

**MADISON DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICES
REGULAR MEETING – October 8, 2009
9 CAMPUS DRIVE, MADISON– 7:30 PM**

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

Also Present: Mr. Mike Ott, Town Engineer; First Selectman Al Goldberg

REGULAR SESSION

All rose to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Geisenheimer called the regular meeting of October 8 to order at 7:35 PM and noted there are a couple of labor relation items to be discussed in Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Smith, second Kritzman to enter Executive Session by at 7:36 PM. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Present: Geisenheimer, Kritzman, Gyenizs, Moon, Smith, Nolan, Goldberg

- Subject: Discussion: Contract Extension – Robert F. Nolan
- Labor Memorandum of Understanding

Return to Open Session at 7:41PM.

Chairman Geisenheimer noted one item discussed in Executive Session was the extension of the contract of Chief Nolan and added the Board will need a formal resolution for the contract resolution to be acted on by the Board of Selectmen.

MOTION by Smith, second by Moon for the extension of Chief Robert Nolan’s contract. The town’s attorney has prepared the extension document which is with the First Selectman. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

CONSENT AGENDA – CHIEF’S REPORTS

MOTION by Kritzman, second by Moon to accept the minutes of the August 13, 2009 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Kritzman made a correction to the minutes on page 2 under commissioners’ comments, noting as he understands it we have no provision for ‘proxy voting’. All in favor. None opposed. So moved. Minutes accepted as amended.

MOTION by Kritzman, second by Smith to accept minutes of the August 28, 2009 Special Meeting. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

MOTION by Kritzman, second by Smith to accept minutes of the September 29, 2009 Special Meeting. All in favor. None opposed. So moved. Minutes accepted as amended for a couple of spelling errors to be corrected. All in favor.

Chief Nolan reported on CID activity which is not in the reports. He reported CID has cleared up a number of burglaries and has warrants for 3-4 more people; he anticipates clearing up several others incidents adding they are finally getting these investigations brought to a conclusion. Chairman Geisenheimer congratulated the detective and the Department for arrests in a number of these burglaries and thinks it communicates to others that they will get caught. Chief Nolan concluded by stating over 2/3 of the missing items were recovered, i.e. the jewelry from the party.

Financial – Chief Nolan reported he just received the approval for a DUI grant for funding and just got notified that they are releasing the additional money for equipment for the Department.

Commissioner Moon commented on the considerable amount of training in the agenda reports. Chief Nolan said we are setting up cooperative training which would be cost-free for the use of our facility. LEC is on board with the university training and will be bringing students here. We set up the facility and in turn, this gives us 3 seats at no charge with a savings of \$300/400/SEAT.

MOTION by Smith, second by Kritzman to accept the Chief's reports. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Committee Reports – Chairman Geisenheimer discussed the status of the public forum. Commissioner Kritzman said there seems to be some misunderstanding as to what he thought his charge was to be. He said believed he was charged with contacting moderators knowledgeable with public forums and was charged with selecting the moderator and time. He said he referenced the minutes of September 29 where the motion by Commissioner Smith was to choose moderator # 1 with #3 as a backup and he would convey to the potential moderator(s) what we are looking for. Later in the minutes it notes Commissioner Smith saying he thinks the Board should, once the moderator is identified, get the forum scheduled sooner rather than later. He has contacted both moderators. When he spoke with Selectman Traugh but didn't get contact information until Wednesday. Subsequently, he reached Mr. Hudson who said he would be willing to conduct the forum and would be available over the weekend for further discussion. Additionally, Commissioner Kritzman reported he heard from Mr. Goens who does Board of Education forums and would be willing to conduct the forum in October. The would be no fee involving Mr. Hudson who would volunteer as he is a resident of Madison; Mr. Goens said he would conduct as many as 5 focus groups for a fee of \$5,000. If he (Mr. Goens) didn't do the public forum the fee would be lower. Mr. Goens advised Commissioner Kritzman that he feels there should be a number of focus groups, in addition to a public forum. The focus groups would be by particular interest groups, i.e. businessmen, police officers, etc. Mr. Hudson would only do a public forum. In addition, Mr. Goens suggested the Board not be present; he said in most public forums the Board's absence seemed to give the public the opportunity to speak more candidly. If the Board is present he would make the statement that the Board is not there to engage in any discussion.

Chairman Geisenheimer said they would convene with Mr. Hudson after tonight's meeting and continued that a number of commissioners thought they had empowered Commissioner Kritzman to arrange the forum. Commissioner Kritzman said the Memorial Town Hall is available October 19-22; we would have to get the notice out. Since it is a Police Commission event, it should be under the name of the Board of Police Commission rather than the police department. There is a difference between a public forum and a limited public forum; this all relates to FOI issues. In a public forum which is open to the public, any subject can be raised. In a limited public forum, there is an agenda where the issues and discussions can be confined to those issues. He said he felt the best way is to call it a limited public forum with specific subjects to be discussed so the moderator can clearly stay within the scope of the forum.

Chairman Geisenheimer thanked Commissioner Kritzman and noted the Personnel Committee will meet with Mr. Hudson later tonight.

