

**MADISON DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICES
SPECIAL MEETING – March 11, 2010
9 CAMPUS DRIVE, MADISON– 6:30 PM**

Attendees: Commissioner Eric Thornburg, Commissioner Edward Kritzman, Commissioner Garry Gyenizs, Commissioner, Commissioner Thom Cartledge, Commissioner Ed Dowling

Also Present: Chief Jack Drumm; Members of the Public; Press, Board of Finance Liaison Jim Matteson, Board of Selectmen Liaison Al Goldberg

REGULAR SESSION

Chairman Thornburg opened and called to order the regular meeting of March 11, 2010 of the Board of Police Commission at 6:30 PM welcoming those in attendance and those watching on community TV. He thanked board liaisons Mr. Matteson, Mr. Goldberg in addition to Town Engineer Mr. Ott for attending, noting their attendance is appreciated.

CONSENT AGENDA – CHIEF’S REPORTS

Chief Drumm reported on financials, noting last month we were 2% over last year on patrol labor; in lieu of several investigations to include the homicide. It is a joint investigation being done with the Connecticut State Police Major Crimes Squad and the Madison Police Department. He offered his sincere thanks to the men of the CSP for their tireless efforts to bring this to closure; they are in the back working diligently. In the last two weeks they have worked in house for several thousands of hours. We are currently at about \$24,000 in expenses on this active investigation; CSP is at about \$100, 000. He cannot comment on anything related to the details or status of the case.

Monthly Activities: February: 1100 calls for service; 36 calls/daily for each day of month; 125 false alarms received which averages one-half hour of time for the scene and clearing; 77 criminal investigations – 18 of which resulted in custody arrests for criminal mischief; 2 warrants pending for burglaries in the north end of town.

Traffic: 19 accidents in Feb.; 6 with injuries due to following too closely and DWI. Commissioner Dowling asked about false alarms – is there a penalty? Chief – yes.

Board of Education Meeting – School Resource Officer: Met with Superintendent of Schools David Klein on February 22 to discuss the School Resource Officer (SRO) and on February 24 with the Board of Education’s sub-committee, which was receptive to the program; they will bring it to the full Board of Ed. He would like to set up the SRO program for next fall and is moving along with that possibility.

Recruitment: We have 2 officers in the process right now; they will be presented for approval, one of whom will replace Officer Lori LaPrise who retired March 1; a second officer will be hired in the fall. Both potential new hires are laterals; one with benefits and one without.

Training: Two officers were recertified for mandated POST training last week. On March 30th two recruits will graduate from POST, namely Alexandra Blackwell and Michael Pugliese; they will enter the 14-week FTO program with Madison’s field training officers.

Lt. Stimpson presented his plan to the Board of Selectmen for utilizing approximately \$20,000 from the designated account of Public Works for 2 used, unmarked vehicles for use in the detective division for active patrols targeting business districts and north end of town. The \$20,000 was approved and will go to Board of Finance next week for their approval.

The **M.A.D.E.** (Madison Alcohol and Drug Education Coalition) presentation flyer was handed out.

Chief Drumm announced he received an anonymous letter complaint against a staff member who was the subject of a previous investigation, reviewed by chief states state’s attorney and declared as unfounded, as was the IA. The anonymous author reiterated old information; nothing was new. Very difficult to investigate the unknown; if the writer has new information, he/she can call to meet with the Chief.

Commissioner Kritzman thanked Mr. Ott for assisting in making funds available for the unmarked vehicles. Regarding calls for service statistics, he asked if that reflects self initiated stops. Chief Drumm answered, there is a category for such stops. Stops include MSRs, seat belt checks, etc, which would go unaccounted.

Chairman Thornburg said the statistics are excellent and very helpful; detailed reporting on numbers and types of calls is very helpful. The report now includes on-scene and travel time – this is very helpful for the Commission to see where resources are deployed. It gives us a perspective for the activities of the officers. It is a great, great start and a real help to the Commission. He also thanked Mr. Ott for his department in collaborating with another department – a great example of departments working together and sharing resources. He appreciates the review by Mr. Ott and the boards of selectmen and finance.

