

**MADISON DEPARTMENT OF
POLICE SERVICES
REGULAR MEETING – April 10, 2008
9 CAMPUS DRIVE, MADISON– 7:30 PM**

Attendees: Chairman Emile Geisenheimer; Commissioner David Smith, Commissioner Edward Kritzman, Commissioner Larry Moon; Commissioner Garry Gyenizs, Chief Paul Jakobson

Also Present: Town Attorney William Clendenen, community members; press

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Geisenheimer called the regular meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

There will be adjustments to the agenda relative to discussion of a traffic signal.

MOTION by Smith second by Moon to add the discussion of a traffic signal under Old Business. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Chairman Geisenheimer announced the Commission will go into Executive Session after the Pledge of Allegiance.

7:40 PM

MOTION by Smith second by Gyenizs to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Present: Chairman Geisenheimer; commissioners Smith, Gyenizs, Moon and Kritzman; Town Attorney William Clendenen.

8:10 PM – Resume Open Session

MOTION by Moon, second by Gyenizs to move to discuss the West Wharf/Lantern Hill/Route 1 traffic signal. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Chief Jakobson began an overview of the continuation of his request to DOT, which conducted two traffic counts in July 2007 and provided an analysis of the intersection. DOT's report noted in a three-year history there have been two accidents. Even though the volume through the intersection does not require signalization, it would probably reduce the frequency of angle-type accidents. DOT said the decision is left to the Traffic Authority. If the Commission does vote for the signal, the town's share of the installation cost of \$90,000 would be 10% or \$9,000, plus electrical costs. The light will be synchronized with the Island Avenue/Route 1 signal and will probably have a magnetic trip; he was not sure if it would be optical. Chairman Geisenheimer asked if the fire department has provided input. The Chief thinks there would be a control on the signal so the fire department can trigger the light for Route 1 traffic.

Members of the public were then invited to speak.

Richard Kennedy - Lantern Hill hopes to prevent a future accident by the installation of a crossing signal, similar to that on East Wharf/Route 1/Scotland area he also mentioned the curve with blinking lights. Although the accident rate is low, feels a matter of time before something happens.

Nancy Lavin – West Wharf. Would like a caution light at the intersection; would like cautionary items other than a traffic signal. A constant blinking light perhaps? Yield signs; orange cones for pedestrians? Concerned about traffic back-up to her driveway.

Chief Jakobson noted, DOT will look at traffic counts and adjust the timing of the signals by the time of day, which would avoid back-ups.

Jim Henneberry – Cherry Lane (private road): Thirteen home owners – concerned the traffic light will impact the historical area of Rte. 1. There already is a problem with cars coming up Cherry Lane from the Surf Club. It is 240' from the end of Cherry Lane to West Wharf and he thinks a light will create more of a problem. Association pleads to not approve the light. Feels entry to the Madison Country Club would be difficult with the back up from a light.

Chris Kelly – Lantern Hill: there is a lot of hesitation on which driver should proceed. He thinks a light would alleviate the Cherry Lane problems. Thinks it is a necessity; matter of time before a serious accident. Lantern Hill is half developed at this time. Children cross route 1 at Lantern Hill/Rte. 1. High school students; Island Avenue children with parents and 2 Polson children waiting for their bus.

Cherry Lane resident said a light would create not alleviate the problems. People use Cherry Lane to avoid back ups on West Wharf - it will increase traffic. Environmentally, traffic lights are a detriment to the town; car exhaust from idling, pollution; noise. Getting out of Cherry Lane is not a problem and it is a smaller, hidden street. There are always gaps in the traffic.

Deirdre Murphy - Cherry Lane: There are traffic issues in the winter. People avoid West Wharf and they use Cherry Lane. She suggested a 4-way stop sign on Route 1 and asked if the speed limit could be lowered. Chief Jakubson responded, DOT will not do either option.

Deanna Williams – Lantern Hill. Not a lot of accidents but she is worried about a fatality for the volume of traffic from the Surf Club. Is there an alternative? No place to walk on Rte 1; no place to walk on West Wharf. Maybe a crosswalk for pedestrians only? She suggested a flasher on either side of the curve on Rte. 1 when the light turns red. She asked if cars could exit the Surf Club through the maintenance area instead of onto West Wharf? Chief Jakubson said the exit would be onto Hotchkiss Lane by Exchange Field but that is a private road.

Charlie Corso - Advent Hill Road, adjacent to Lantern Hill. Cherry Lane has always had a traffic problem. Backup traffic on West Wharf would lighten if there was a traffic signal. Children are using Lantern Hill as a short cut from Sterling Park; Copse Road, etc. Doesn't think the traffic will back up on a daily basis, although it will always back up for the golf club. He suggested a light to cover Lantern Hill with a pedestrian cross button.

Commissioner Moon asked the Cherry Lane residents present if there are problems when there is an event at the Surf Club? Joann Clark said it is worse during events; Cherry Lane is a well known cut-through.

Alan Blake – Cherry Lane resident said kids come down Cherry Lane 6-7 abreast.

Chairman Geisenheimer thanked the audience for coming. He said the most frequent location for accidents in Madison is also the most signaled location in Madison. Traffic lights don't always solve a problem. He commented on the length of time waiting to exit onto Rte. 1 from Island Avenue and said once a light is in place, it is beyond your control. He wants the Commission to be careful with traffic signal installation and will wait to receive information from the fire department and discuss this site with the department's traffic lieutenant. Commissioner Gyeonizs addressed the resident's comment about idling vehicles and said motorcycles do not trip traffic lights and will idle until a car comes along to change the light.

