

**MADISON DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICES
REGULAR MEETING – November 6, 2008
9 CAMPUS DRIVE, MADISON– 7:30 PM**

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

Absent: Commissioner Larry Moon

Also Present: Wrecker Company Representatives; Assistant Town Engineer Mike Ott; Superintendent of Schools David Klein

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Geisenheimer called the November 6, 2008 Regular Meeting to order at 7:39 PM and introduced Commissioner Gyenizs who, because of an accident, is unable to attend but would be teleconferencing from the hospital. He then asked that all rise to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

CONSENT AGENDA – CHIEF’S REPORTS

MOTION by Kritzman, second by Smith to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 14, 2008 and the Special Meeting Minutes of October 28. All in favor. None opposed. So moved. 4-0

Chairman Geisenheimer advised that attendance via telephone is permissible and voting by members by teleconferencing is permitted as well.

MOTION by Smith, second by Kritzman to accept the Consent Agenda - Chief’s Reports. All in favor. None opposed. So moved. 5-0

OLD BUSINESS

Recruiting

Chief Nolan reported we currently have two in the process for psychological and polygraph testing. He said he hopes to be asking for a special meeting within the next couple of weeks. There are five candidates coming in for testing and interviews on Friday, 11/7. In that the five are all lateral moves, this would save money and have officers on the street quickly; all seven are certified officers. The Chief will advise as soon as they clear their polys and psychs.

NEW BUSINESS

• **Third Revision Reading: Town of Madison Authorized Wrecker Policy Revision**

Chairman Geisenheimer noted this is the third reading of the Authorized Wrecker Policy; item 1 of the General Provisions - Section 4 and reminded everyone that the Board of Police Commission’s practice and policy with respect to changes is the Board goes through 3 readings – initial reading; second reading with an opportunity to propose amendments and a third meeting where the policy is read and voted on by the Commission. This is the third reading.

Commissioner Smith read the proposed policy change, under section 4 general provisions, item 11;

The Wrecker Rotation List will be limited to (5) licensees. 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. In the event that more than five wrecker services within the Town of Madison submit applications, a lottery will be held to select the (5) five Madison wrecker services from the eligible Madison wrecker services. If there are less than five Madison wrecker services, the remaining licensees (including out-of-town licensees) will be determined by a lottery so as to fill the remaining slots not filled by Madison wrecker services. All applications meeting the requirements, as set forth herein, will be included in the lottery

MOTION by Kritzman, second by Gyenizs to adopt the policy change as read. There was no further discussion. All in favor. None opposed. 4-0-0.

Having done that, Chairman Geisenheimer advised there would be a lottery under the new policy; he asked the Chief to advise if everyone is vetted in terms of qualifications. Chief Nolan reported one company based in Madison has been inspected with no problem. The Commissioners' pick in the lottery will be based on being able to pass inspection by the officers. We will inspect whoever is selected.

Chairman Geisenheimer added we already vetted the one Madison applicant (Madison Auto Body); by virtue of the policy he is appointed. The lottery is for the remaining four spots; we have not vetted them in advance. Also, we will select one or two alternates. Commissioner Smith advised in the order the names are drawn they will be recorded so if one drops off, the next wrecker/tower will fill the spot.

- **Wrecker List Lottery**

The names were drawn; the order was: (1) Guilford Tire & Service; (2) Guilford Texaco; (3) American Auto LLC; (4) Aronson Auto Body. The alternates will be: (5) United Tire; (6) Midway Service; (7) Guilford Automotive. Chief Nolan will authorize an officer to do the vetting. When asked if one wrecker leaves, what happens – it was explained the next alternate would move up.

- **School Signage Color Change: Advanced Warning and 25 MPH Advisory Speed Signs**

Chairman Geisenheimer introduced Assistant Town Engineer Mike Ott and Superintendent of Schools David Klein. Mr. Klein expressed his appreciation and noted he had instituted the speed limit changes on the school driveways, in addition to having speed bumps put on the Polson School driveway. He said he was back before the Commission in an ongoing effort for public safety in and around the schools and introduced Mr. Ott to give the details of the latest request.

Mr. Ott advised of the next two things in the schools' safety phase. Both requests will need approval by the State Traffic Commission (STC).

1. Change the color of the current signs on the flashers on Rte 79 from yellow to florescent yellow with green. For consistency, this is the color scheme in the vicinity of all the schools and town roads. The color will only be used in the vicinity of the school
2. Second is a reduced speed limit on Green Hill in the vicinity of Daniel Hand High School and Polson School.

Both requests need the approval of the STC. The first step is a letter from the Chief to the STC making these two requests.

MOTION was called, with further discussion to approve the changes subject to the approval of the STC. Chairman Geisenheimer talked about the color changes and asked if this is beyond Madison as the next appropriate school sign color? Mr. Klein answered, it is a very prominent color sign – a driver anywhere near a school will not easily miss this color and will know they are near a school; this is not standard signage around Madison – it will be situated in and around the schools.

Commissioner Kritzman asked if the sign color change is subject to state approval. Mr. Ott said the signs would be on town, not state roads. There is manual on uniform traffic devices and that is where the color comes from as the external standard. Commissioner Kritzman added those signs stand out clearly and are used throughout the country; he noted this can be referenced for the STC.