In terms of the homicide investigation's OT(overtime) impact on the community, Chairman Thornburg reported he has discussed the likelihood of the costs to come with the first selectman. He addressed Mr. Matteson to ask what information would best serve the Board of Finance; they will keep the fiscal lines of communication open. Commissioner Dowling added – it is an excellent example how even with the best budgeting process, unless there is a prudent ability to create a reserve, there is no way to control this type of circumstance and the subsequent departmental overtime potentials.

Board of Finance Liaison Jim Matteson noted there is an analogy to snow issues; we have reviewed 9 years of history and set a level. In this case, it is an occurrence which cannot be predicted and we will have to deal with the overages with the other accounts to make that up. It is a good point – hopefully we will not have to deal with a lot of these situations. Chairman Thornburg added, as a community, we try for backup from the overall entity. He would echo the Chief's appreciation to CSP; they are hardworking and top flight people. It is great to have them partner with us.

Chief Drumm reported that starting Monday we will have an intern from the University of New Haven. Additionally, Dr. Jeffrey Van Kirk of Mitchell College will meet with him next week to discuss Saturday accelerated bachelor's and master's programs. When he discussed career goals individually with the officers, education is of great interest. He is working to finalize details with Dr. Van Kirk for the police, employees and community on what will run as an accelerated program; 4 hours for bachelor's and 4 hour's for graduate program.

Chairman Thornburg feels that is consistent with our Strategic Plan when Chief Drumm talked about providing career development for the officers; as they join the department there is a potential to move forward and advance.

Chief Drumm reported the UNH intern has 150 hours to complete; hopefully this internship can include some time as a CSO (community service officer). The intern will do ride-alongs, paperwork, review mandates, spend time in CID, and assist in a minor role at the scene. We will aim to keep the intern's interest for their criminal justice program and conclude by writing an evaluation.

There were no other comments.

MOTION by Kritzman, second by Dowling to accept minutes of the February 11, 2010 Regular Meeting with changes as noted by Commissioner Kritzman. All in favor. None Opposed. So moved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

OLD BUSINESS

- Recruitment Status

Chief Drumm addressed the status earlier in his report and added we are looking at some the candidates from various test sites around the state. We have a very young department therefore, he would like to get some seasoned officers. We have added great depth in the last few months and will have a very structured department. He would like to focus on finding officers with a proven track record with street and supervisory experience. His goal is to create new leaders for this department.

Commissioner Kritzman commented, when someone brings these skills with them they will be able to help educate the younger officers. The goal is to have an SRO in September. In order to do that we need lead time for selection & training. SROs need some POST certified training. To achieve having that officer in place, we would need to identify that officer and provide training after the first of the fiscal year.

Chief Drumm said with the restructuring of the patrols and the community service unit (I-95 south, youth/family services, beaches, etc.) we will probably train more than one. He will interview, along with the schools and a commission member, to select 3. The target is an officer for the high school and middle school; the schools will partner with this and have a say. The wrong person could be a disaster. All officers in community service unit have expressed their interest, in writing. There will be bicycle officers during the summer and that will carry over to the school year and the school, senior and youth/family services programs. There has been a disconnection over the years and he would like to get that back. It is a positive program with benefits that will outweigh the costs. He has talked about a partnership with the Board of Education along with, Youth and Family Services. He said he would be surprised if the partnership doesn't happen as he sees good things coming from it. Commissioner Kritzman added, most of the surrounding communities have an SRO(s); the relationships they build benefit the students.

Commissioner Kritzman commented that M.A.D.E., the successor to the Selectman's Youth and Substance Abuse Committee, consists of the director of youth services, the superintendent, and the chief. Mr. Melillo has commented this is the first time the 3 entities are focusing on substance abuse. Chief Drumm said this is an opportunity for growth and to develop programs to enhance things down the road. He is a former DARE officer and related a story about a former DARE student now in the FBI. DARE does have an impact. In the northern part of town he is looking for a space, perhaps in the shopping center, for two officers to operate as a redesign of patrol. A lot of seniors have responded well. He wants the units to have a presence in the neighborhoods. He briefly discussed the recent run of burglaries, the repeat offenders.

