

**MADISON DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICES
REGULAR MEETING –May 13, 2010
9 CAMPUS DRIVE, MADISON– 5:30 PM**

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

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

REGULAR SESSION

Chairman Thornburg called the May 13 meeting to order at 5:34 PM and asked that all rise for the Pledge of Allegiance. The Madison Board of Police Commission has a regular monthly meeting to discuss the business of the commission; the commission is established by statutes of the State of CT and Madison town charter; as such they can manage the department and its resources. The day to day management is placed with the Chief of Police, Jack Drumm. He will provide a series of reports to cover various areas which will apprise the board of accomplishments and activities of the month. Also joining us is Al Goldberg from the Board of Selectmen and from the Board of Finance, Liaison Jim Matteson.

CHIEF'S REPORT

• **Budget / Financial Report**

Chief Drumm reported a few items have been moved; getting to the end of this budget year. Have one special appropriation for approximately \$45,000 to cover costs for budgeting OT and three investigations; also moved some unrelated funding to energy costs for the building. However, we will come very close to zeroing out the budget on July 1 barring any unforeseen incidents.

• **Activity / Statistics**

Chief Drumm reviewed the activity graph and mentioned that he appreciated the media using the graph to show our activities, particularly relative to times of night.

• **Training**

Alarms – question has come up to review the fines for the false alarms; the situation appears to be getting worse. If there is a problem with your alarm, please get it repaired. A false alarm ties up officers. Commissioner Dowling asked have we found that some false alarms are chronic. Chief said – yes there is a pattern. It may require we update our policy. Some towns have an aggressive fine structure; have to take responsibility. Commissioner Dowling asked if the Chief would say fine changes are under consideration pending review. The Chief replied, the Selectmen will be reviewing town ordinances and fines. Alarms and vendors need to be addressed and re-assessed. He sat with the first selectman last week and reviewed the infraction book to see how to enter ordinances. People are complaining about vendors, the hours and days they canvas. Maybe the time is here to modify the ordinance. Commissioner Cartledge asked to hear from the Selectmen at the next meeting, to which Mr. Goldberg agreed. Chief Drumm noted, with alarms it is necessary to address the fees and the excessive false alarms which require a lot of police response; perhaps people who disregard the chronic alarms need to be addressed. Regarding vendors, we will address that with fines, parking violations, etc. Mr. Goldberg added, it will be on the May 24 agenda of the Selectmen. Chairman Thornburg suggested the need to educate to minimize false alarms. Commissioner Kritzman doesn't feel it is not atypical; at some point, perhaps we just don't respond. Curious as to what surrounding communities do. Chief- if you don't respond, you are liable; there is also the potential that the officer responding has an accident.

Chief Drumm reviewed the statistics for the month of April, 2010:

Alarms – False: 166; Suspicious Vehicles: 58; Suspicious Persons: 17; Criminal investigation, including homicide: 107; In-custody arrests: 24; Juvenile arrests: 4; Juvenile – alcohol related: 4; R-1 First Responder Calls: 114; Motor Vehicle Accidents: 22; 2 with injuries; Motor Vehicle Enforcement: Verbal: 169; Written Warning: 164; Infractions: 75; Misdemeanors: 14; Other Enforcements: 11. **TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE: 1313** for the month of April.

FTOs: Officer Pugliese will finish 7/11; Officer Blackwell 7/26, which is a little later due to wrist fracture she suffered.

- **New Business**

North Madison Substation: The Chief reported he has put in initial and secondary calls at the North Madison shopping center; they have not called back yet. There is movement with the gym facility; perhaps leaving. Hasn't heard anything from the property manager since the second week of April. We now have a police presence in town; trying to franchise the community.

Recruitment – Still has not filled Officer LaPrise's position; will have 2 spots for the new fiscal year. Have two lateral candidates at this time.

Chairman Thornburg commented regarding the substation that he thinks resource availability is important for the scope and scale of impact. Thinks we might want to make a business decision, i.e., access to an office for citizens to be able to approach; get the input of people who live in the north as to what are they looking for – is it important to them? We would want full support of the community if we were to move forward. Applauds the initial steps – would like to work on the costs and benefits. Chief Drumm said aside from citizen value, it keeps the officers always on duty rather than coming in to the station for reports, etc. Officers are now on the beat, getting to know merchants and home owners up north, as well as in town. He is trying to find a base, not create an infrastructure. Chairman Thornburg said as we communicate there is less misunderstanding; commented positively on seeing a police presence up north when traveling on Rte 79

Chief Drumm reported the General Assembly passed a public safety act to regionalize public safety communications centers under a population of 40,000; they want them to merge. From the perspective of the police chiefs – if dispatch is out of the building we create a dark building. This would not be in the best interest of any police department. He asked them to study this prospect – this is looking to 2016 and is on the table within the last 24 hours. Will we maintain a quasi-dispatch center or regionalize? Chief concluded, there are approximately 55 PSAP centers that answer 911 calls across the state.

