaps traffic enforcement data to focus on where we should be situated to reduce the number of accidents. By the next meeting he asked Lt. Dobbin for some recommendations to allocate resources by shift, time of day and type of infraction; we should then be able to employ traffic safety.

Mr. Deephouse said at a recent meeting he attended concerning shoreline development for economic activities, traffic problems are significant. One recommendation is for DOT (Department of Transportation) to do a traffic flow improvement assessment along Rte 1, complete with turning lanes. Part of that is to reduce accidents, which turning lanes can do. He thinks it would be helpful for an ongoing log of accidents on Rte.1 which could support a push for DOT to get involved; he thinks this could be a subset of the lieutenant's report which could be furnished to DOT.

Commissioner Cartledge asked for the DOT timing to submit information on Rte. 1. Mr. Deephouse said it is in the future – in the long run it could be very useful. Commissioner Cartledge asked if he takes under advisement what DOT is doing to assist towns? Mr. Deephouse said, yes. Chief Jakubson noted in past 8 months we attained a National Highway Safety Grant for MDTs (mobile data terminals) in cars. The driving force from NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) was to accumulate accident data from state highways and local roads as well. State DOT reports only capture accidents on state roads; property damage only. They have never captured data on secondary roads; part of the PR-1's (Connecticut Uniform Police Accident Report) purpose is to electronically send information to DOT. Madison, in addition 4 other towns, is prepared to funnel this data to DOT; they will be able to draw out and analyze that data. We are providing the longitude and latitude figures; it is an exact placement of where the accident occurred, as compared to previous data which listed nearest intersections. Chairman Geisenheimer noted to Mr. Deephouse that the frequent accident spot in town is Rte. 79 for accidents, more so than Rte.1; from a traffic perspective flow it is Rte. 1. Lt. Dobbin noted that the biggest concentration is in the center of town – Rte. 1 to Wall Street being the most frequent accident site.

Commissioner Moon asked to have the database sorted by street – he would do just the length of Boston Post Road and group by areas.

- **Accreditation**

Chief Jakubson reported this is on hold due to IA investigations; as soon as the investigations are cleared up Lt. Stimpson will begin his committee meetings.

Chief leaves at 8:35 PM.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Study of Organization and Staffing of Administrative and Detective Divisions**

Chairman Geisenheimer noted the commission has planned to conduct a study of the administrative and detective divisions for a while. He has begun with a first interview with the detective division. He is concerned about the detectives' caseload. At the last board meeting we separated the two divisions and have a commissioner for each area. He asked that the commissioners talk to the Chief and/or Lt. Stimpson to set up meetings.

- **Seaview Beach Association Request**

Lt. Dobbin advised, this meeting request was relative to trespassing on Seaview Beach properties. He and Chief Jakubson had a positive meeting with the association's leadership and reached some understanding. He met with the association's board to iron out misunderstandings. Basically, when a non-owner is on the property, the association member will call the police so action can be taken. People tend to take No Trespassing signs down; the association will see that the signs are difficult to remove.

- **Draft Schedule – 2008 Meeting Dates**

Chairman Geisenheimer advised the board must submit its list of 12 monthly meeting dates to the town clerk. He asked that the proposed dates be reviewed; let Christie know if changes are needed and we will vote on this item in December.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: None

Chairman Geisenheimer addressed the upcoming disciplinary hearing for Sgt. Heiden. Sgt. Heiden has been informed that he has been suspended without pay – there is a recommendation by the Chief that he be terminated, based on charges. Accordingly, they want to have him get full process and the Board of Police Commission is charged with the responsibility to hear the charges and complaints by the Police Department and the defense to be put forth by Sgt. Heiden to determine if the charges should be sustained or not and determine the discipline.

The Chairman continued, Sgt. Heiden deserves a fair and prompt hearing – we need to do this as soon as we can. They have not yet heard back from Sgt. Heiden’s attorney - the soonest this meeting can be held is October 19, 2007.

MOTION by Smith, second by Cartledge to set a hearing date at 9:30 AM on October 19, 2007 to hear the charges against Sgt. Heiden. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

The Chairman noted the Chief’s office will prepare the hearing notice and post it with the Town Clerk, in addition to notifying Sgt. Heiden and his representatives.

Commissioner Smith said he would like to commend the detective division (CID) for the work they have been doing for the past six to seven weeks – they have made 17 court runs, numerous arrests and have also conducted and assisted with Internal Affairs investigations. CID is a department of 2 individuals – he offered his commendations to them for the job they do.

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

CHAIRMAN COMMENTS

Chairman Geisenheimer noted are a number of issues, in addition to the Gambardella matter, to be handled. He would like to commend the police department’s leadership – the Chief, lieutenants and CID, for their vigilant work in addressing the situations and doing it in a very speedy manner – the Department needs to be proactive with how the public looks at such matters. The Department has have dealt with this openly and honestly and that is a tribute to them. He thinks the community needs to know that this being done in a very assertive manner so they can trust and rely on the officers in the street. It is his belief that the officers – the vast majority of them – are dedicated, hardworking and honest people and they are here to protect all of us from the bad guys and they do a good job of that. It is a shame that an individual can discredit the reputations of the officers in town. Additionally, he wants to assure the officers that their Police Commission is very support of them and understands the burden placed on them. They are working hard – working overtime and spending time away from their families. In addition, they have to deal with the unpleasantness of the public who may attribute these accusations to individuals in the whole Department. It is not an easy thing for an officer to go back out on the street and do his job where his/her integrity is in question. He asked the public to give the officers the benefit of the doubt, recognizing the leadership is taking aggressive action - the guys on the street are good guys. They have the support of this Commission.

MOTION by Smith, second by Cartledge to adjourn at 8:50 PM. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Minutes Accepted: November 8, 2007