- **Traffic Updates: Town Engineer Mike Ott**

Commissioner Cartledge reported he has worked with Mr. Ott so every issue is recorded and addressed and a reasonable time is afforded to the resolution. Not every letter can be satisfactorily resolved for the citizen; if we can't fix it 100% we will make every effort to alleviate the concerns to a degree. A traffic log has been started. In the past some requests have been lost or not visited. Under discussion is a form of traffic calming to address the speed or number of vehicles on a particular street to make it more amenable for the residents. Westport, Greenwich and New Canaan have initiated a traffic calming program; we will try to use their example for our purposes. It is comfortable to say, 'we have a new plan' which we will implement and do our best to satisfy all parties.

Mr. Ott agreed it is a good plan; Christie Hodge will be logging all these issues to make sure everything is tracked. We spoke about several requests from residents, i.e., traffic signal operations, requests for sight and hearing impaired signs; safety issues in neighborhoods; Waterbury Avenue for traffic calming. We are working on all the requests; people will start to see resolutions in the coming months. Some will be an investigation; they may not warrant any physical improvements; some will result in changes, i.e., a Neck Road resident asked about the intersection of Neck Road off Rte. 1 to the west of School House Deli. He evaluated the intersection for safety and determined they will confine and control the intersection better. It is not aligned properly with the driveway across the street.

Mr. Ott reported they are still working on traffic calming. He has spoken with Mr. John James repeatedly about this and hopes to finalize it within the next couple of weeks. It was suggested to have a joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Police Commission, along with Chief Drumm. He is working on that and will bring it forward shortly.

There are two upcoming construction projects: the week of March 22, CL & P will do utility pole and cable work on Samson Rock Road – a notice will be put in the paper. CL & P will contact the police department directly. Later, in July, Amtrak is replacing the rail line bridge on River Road and will ask to close the road for 2 months. There will be an impact on policing and emergency services. Most of the work will take place at night; they would like to shut down River Road for 2-one month periods with one week off in-between.

Mr. Ott said the town has applied for (it appears it was granted) funding to study transportation issues in the downtown area associated with the Bradley Road area. They have asked to include parking, pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

Mr. Ott reported he has spoken with Commissioner Cartledge about an in-house study regarding downtown parking, whether time restrictions are appropriate and if there is adequate signage, to include areas behind the buildings on the south side of Rte. 1. Commissioner Cartledge added, with a bike patrol they hope to include all of these areas.

Chairman Thornburg noted concerns about the small businesses and the 2 hour parking limit. He thanked Mr. Ott for attending the meeting. Traffic is part of our service to the community; people just need to know we are addressing their concerns.

- **Update: 2010-2011 Budget Process**

Chairman Thornburg reported the commissioners, along with Chief Drumm, have been invited to attend the March 16th Board of Finance workshop at 8:30 PM where they will make a presentation similar to what was done with the Board of Selectmen to present a capsulated report of the Commission's Strategic Plan to include filling out staffing over a period of years to what the Chief and 'plan' recommend. Chairman Thornburg said he appreciates the two boards working with the Commission; the budget got into the process before the new board and new chief were in place. Great opportunity to present to the Board of Finance and show our plan. We recognize it is a difficult season; being late makes it a challenge but we have been encouraged and our transparency is appreciated. With the long term in mind, we will make a strong case for the present.

Commissioner Dowling asked if the preliminary budget schedule is still in place. Mr. Matteson said he doesn't believe there were any changes as to the upcoming workshops that the Board of Finance will finalize; the date we owe the budget to the paper, the next public hearing and the referendum next week are all set.

