

**MADISON DEPARTMENT OF
POLICE SERVICES
REGULAR MEETING – October 14, 2008
9 CAMPUS DRIVE, MADISON– 7:30 PM**

Attendees: Chairman Emile Geisenheimer; Commissioner David Smith, Commissioner Larry Moon, Commissioner Edward Kritzman, Commissioner Garry Gyenizs, Acting Chief Robert Nolan

Also Present: Citizen of Madison, Press

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Geisenheimer called the October 14, 2008 Regular Meeting to order at 7:34 PM and asked that all rise to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

George Gerard of Madison Auto Body voiced his opinion that Madison-based towing companies should not have to participate in the lottery drawing, which is the current policy. He feels Madison-based towing companies should automatically be placed on the towing rotation list and be exempt from the lottery process. Chairman Geisenheimer advised that issue would be addressed later in the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA – CHIEF’S REPORTS

MOTION by Kritzman, second by Smith to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 11, 200 with two minor corrections noted by Commissioner Kritzman. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

MOTION by Kritzman, second Smith by to accept Special Meeting Minutes of October 3, 2008 with one correction All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

MOTION by Kritzman, second by Moon to accept the Chief’s Agenda. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

OLD BUSINESS

Recruiting

Chief Nolan gave a staffing break down; currently there are 19 officers, with only 16 active due to Lt. Gerard's extended injury, Recruit Smith being in the Academy and Officer Dolce on FTO until 12/1. The Department is looking at 5 lateral candidates; three are having backgrounds done; other 2 will take the agility test on 10/21. If the lateral candidates pass the agility test we will start them through the process. Chief Nolan said he is hoping to bring them forward within a couple of weeks. The candidates include one officer who has been with a department for 1 or 2 years and recent retirees. Chairman Geisenheimer noted that a certified officer would not be on the payroll for the 9 months he/she is in the Academy. Additionally, a certified officer would not be required to participate in the FTO program thereby eliminating considerable time whereby an officer is non-productive. After being oriented to the Town of Madison, lateral transfer officers can be on patrol and effective very quickly. After 2 to 3 three years of service somewhere else officers might want a change, have recently retired and want to work elsewhere. We are particularly interested in those who are retired; they are still young with a lot of energy and experience.

Chief Nolan concluded, so far the candidates look decent and we are hoping everything goes well – as mentioned, a lateral candidate saves the town a lot of money. Chairman Geisenheimer added, it saves the Town 9 months of salary.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Second Revision Reading: Town of Madison Authorized Wrecker Policy Revision**

Commissioner Smith noted policy changes on page 3 are highlighted in yellow and were made at the September 11 meeting; basically the proposal for consideration is to give first preference to wreckers who have their principal place of business in Madison. The Board anticipates drawing the lottery at the November regular meeting. Chief Nolan summarized the revision as, if there were 5 wrecker services in Madison they have

preference; if there are more than five wreckers, the Madison wreckers have preference. Chairman Geisenheimer noted all the wreckers have to meet the policy's criteria; if there is a Madison wrecker it automatically goes on the list; if there are 6 wreckers – the Madison wrecker(s) get preference. If there are 2 Madison wreckers, they get preference and a lottery for the remaining 3 slots is held. If there are more than 3 out of town wreckers applying, there would be a lottery to determine which of those 3 would be on the wrecker list. Commissioner Gyenizs said as it reads, he thought at the end the process would start over to which Chairman Geisenheimer responded, it would not have to start over. Commissioner Moon said the first sentence sets it off, i.e., "First preference will be given to wrecker services that have their principal place of business in the Town of Madison. Simply having a mailing address in Madison does not constitute a principal place of business". Commissioner Kritzman said he feels the language talks to the issue of more than 5 wreckers.

Commissioner Smith said he understands that Lt. Stimpson will send out the letter requesting applications with notification of when the lottery will be held. Chairman Geisenheimer said to ensure clarity, it is the intent of the Board to vote and have the policy take effect at the next meeting, which is when the lottery will be conducted. The lottery cannot take effect on the first of the month when there is not a meeting. The revised policy will be voted on first, then the lottery will be conducted based on the policy in place.

George Gerard of Madison Auto Body asked if the Board reviews all the applications and checks all the wrecker's credentials? He said he was required by the lieutenant to have an inspection by the State Police and have state highway permits. He said he got his DOT numbers, talked to the CSP (Connecticut State Police) wrecker sergeant in charge, filled out his paperwork and has CSP's green inspection stickers. He explained that means he is on the highway rotation; he was told to have that done to be on Madison's list. He does not feel other wreckers have been inspected by CSP. Chief Nolan said any wreckers on the list will be inspected by us; the purpose is that I-95 runs through town making it advantageous to you and us to have you available. Chairman Geisenheimer asked if he had a copy of the policy and said if at any time his observation is that a wrecker service does not comply to call the Chief. Mr. Gerard thanked the Board for making this policy change. He just wants to make sure everyone meets the same requirements that he did.

Commissioner Kritzman noted that Section 4 under General Provision IV, spells out the kind of license you need – it is all there and everyone who applies has to comply. Chairman Geisenheimer reiterated, if you feel someone doesn't comply with the policy call the Chief. Mr. Gerard asked if the Board has decided to accept this policy. Chairman Geisenheimer explained that we require three readings for a policy change. It has to be done at a regular meeting; this is the second reading. The purpose is to give the public time to comment if they have issues to discuss. At the next meeting the Board will vote on this policy in accordance with the required three readings. Chairman Geisenheimer thanked Mr. Gerard for bringing this issue to their attention.

8:03 PM

- **Line Item Transfers**

Chief Nolan reported on three line item transfer requests. He explained two transfers are from the Wages account; \$20,000 to Overtime Investigations due to lack of personnel in CID and \$20,000 to fund the back-fill of vacant shifts as a result of lack of staff. The third transfer \$30,000 is from Wages to Prof. Tech. Services to cover the temporary position of Chief Nolan and his salary.

MOTION by Kritzman, second by Gyenizs to approve the three line item transfer requests as presented. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

The Chief brought the Board up to date on the sudden retirement of Det. Daniels last week and stated we now have only one sergeant in CID; if need be they will take some steps to take some of that pressure off. Chairman Geisenheimer noted the retirement of Daniels was the loss of a highly trained individual with a good track record for closing cases. Chief Nolan agreed and said he was probably one of the most trained officers here.

Commissioners' Comments:

Commissioner Kritzman noted there were comments at the last meeting by Mr. Barry Dicker relative to the issue of carrying a backup weapon. He asked Chief Nolan if there is a policy? The Chief said there is no policy on carrying a backup weapon and said he felt weapons should be discussed in Executive Session.

Chairman's Comments:

Chairman Geisenheimer said he looks forward to the prospect of bringing on seasoned officers; he knows the guys are really tired and would like some help.

Misc. Correspondence

Chief Nolan briefly highlighted the letters included in Miscellaneous Correspondence.

MOTION by Moon, second by Smith to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:07 PM. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Present: Commissioners Geisenheimer; Smith, Kritzman, Gyenizs, Moon; Acting Chief Robert Nolan;

Discussion: Personnel Issues

Return to Open Session at 9:40 PM.

REGULAR SESSION

MOTION by Kritzman, second by Gyenizs to adjourn at 9:41 PM. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Minutes accepted: November 6, 2008