

**REGULAR SESSION – September 13, 2007**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Emile Geisenheimer, Commissioners Garry Gyenizs, David Smith, Lawrence Moon, Lt. Jonathan Dobbin

**EXCUSED:** Thomas Cartledge, Chief Paul Jakubson

**GUESTS:** Members of the Public

**CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Geisenheimer called the meeting to order at 7:35PM. All present rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Geisenheimer welcomed Lawrence Moon, newly appointed Commissioner; advised Chief Jakubson was traveling, and introduced Lt. Jonathan Dobbin who was sitting in for the Chief as well as presenting the Traffic Study tonight.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS - None**

**CONSENT AGENDA – CHIEF’S REPORTS**

**Minutes of Preceding Meeting/s**  
**August 9, 2007 - Regular Meeting**

Page 3, Grievance, IBPO:08-2007, 2<sup>nd</sup> Step: Gyenizs requested the following changes:

*“MOTION by Smith, second by Cartledge to deny IBPO Union Grievance 08-2007 for travel overtime for Recruit Martin. In Favor: Geisenheimer, Smith and Cartledge, Opposed: Gyenizs, Motion Carried, Grievance Denied.*

**MOTION** to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 9<sup>th</sup> as amended by Smith, **SECONDED** by Gyenizs, Abstained Moon, Motion Carried.

**August 24th Special Meeting** – no comments, no corrections:

**MOTION** to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of August 24<sup>th</sup> by Smith, **Seconded** by Gyenizs, Moon Abstained, Motion Carried.

**Amend Meeting Minutes of June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007 (Regular Meeting)** – The Chairman advised those present that at the July Commission Meeting, these minutes were tabled because an incorrect version had been distributed for review. This evening, a corrected version of the June 14<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes were available. After review, Gyenizs made a **MOTION** to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 14<sup>th</sup>, Smith **SECONDED**, Moon Abstained. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**CHIEF’S REPORTS**

Chairman Geisenheimer suggested taking the Traffic Report off the Consent Agenda, (leaving Financial, Training, CID/YOUTH and Monthly Schedule for approval) because Lt

Dobbin was to make a traffic study presentation. Smith **Moved**, Gyeizis **Seconded**, Unanimously Carried.

Committee Reports- None

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Traffic Accident Study & Analysis – Lt. Jonathan Dobbin stated the information for the study of all accidents had gone as far back as January 2000 and was up to date as of August 31, 2007. Dobbin distributed a report itemizing NO INJURY ACCIDENTS, INJURY ACCIDENTS AND FATAL ACCIDENTS. Accidents were broken down by shift for each year. Percentages by shift were also available. Discussion. Chairman Geisenheimer stated that his review of this report revealed 51% of accidents with injuries occurred between 8am and 4pm, less than 38% occurred between midnight and 8am, and 11% occurred between midnight and 8am. These percentages did not vary much each year either.

Dobbin distributed a Contributing Factors Report, which was reviewed and discussed. The number one contributing factor for Motor Vehicle accidents was Following Too Closely, then Animals and Failure to Grant the Right of Way.

Dobbin referred to a push pin map clearly identifying clusters of high risk throughout town. The amount of accidents in the center of town, for instance, was primarily due to backing up or following too closely. Accidents on Route 79 were mostly attributable to animals. Traffic lights have been in operation at the intersection the Hammonasset Connector and the off ramps from I-95. This measure has resulted in reduced numbers of accidents, as anticipated.

Education, Enforcement and Engineering are strategies used when conducting accidents and travel surveys. Engineering takes into consideration trees, stop signs, warning signs, line of sight, etc. Education includes outreach efforts to get the community informed: where the dangerous intersections are, speed limit warnings, speed trailer, neighborhood watches, Public Access TV, announcing where to use additional caution when traveling, driver education classes. Enforcement would cover citations issued.

Dobbin advised that the two maps are on display and all members of the department are asked to review the map, note locations where frequency is high and to patrol there on their shift. Dobbin also suggested uniform classifications be established to lessen confusion. For example: Some may cite “Failure to obey traffic signal” and another might cite “Failure to Yield Right of Way”. Definitions are foggy.