- **Correspondence**

Chief Drumm sent a letter to Tom O'Donnell for the great response and service by Jason Wallace (Madison Food Service) to the major crime squad for food services. Received a telephone message from Walter Reynolds complimenting officers of Town of Madison; a woman commended Officer Scott Pardales on his demeanor and resolution of a criminal nature related to exposure/stalking; Lt. O'Connor was cited by the Our Lady of Mercy School principal for response to a situation; thanks was sent to Hamden Police for the use of their K-9 four times in the last month for tracking; Special Olympics – thanked the Department officers for efforts on Tip A Cop which raise \$2900 and also thanked Donahue's Beach Grille for their participation. The next part of the fund raising efforts is the bike ride for Special Olympics.

Bike patrols with trained officers have been out around town.

The Department will send three officers to bike training school; we will then have 10 certified bike officers. There will be 2 bike officers with the CSOs. Up north, for transport, there will be bike racks on the cars so the officers will be able to ride bikes through neighborhoods. They will cover from Hammonasset to the Surf Club (7 miles) 3-4 times/shift.

CALEA – received our manual; next phase will be to set up for initial inspection to assess the Department with a short list of what we need to move on first. They will talk to community and school members as well.

Chairman Thornburg suggested the Board's Public Information Committee take a more active role in communicating to the community; he would like the people in Madison to be up to speed, where we are with the timeline. Would like to be able to share with the community and media as we proceed. Commissioner Kritzman said this may be of public interest; it is a major step. CALEA is a gold standard and is significant and unique – feels it deserves some press.

ACCEPTANCE – MEETING MINUTES

- Regular Meeting of April 8, 2010

MOTION by Gyenizs second by Cartledge to accept the minutes of the April 8, 2010 meeting, as amended. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bonnie Rose asked about getting a K-9; why do have to borrow Hamden's? Chief Drumm answered, when a call goes out for a K-9, departments will respond. Hamden has a large K-9 unit. We have a drug dog now, not a patrol dog. This is a good framework for us to pursue a patrol dog; we would have to go to the Connecticut State Police canine class; there is also one in Pennsylvania, in addition to one in Ledyard. Chances are the K-9 officer will still have to be called in depending on shift work. There are maintenance and medical costs, dog is the property of the town; it is not turnkey. The beauty of our drug dog is the officer retired from one agency and came to us, with his trained K-9. There is a savings there; initial training could tie an officer up for 16 weeks.

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS

- None

PARKING ISSUES / TRAFFIC CALMING UPDATE

Commissioner Cartledge deferred to Mike Ott; they have been working together on this.

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

Mr. Ott referenced the Madison traffic calming program; it will need discussion by the Police Commission and the Selectmen. Basically, it creates a systematic approach for requests for traffic inspection of issues from members of town; it will be decided if traffic calming is the applicable solution and will assist in preparing a plan. The town never had such a program. Frequently he gets requests for traffic relief issues, typically speeding, traffic cut throughs, trucks and general safety related issues. He has received the first formal request for traffic calming measures; in response they created this policy. Will be seeking input from the Police Commission as the town's traffic authority for their opinion. Mr. Goldberg asked what the Selectmen/Police Commission relationship is relative to the roads. Mr. Ott said he understands the Selectmen have authority over town roads including construction and improvements. Most traffic calming requires construction (narrowing intersections). The Selectmen have authority over that construction and would approve it. Understands the Police Commission has jurisdiction over regulatory aspects regarding traffic - stop sign installation, parking restrictions, setting speed limits, signal requests. Unclear where traffic calming fits with the Selectmen and legal traffic jurisdiction (BOPC). The draft is for the review with approval of both boards. Requests would come to the Board of Police Commission for review; once through the process any improvement requests would go to the Board of Selectmen. It will take action by both boards.