Mr. Ott reported that relative to advance speed warning signs – under the pentagon sign is an advisory speed sign advising the speed limit on Rte. 79 is 45 MPH; the state approved at some point the installation of the flashers – when they flash the advisory speed indicates to slow down to 25 MPH; he suggests leaving the signs but changing the colors. Commissioner Kritzman mentioned reducing the speed to 25 MPH on Green Hill. Mr. Ott replied, during school hours and within a certain vicinity of the schools if the STC approves the request, it would allow us to put up special signs with flashing lights in a particular zone to show the limit is 25 MPH. Commissioner Kritzman said he feels 25 MPH seems high near a school; Chief Nolan said it is high but he doesn't think the STC would approve 20 MPH. Commissioner Kritzman said he thinks the circumstances of Island Avenue (Island Avenue School) and Rte 79 are different. Mr. Ott replied that it is posted at 25 MPH and

Copse Road (Jeffrey School) is posted at 25 MPH: Green Hill is the only other town road with schools that has a higher speed limit at 30 MPH.

Commissioner Kritzman asked if the speed limit can be changed to 15 MPH on town roads. Mr. Ott doesn't think we can go below 25 MPH and added, from a traffic flow and a realistic reaction of how drivers will control their behavior, 15 MPH & 20 MPH are not realistic and could interfere with the capacity of traffic. Commissioner Kritzman said the traffic on Island Avenue would not interfere with the speed limit; doesn't see that as being difficult. Commissioner Smith added, it is very different on Green Hill for student drivers and parents. Commissioner Kritzman asked if we could ask Mr. Ott if we can go lower and how much less than 25 MPH. Chairman Geisenheimer said we will approve this and ask that you make inquiries about lower limits.

Commissioner Kritzman reviewed the signage: yellow signs are a warning; when the light is flashing you can be cited for exceeding the limit. Mr. Ott added, there will be a white sign with black lettering- that is regulatory, not advisory. They will precede the signs themselves and drivers can be cited for speeding.

MOTION by Smith, second by Kritzman to approve the changes as discussed, pending the approval of the State Traffic Commission. All in favor. None Opposed. So moved. 3-0-0 (Geisenheimer, Smith, Kritzman)

Commissioner Kritzman asked if there had been any more about the Rte. 1, Rte. 79 intersection. Mr. Ott said as a first step he had the DOT District Office look at the signage at Rte. 1 & 79, in addition to Rte. 1 and Wall Street and Rte. 1 and Samson Rock Drive intersections. Rte 1 and Samson Rock are operating correctly; Rte. 79 had an electrical issue that stayed fixed. The thought is that they would now watch both signals before they go to a DOT signal plan review. Commissioner Kritzman asked if review of Wall and Boston Post Road considered creating a left turn lane on the number 1 lane. He asked if we can create the number one lane as a left turn only so cars can continue up Boston Post Road. As it is now, both the 1 & 2 lanes allow traffic to proceed. Mr. Ott said he thinks that was studied in detail when the Wall Street project was done and the intersection was reconfigured. Commissioner Kritzman continued, Wall Street was a chronic problem this summer so it is a serious concern raised by a lot of citizens. He asked that we again look at traffic at both locations.

Additionally, Commissioner Kritzman noted there was a request made to remove the 'No Right on Red' sign on Island Avenue and Route 1. Chief Nolan said that was held in abeyance because DOT was coming down to look at the areas; it is still being held in abeyance. Commissioner Kritzman said he felt the Chief's concern was no right turn on a red light would block the driveway. He asked that the no right turn on red at Island Avenue and Rte. 1 be looked at for removal action.

Commissioner Smith noted his concern about the traffic light at Green Hill and the Horsepond Road/Connector. The light is trip-responsive and the issue is that it is green (coming across Green Hill) for a very short period of time. He said he sees a lot of cars running the light.

Commissioner Kritzman noted that intersection at Route 1 and Wall Street has the 2nd highest number of town accidents.

8:12 PM

First Selectman Al Goldberg arrives

Mr. Klein thanked the Commission for their support to enhance public safety and for allowing he and Mr. Ott to come to the meeting again with their requests.

8:14 PM

- **Draft – 2009 Meeting Calendar**

Chairman Geisenheimer suggested everyone review the draft meeting calendar for 2009 email any problems with the dates to Chris and we will work them out by the next meeting.

- **Commissioners' Comments:**

Commissioner Smith reported he met on the emergency strategic plan. The plan is to have the ambulance on a separate frequency by the end of this November; we are getting a new frequency and they are taking the old

one. The vendors are working together to get this finished. He said there was an issue with regard how to handle the operations as related to emergency medical; Chief Nolan added that was resolved this AM when he met with communications personnel. Commissioner Smith concluded there are issues with all the additional traffic on our frequency; this will upgrade our emergency communications in town.

Commissioner Kritzman – no comments.

Chairman’s Comments: None

Misc. Correspondence

Chief Nolan briefly noted the letters included in Miscellaneous Correspondence thanking officers for their services and he in turn, thanked the officers for jobs well done. The Chief mentioned that LT Bob Stimpson received the Charles Genesis Award from the Rotary Club last week for his service to the community.

Commissioner Geisenheimer acknowledged a letter from the First Selectman for the Department’s successful traffic control handling the large turnout at the Election Day polls. There has been a history of difficulties. Chief Nolan thanked the Mr. Goldberg and noted it is very important for the officers to see these letters of appreciation. Mr. Goldberg added it was a positive setting and there were good interactions between the community and the officers – it was a win-win situation. Chairman Geisenheimer conclude, all the officers are working extra hard.

Mr. Goldberg – no comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

MOTION by Smith, second by Kritzman to adjourn at 8:22 PM. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Minutes accepted: January 15, 2009