

**MADISON DEPARTMENT OF
POLICE SERVICES
REGULAR MEETING – May 10, 2007
9 CAMPUS DRIVE, MADISON– 7:30 PM**

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

Also Present: Charles Walz; Stew MacMillan; Helen Burland; town residents; press

Absent: Chief Paul Jakubson

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:37 PM by Chairman Geisenheimer who welcomed former Police Commission Chairman Robert Cerosky; former Police Commissioner Craig Caplinger and Charles Walz, Board of Selectmen Liaison. The Chairman then introduced Lt. Dobbins who represented the administration on behalf of the Chief and advised of a presentation later in the meeting by Town Engineer Stew MacMillan and Assistant to Administration Helen Burland regarding the proposed Senior Center.

All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Cerosky said he was attending as a former commissioner with the understanding that this was the last meeting for Commissioner Michael Heaney. On behalf of the commissioners with whom Commissioner Heaney served, Mr. Cerosky thanked him for his work and input, adding they had a lot of fun working together as a board. Commissioner Heaney thanked him for his kind words. Chairman Geisenheimer added, at the next meeting the current commission plans to recognize Commissioner Heaney for his service.

CONSENT AGENDA – CHIEF’S REPORTS

Commissioner Rollinson asked to have NAGE grievance (02-2007) put on the next agenda under Old Business so the Board can be advised of the discussion and resulting settlement of this particular grievance. Commissioner Heaney asked if the transfer of the hearing authority from the Board of Police Commission to the Board of Selectmen had been discussed with NAGE? His concern is that the two union contracts specify the grievance procedure.

MOTION by Rollinson, second by Cartledge to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of April 5, 2007. All in favor. Vote: 3-0-2. Commissioners Smith and Heaney abstained.

MOTION by Rollinson, second by Cartledge to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting of March 26, 2007. Chairman Geisenheimer advised for the record, that the special meeting moved to Executive Session quickly to continue the process of hearing the charges brought against Officer Joseph Gambardella. Vote: 4-0-1. Commissioner Heaney abstained.

MOTION by Smith, second by Cartledge to accept the Consent Agenda. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Commissioner Cartledge noted that at the last meeting he requested compiling statistics about cell phone use; he is still interested as it relates to traffic control, accidents, etc. Chairman Geisenheimer said he would like a further traffic discussion later in the meeting.

MOTION by Smith, second by Cartledge to have an in-depth discussion as New Business of traffic and parking apart from the Consent Agenda. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Heaney reiterated his request for a one-page report on the active roster indicating by shift, officers at work, on vacation, sick, OJI, etc. Chairman Geisenheimer agreed and requested it be included

monthly to get an idea of who is present and available for duty. When asked, Lt. Dobbin advised that currently, one officer just returned from an extended sick leave and one officer is out injured for approximately one week.

OLD BUSINESS

- Accreditation Update

Lt. Dobbin commented briefly – said the project is about 80% complete at this time. Chairman Geisenheimer added, all commissioners have received their digital CDs of the SOPs and some have received hard copies. As a group, the Commission needs to review and approve many of the tiered policies in this draft. They will start putting specific policies on the agenda for review.

- Discussion of Police Department Goals

Commissioner Smith said he would like to see other goals & metrics aside from the two provided by the Chief at the last meeting; he said he is hoping the Chief will add his goals to the Commission's. He strongly feels they need goals.

Chairman Geisenheimer added, as a body they need to give the categories they would like articulated; each commissioner needs to put their thoughts in writing and then they can develop a strategy. For example, Lt Dobbin is now in charge of traffic. Some specific areas can be addressed. He will remind the Chief. Commissioner Smith continued, one recommendation from the staffing study is that the department provides goals.

Commissioner Heaney noted that when he looked at area police department websites he saw that Guilford's police commission has three goals listed for the year. He said every year it seems they go through all the possible goals and prioritize them for the year. They are on the website for all to see; at the end of the year they assess what they've done. Thought it is a great idea to have measurable goals for each year. There was also an online survey for citizens to fill out.

7:55 PM

NEW BUSINESS

- UCR Statistics: 1/1/2006-12/31/2006 VS 1/1/2005-12/31/2005

Chairman Geisenheimer said he would like to have the Chief here to discuss the UCR Statistics; he will table to the June meeting. Heaney/Cartledge. All in favor.

- School Safety Response Plan by the Madison Police

Right after the events at Virginia Tech, Chairman Geisenheimer said he asked the Chief to bring him up to date relative to responses to circumstances that would require emergency action. There needs to be a preparation strategy. The Chief responded advising what is in place. He and the Chief have asked that the First Selectman and Board of Education chairman meet with them and the superintendent on how to have a joint plan in place to deal with emergency circumstances. This would involve having a set procedure and would ensure that personnel would know how to respond and that they are properly trained and informed as to their responsibilities. The chaos was evident in Virginia. The First Selectman has endorsed this, but he has not yet heard from the Board of Education - this is vital. Other public officials will also be called upon to advise how they would react in an emergency.

Commissioner Smith asked if the Chairman anticipates hearing from Mr. Hale (board of education chairman) or his designee by the next meeting? Chairman Geisenheimer advised, there is no department plan for the police; schools' plans provide a lot of concerns because the Board of Education's plan thrusts teachers and administrators to the forefront in a crisis; they are not trained for these circumstances.