OLD BUSINESS

- Recruitment Status

Chief Nolan reported we have two possible candidates. We are down 4 officers right now; 2 will graduate and be in field training.

- Traffic Updates

Action: Traffic Investigation Report # 075-0908-01/Route 1 at West Wharf and Lantern Hill Rd.

Chief Nolan deferred to Town Engineer Mike Ott who said the State DOT wants the Commission to take action on Lantern Hill. He said the State is recommending the crosswalk not be installed; he has spoken with Mrs. Kennedy who made the initial request and will send her DOT's final report. The letter initiated by the Commission to send DOT will show that we concur with the State's recommendation.

MOTION by Kritzman, second by Moon to concur with the recommendation of the Department of Transportation concerning not installing a crosswalk at Lantern Hill/Route 1/West Wharf. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Action: Route 79 and I-95 Exit 61 Traffic Signal

Mr. Ott reported that DOT is requesting Board action on the installation of signals at Exit 61 be delayed pending the traffic study of the new railroad station; he added, there are final plans for the other side of the station and the garage. It is in the design; the traffic study will encompass the signals.

Commissioner Smith added that is a dangerous intersection at 5:00 PM for cars coming northbound on Rte 79. Commissioner Kritzman agreed and said it is a long cycle at night for the off ramp; wonders if anything can be done in the interim.

MOTION by Smith, second by Kritzman to accept the proposed delay by DOT of the traffic study for Rte 79 and Exit 61 pending the final design of the railroad facilities. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Chairman Geisenheimer said two citizens have expressed concern that at East Wharf/Middle Beach Road there is a 3-way stop sign, but not at the parking lot. Since it is not a 4-way stop, someone exiting from the beach parking lot does not follow in sequence. Mr. Ott agreed there should probably be a stop sign from the parking lot.

Mr. Ott reported with regard to the Commissioner's request for a review of signals at Rte. 79 & Green Hill and down town, they are working with the DOT to review 5 separate areas in addition to the exit and entrance ramps. Lt. Dobbin and he observed the pedestrian signals at Rte 1 & 79 and Rte 1 and Samson Rock; the time for pedestrians seems very quick. Commissioner Kritzman noted diagonal crossing is allowed rather than only a point to point crossing and thinks there should be signage indicating that; Mr. Ott will look into diagonal crossing notices.

Mr. Ott said he had a request for audible signals at both ends of the block at Rte 1/Wall St. and Rte. 1/Samson Rock. The State is looking for concurrence that we believe audible signals at those two crossings are OK. Chief Nolan commented that the audible signals are very loud and questioned the residential areas that might be nearby. Chairman Geisenheimer asked if there is an audible signal only when a Braille switch is pressed. Mr. Ott will research that as well.

Mr. Ott said the STC (State Traffic Commission) has said the reduced Green Hill Road request at Polson School has been approved; it is going before or has already gone before STC – the Town will install signage and flashing lights.

Mr. Ott said he has received several letters (4) from residents regarding different issues, namely: a Wildwood traffic study; Green Hill at Rte. 79; Wall Street intersection reconstruction and they are looking into all of them. Chairman Geisenheimer asked that citizens receive a letter advising that work is being done.

The Town has received its first request regarding traffic calming; Mr. Ott said he met with the selectmen and Waterbury Avenue residents. As part of a traffic calming program, his department has taken volume & speed counts. As a pilot they will install speed humps (cushions) on Waterbury Avenue. It is not clear if the Commission has the authority to approve these improvements or if it should be the Board of Selectmen.

Chairman Geisenheimer said he would like to know about liabilities associated with these devices and how the town can mitigate same. Mr. Ott said there is potential for liability; they installed speed humps at Polson last summer and this summer on the high school driveway. There has been a lot of discussion with town counsel that they were signed properly, etc. There is a lot associated to minimize the town's risk for liability. This is the first time a traffic calming measure will be on a public street and they will build them rather than use a pre-fab.

Mr. Ott was thanked for his updates by Chairman Geisenheimer.

- Promotional Process (Tabled)

Chief Nolan reported we will go forward with the process; they will meet with the union. He will meet with the town attorney on Friday, 10/9.

NEW BUSINESS

- Donation to Madison Dog Pound

MOTION by Kritzman, second by Moon to accept a \$50 donation from Dana and Elizabeth Valeriay to the Madison Dog Pound with thanks. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Chief Nolan added, the Department greatly appreciates a donation such as this which is very helpful

MOTION by Smith, second by Moon to accept the Chief's annual report. Chairman Geisenheimer expressed his appreciation and thanks for the very thorough report which discussed the constraints of the Department's fixed budget and diminished head count. He added, we had a surplus due to wise financial management. Law enforcement sometimes has an increase in crime activity which goes up when law enforcement goes down.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

None

CHIEF'S CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Nolan noted correspondence in the back of the packet. Chairman Geisenheimer added, there are a number of letters thanking Chief Nolan and several other officers for their assistance.

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE - None

CHAIRMAN COMMENTS

ADJOURN

MOTION by Smith, second by Kritzman to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:27 PM. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Minutes accepted: November 19, 2009