Chairman Geisenheimer requested Commissioners to consider what additional data might be desired for presentation at the next Commission meeting. All agreed desire to study frequency of Contributing Factors at Specific Locations.

Chairman Geisenheimer said that the public could be advised that strategies are being studied for implementation so that we see a downward trend in frequencies. He thanked

Lt. Dobbin for his comprehensive reporting, that this program and his studies were very valuable and the results were equally important to the public.

#### Speed Trailer Survey Results – Neck Road – Lt. Dobbin

Dobbin reported that due to a complaint received, the speed trailer was set up and three (of six) surveys were conducted by shift:

Midnight to 8am – avg. speed in 30 MPH zone = 27.35 MPH with highest 46MPG

8am to 4pm – avg. speed in 30 MPH zone = 42MPH with highest 42MPH

4pm to Midnight – avg. speed in 30MPH = 28.53 with highest 48MPH

Dobbin noted that all average speeds were under the posted limits. Commissioner Smith requested a histogram (bar chart) be presented showing the ranges of speeds and the numbers of cars, etc. He offered to work with Dobbin on this.

Accreditation – No Report. Chairman Geisenheimer asked all Commissioners begin to review this report. It is a very lengthy document and we need to review it in its entirety.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Study of Organization and Staffing of Administrative and Detective Divisions – Chairman Geisenheimer reported that the Commission has concluded to do a study; they have not yet started it. We will conduct interviews to understand current organization and effectiveness and to identify modifications desired. Smith volunteered to assist with the Detective Division, and Moon volunteered to assist with the Administrative Division.

#### Middle Beach Parking Area Removal –

Chairman Geisenheimer reported having received a letter dated August 20, 2007 from Madison Asst Director of Public Works, Michael J. Ott, L.S. regarding the request to remove the parking area located adjacent to the travel way of Middle Beach Road, immediately west of Tuxis Road intersection. He requested Lt. Dobbin investigate both areas (another area across the street was referenced) and advise next month. MOTION to table this matter until next meeting pending report from Lt. Dobbin made by Smith, Seconded by Gyeinzis, Unanimously carried.

#### Update on new hires for the Patrol Division –

Chairman Geisenheimer asked Dobbin for an update on the new hires to the Patrol Division. Dobbin reported two are out solo on the road; one is in the Academy, due to graduate in December. Other background investigations are pending, results to be forwarded to Chief Jakubson upon receipt.

#### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Smith stated how pleased he was with the results of the traffic and accident report provided by Lt. Dobbin. The 31 categories that reflect the contributing factors would be reviewed for clarity. Smith also stated his interest in interviewing Patrol Division to reprioritize and bring to uniformity these categories.

Moon asked if there was a statewide classification of contributing factors? Dobbin said no there was not. This list is specific to this Department.

### **MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE**

Memo received re: Press Conference held September 11, 2007 – Hotline Radio System – separate, dedicated channel - now in effect connecting all departments as well as State Police for immediate communication supported and just enacted by Governor Rell.

### **CHAIRMAN COMMENTS**

Chairman Geisenheimer said he would like to see a response time report by classification of incident. He expects that response times will vary depending on the nature of the call. For instance, an abandoned car call versus a violent crime in process will have different times.

Chairman Geisenheimer stated that there was a fair amount of research to conduct and that being understaffed does put the load on the current officers that results in overtime requirements. We are working to be sure we have satisfactory coverage.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:54PM Chairman Geisenheimer requested a motion to enter EXECUTIVE SESSION: MOTION by Smith to close the Regular Meeting for Executive Session. SECOND by Gyenizs. Unanimously carried.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Returning from Executive Session, Chairman Geisenheimer stated there was no further business. MOTION made by Smith to adjourn the Meeting at 9:16PM was made; Seconded by Moon and unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Gale Plancon, Secretary

Minutes Accepted: October 11, 2007 as amended.