7:27 PM: Mr. Matteson and Mr. Ott leave

NEW BUSINESS

- **Donation: Honorarium – David Lippmann Memorial Award**

Chief Drumm reported he met with Mr. Walter Lippmann of Sycamore Lane who has been an active participant at commission meetings. In memory of his son, Mr. Lippmann sponsors a scholarship in Greenwich and has asked to sponsor an annual \$100 scholarship to the Madison Police Department/Explorer Post. Mr. Lippmann's letter was read in to the record:

"Dear Chief,

As a follow up to our productive meeting yesterday, I wish to make the following offer:

I would like to donate an honorarium annually to a Law Enforcement Explorer under the Madison Department of Police Services. I would offer this honorarium to be chosen by the Madison Police Officer in charge of the Explorers program. The amount of the honorarium is to be \$100 and I would like this to be known as the David Lippmann Memorial Award.

With good thoughts, and my sincerest wishes to work with you in restoring [moral] and public confidence in our Police Department."

*Very truly yours,
Walter Lippmann"*

Chairman Thornburg commented that is a wonderful gesture and generosity which is appreciated by the Board of Police Commission.

MOTION by Gyenizs, second by Cartledge to accept the memorial honorarium in the name of David Lippmann. All in favor. None opposed. So moved. Chairman Thornburg will send a letter to Mr. Lippmann.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

Commissioner Cartledge: None

Commissioner Gyenizs commented on the unfortunate incident (homicide) and congratulated the Madison Police and the CSP on their professionalism. It is a hard thing to see on the news in any town, let alone your own.

Commissioner Dowling reiterated Mr. Gyenizs' remarks and added, this is still a small-town, with a lot of personal relationships which are impacted when something like this happens. The presence of the Chief and his comments about the confidentiality of the investigation which cannot be subject to rumors, leaks, innuendos, etc. is right on target.

Commissioner Kritzman noted in the traffic stats during January, the department doubled the number of MVD arrests, quadrupled the speed arrests, more than doubled DUI arrests and issued twice as many written and verbal warnings. These stats were also reflected in February. Something very positive is going on. One of the Chief's major challenges was and is to change Department culture. Based on observation, productivity and attitudes he feels the Chief has made a significant start. It is hard work. When you have the vision and credibility and are able to articulate it and hold people to certain expectations, these things begin to happen.

This Commission is in its first quarter; this is the way a Commission ought to work – it has a significant record already in addressing issues and spelling out the process, all of which go to improving the department and our relationships. Commissioner Kritzman addressed the Chairman and told him, you are doing the right thing.

Chairman Thornburg added, we have a good team and a great Chief. Thank you for the encouragement and affirmation. We have seen our adversity as a community, Commission and Department; how we respond to that adversity is what defines us. He has worked in many other organizations and is with Chief Drumm a couple of hours /week. He is excited about the Department and the *esprit de corps*; morale is on the upswing. At a recent ceremony the Board appointed two new sergeants, revealed its Strategic Plan and honored many officers. The visibility of the chief has improved dramatically all around town; he is building trust. It is our job to hold the Department accountable. Changes are great, but he sees signs of building something good. We can't relent.

Chairman Thornburg noted a complimentary letter to Kevin Gerard from the Chief on his recognition as achieving the level of Eagle Scout.

Mr. Goldberg, as Board of Selectmen liaison reported at a recent Board of Selectmen meeting he conveyed his high regard for the direction and tone of the Police Department and Chief Drumm. He was further impressed with the handling of high visibility cases and thinks the professionalism is also noted by the Board of Selectmen, which is very pleased with the leadership of the Commission; they hope the Commission continues in this very positive direction. Chairman Thornburg added, it is important to be making progress and lean into the momentum.

In conclusion, Chief Drumm stated he is very appreciative of the assistance of the Town of Guilford and its Police Department. He thanked Chief Terrible who provided two patrol officers, vehicles and their command post.

Chairman Thornburg added his thanks to the Guilford Police Department and Chief Terrible.

ADJOURN

MOTION by Kritzman, second by Cartledge to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 PM. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Minutes accepted: April 8, 2010