Commissioner Cartledge asked if the Board of Education was given a timeline? Can we suggest a timeline? Commissioner Rollinson agreed the police and Board of Education have to be intertwined with a liaison. Commissioner Cartledge added, we have to be proactive and plan for discussions over the next couple of months.

Chairman Geisenheimer concluded, the Board of Education plan has steps but the action with the police is not significant. We need a plan with the police and any other agency in town to know what the common plan is. We need to make it happen. He said he will follow-up with the Board of Education's chairman to meet within the next two weeks; the First Selectman is on board.

8:03 PM

- Discussion with Helen Burland and Stew MacMillan on the proposed Senior Center and the potential impact on traffic

Chairman Geisenheimer advised, under state statutes, the Board of Police Commission is the traffic authority for town. There is a plan for new sites for the senior center and the Ambulance Association that is endorsed by the boards of selectman and finance which will appear on the referendum ballot this month.

Mrs. Burland said the presentation tonight was a feasibility study to meet the needs of the seniors and the Ambulance Association. It is technically a land swap in that the Ambulance Association would move into the current Depot on Bradley Road east of Rte. 79 and a new facility would be built on the grounds of the current Ambulance Association and Grange Hall on Bradley Road west of Rte. 79.

There were questions by the commissioners regarding a proposed 120-seat auditorium in the senior center and the fact that the new center would be 5 times larger than the current facility and generate a potential need for a lot of parking. There were also parking and traffic concerns raised when concurrently, the senior center has a program, the ball fields at Academy School are in use, the new commercial building at Webster Bank is operational, St. Margaret's has activities and potentially, Academy School reopens. Chairman Geisenheimer voiced his concerns about the impact on traffic issues over a period of time and asked to be part of the study groups, along with a representative of the police department. He said he has been speaking with Planning and Zoning to get ahead of the curve relative to traffic feasibility issues. He feels it is critical to take a programmatic look so everything follows the standards for the area as a whole.

Chairman Geisenheimer said he will ask the Chief to lay out his concerns for these projects so the impact on traffic can be understood. There are strategic issues involved with the addition of commercial space on Rte. 79 at Bradley Road, a proposed senior center on Bradley Road, the proposed Ambulance Association on Bradley Road and the potential reopening of Academy School - what will all that mean -what is the impact? Commissioner Cartledge said they need to have the Chief be involved in Planning for the Strategic Issues for all of Bradley Road in that the Commission is trying to be proactive for the new commercial building by Webster Bank; the Senior Center/Ambulance Building; St Margaret's Nursery Center and the Bradley Road - Development/ Economic Plan.

MOTION by Cartledge, second by Smith to ask the Chief to present his thoughts on planning for strategic issues for the Bradley Road area. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

8:34 PM

- Line Item Transfers

Lt. Dobbin reviewed the line item transfers in the agenda. Commissioner Smith noted that according to budget we are not quite at 85% to goal with 6 weeks left. Lt. Dobbin explained, these transfers are in anticipation of everyone is using their vacation time and needing to be replaced.

Commissioner Rollinson questioned the transfer from the OT BOE Special Duty account, asking if this was over budgeted to begin with? Lt. Dobbin was not aware of any background. Commissioner Rollinson asked about the part-time officers account with relation to supernumeraries working 16 hours/each/month. Are they working? If not, why not?

MOTION by Smith, second by Rollinson to table the line item transfers and add them to the agenda of the May 15, 2007 Special Meeting when they could be explained in further detail. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

8:43 PM

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- Comments by Commissioner Heaney on the occasion of his resignation from the Madison Board of Police Commissioners

Chairman Heaney thanked the Chairman for putting him on the agenda for what he thought was to be his last meeting. His replacement is to be approved on May 14 by the Board of Selectmen. By the terms of his resignation notice, he said he would be coming to June meeting either as a sitting commissioner or a member of the public, he will make his comments at that time. Chairman Geisenheimer agreed.

CHAIRMAN COMMENTS

- Congratulations to Lt. Robert Stimpson for being chosen the Madison Exchange Club's officer in their "Salute to Connecticut's Finest"

Chairman Geisenheimer advised that the Madison Exchange Club is presenting Lt. Stimpson with an award tonight as their salute to Connecticut's Finest. The Chairman said he thought it important that Lt. Stimpson accept that award personally and added his congratulations.

Chairman Geisenheimer then provided for the record the status of the hearings on Officer Joseph Gambardella. He continued, April 26 was the last hearing of the proceedings, at which point both sides rested. Officer Gambardella's defense attorney requested that he be allowed to brief on the matter; the town will do the same. The briefs by both attorneys will be submitted to the Board of Police Commissioners by the end of the day tomorrow. There is a special meeting on May 15 at which point the Commission will begin their deliberation and hear any other motions or proposals from council; that is the status to date. These hearings are being held in Executive Session at the request of Officer Gambardella.

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

Commissioner Cartledge highlighted a letter from Brother James Branigan, Headmaster of Notre Dame High School, to Chief Jakubson thanking him for participating in Alumni Career Day. He also noted a letter from Lisa Tilley of The Lifelix/Catapult Volunteers for the contributions of Lt. Stimpson during their Annual Race for Recovery.

MOTION by Geisenheimer, second by Smith to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:51 PM. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Legal and Personnel Issues

Present in Executive Session: Chairman Geisenheimer, Commissioners Cartledge, Smith, Heaney and Rollinson. Discussed: Job Performances.

9:15 PM

Return to Open Session

MOTION by Rollinson, second by Heaney to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:18 PM. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Minutes accepted: June 14, 2007