MOTION by Smith, second by Kritzman to table the discussion to the next meeting for further study. Chief Jakubson added, even if the signal is approved, DOT stated in their letter they would install it as a future project, which could be several years. It will not happen for this summer, perhaps not next. There is no driving force behind this situation. Commissioner Smith would like to understand the options for a signal. He is concerned, if a light is installed how the flow of traffic is kept moving when exiting football games, etc. The Chief advised the police can control the light manually. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Traffic signal discussion ends at 8:40 PM

CONSENT AGENDA – CHIEF'S REPORTS

MOTION by Moon , second by Smith to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 25. Commissioner Kritzman listed corrections which were noted. All in favor to approve the minutes with corrections. None opposed. So moved.

MOTION by Moon , second by Gyenizs to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of March 25. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

OLD BUSINESS

- **Recruitment Status**

Chief Jakubson reported, we have two recruits in the Academy with one position to be determined based on the upcoming hearing. Still have three openings; two certified officers are going through background checks now with clearance expected next week. At that time, we can poll the Commissioners to determine if they want an unconditional letter of appointment issued. Our first graduate will be on street in October; the second will be on the street in November. POST is considering adding another 120 hours of curriculum which will eliminate one whole class from the Academy’s year.

- **Police Commission Ad Hoc Consultant-Search Committee**

Chairman Geisenheimer and Thom Cartledge were unable to connect to share data; there will be an update next month.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Report on Shift Loading**

Chief Jakubson explained the shift loading report is now broken down into 07 and 08, by officer and by week. Commissioner Moon is now reviewing the report which is by officer, types of OT, day of week, etc. If the OT isn't in conjunction with a normal shift or with an officer’s RDO, it will have to be entered line by line. Commissioner Moon and he will be working together on this. Commissioner Smith asked if this will distinguish between mandatory OT and voluntary OT? The Chief said this particular report will not.

- **Line Item Transfers**

Chief Jakubson read through the list of transfer requests:

Account	Deficit	Debited	Amount
Holiday Differential	1100 3100 0000 1040 655 00	1100 3100 0000 1040 635 00	\$20,000
Account contained insufficient funding from onset due to it resulting from new contractual item with no history. He has discussed the wage account with finance; most of the wages had not been encumbered for the lost wages for recent reduction.			
OT Training	1100 3100 0000 1320 652 00	1100 3100 0000 1040 635 00	\$23,000
This account is historically underfunded.			
Armory Supplies	1100 3100 0000 6910 635 00	1100 3100 0000 1040 635 00	\$1,000
Cost increases in ammunition			
OT Replacement	1100 3100 0000 1320 635 00	1100 3100 0000 1040 635 00	\$16,000
Because the department is not a full staffing level, there are increasing OT costs through the remainder of the fiscal year.			
Telephone	1100 3100 0000 5301 635 00	1100 3100 0000 1040 635 00	\$3,000
Current monthly telephone costs (data modems for patrol) exceed remaining budgetary resources; expecting a vendor credit			
OT Investigation	1100 3100 0000 1320 651 00	1100 3100 0000 1043 635 00	\$3,000

Current balance will not be sufficient to cover unforeseen investigations through remainder of fiscal year.

Telephone 1100 3100 0000 5301 635 00 1100 3100 0000 1043 635 00 \$2,000
Current monthly telephone costs (data modems for patrol) exceed remaining budgetary resources; expecting a vendor credit.

Chairman Geisenheimer noted that because we have been understaffed, there is money in the wages account; the holiday differential was underfunded.

Commissioner Smith added, we were budgeted for \$83,000 and are adding \$20,000. Our budget is currently in that range; we are understaffed, which is not affected. Chief Jakubson said the amount this year is halved. Commissioner Smith wanted to make the observation that the account will be under funded again next year.

MOTION by Kritzman, second by Gyenizs to approve the line item transfers. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Kritzman asked if we have responded to the Task Force on Substance Abuse with the name of a liaison? Chairman Geisenheimer said he is thinking of being the liaison. Members of the commission said they had been approached individually to be members of the task force, voiced their interest in attending meetings but are concerned if they would be able to devote the necessary time as a liaison.

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

CHAIRMAN COMMENTS

Chairman Geisenheimer noted the three specific budget cuts by the boards of selectmen and finance to the 2008/09 budget that members of the commission asked the Board of Finance to reconsider reinstatement at last night's finance meeting:

1. A budgeted line item of \$50,000 for a consultant
2. Reduction of wage account to eliminate one officer. He stated, the department had requested two additional officers; budget was cut to no new staff. Based on a commission study, it is believed the additional officer is needed.
3. Digital Security Camera System, which is a Capital item. This would serve to protect the town from potential litigation with respect to civilian complaints. The request is for a storage system and hardware for permanent record retention which he feels is very important to the town.

Commissioner Kritzman said he thought the presentation by Chairman Geisenheimer was very well done and stressed the importance of how cuts will affect the department.

Chief Jakubson asked to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel item.

MOTION by Smith, second by Kritzman to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel issues at 9:10 PM. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Present: Chairman Geisenheimer; Commissioners Smith, Gyenizs, Moon and Kritzman; Chief Jakubson

Return to Regular Session at 9:16 PM

MOTION by Moon, second by Gyenizs to adjourn at 9:16 PM All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Minutes Accepted: May 8, 2008 as amended