Chairman Thornburg noted we need the advisement of the town attorney; is it public safety or for community benefit. We should move quickly to get clarity. He will work Thom Cartledge to conference call with Atty. Dugas to turn it around quickly. Commissioner Cartledge suggested, after reviewing, send copies to him, Mike Ott and Chief Drumm so all are current. He and Chairman Thornburg will get a legal opinion. Mr. Ott suggested a joint working session with the Selectmen, Chief Drumm and reps of Police Commission plus officers to bring it to resolution; there are policy issues. The Police Commission definitely has a role in some situations, i.e., most traffic calming involves signage. He is seeking exact roles of boards from town counsel. Mr. Goldberg added, this should also include the Board of Finance as well; selectmen are anticipating neighborhoods coming forward. There will be dollar costs to keep in mind. Mr. Matteson feels traffic calming would not include arterial streets; how are those addressed? Mr. Ott said most small town calming programs do not include higher function streets; there is a movement to apply traffic calming to those streets. This will be a new program for us; it is more complicated to address higher volume roads. Budget will be impacted; we have specifically excluded those main streets; solutions are much more expensive (i.e.; Opening Hill; Overbrook); can't reduce the capacity on those main roads. Chairman Thornburg would like comments sent to Thom Cartledge and Mike Ott within a week. Mr. Cartledge has met with the Chief; continuing to address the downtown area. He estimates 74 businesses in town and the arcade; all of them require adequate parking. There are signs on the east end of Main Street to the library; there are 84 spots; the arcade behind RJ Julia also has a 2 hour limitation. Utilizing the CSO and the bike program, the first step is to remind people of the two hour limitation; secondly there will be flyers on the cars; thirdly there will be fines imposed. At this time, he reminded the public of the 4 major traffic issues controlled by signs: 2 hour limit; no bikes on sidewalks; no u-

turns on Main Street; 4 handicapped spots. They will try to get an additional sign in front of the post office. It appears a lot of people think it is OK to use a handicapped spot; saying 'it is only for 5 minutes'. Need to respect the handicap spots. Also in front of CVS are 2 spots for expectant mothers or those with small children. He is asking residents to be more respectful to the officers. Officers don't pull over someone for a 'quota', they deserve respect. Public needs to be responsible.

Chief Drumm added Lt. O'Connor heads the southern district; he visits shop owners, realtors, etc., to advise businesses that their employees cannot park in the center all day. Realtors are parking in front of their business; they will receive flyers as a warning; followed up with a written warning, town infraction or finally, a state ticket to go to court in New Haven. Hopefully they will be compliant quickly.

CSOs will work with officers on patrol; doesn't want them to be involved in confrontations with the public. There are other issues at the beach, too many pedestrians blocking traffic routes. We are getting a demonstration of the portable traffic device which will be used with the hand-held radar units. We will issue state infractions. Recently a Warpas Road resident has asked for traffic policing in the morning and afternoon. The intention is to use the resources we presently have and pick up traffic enforcement with the CSOs, officers and bike patrols.

Mr. Ott noted, with regard to downtown parking - there is a project to include new signage. We will implement signs to better identify parking restrictions. Working on a plan for additional signage in the downtown area. When the construction happens, there will be additional parking, including in front of the post office. The project's first phase will start next spring; they have started the utility work.

Chief Drumm asked if meters were ever considered - it is a revenue generator. Mr. Ott said not since he's been here.

Waterbury Avenue Association members are very pleased to see the policy for traffic calming and appreciate the quick attention to their request. When asked by Chairman Thornburg if there is consensus in the neighborhood, a member of the association said they took a poll and there was virtually unanimity about the traffic speeds, volumes. The vote was 75% in favor of speed humps. To the extent of a proposal, they can marshal their forces to respond.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Thornburg thanked everyone for accommodating the time change; he has received a lot of positive feedback about the 5:30 timeframe and he would like to go forward with this through the summer at the least. Guilford has their meetings about this time; the Board will be flexible about this and look for feedback.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Cartledge: no comment

Gyenizs: no comment

Chief Drumm: People are seeing and commenting on the police presence in North Madison

Commissioner Kritzman: Urged homeowners to lock their cars when they are parked in the driveways; CDs, GPS units, money is being stolen here and in Guilford.

Commissioner Gyenizs: Garage door openers are easy access to a home.

Chief Drumm added, the recent driveway burglary perpetrators were in court today.

Commissioner Dowling commented on the parking practices and management of downtown parking, traffic calming has the potential to positively impact the town character. The Chief's outline is an important way to proceed. The traffic calming is a thoughtful process in how to proceed; it will allow individuals to have concerns handled in an open, constructive manner.

CHAIRMAN COMMENTS

- 1 Budget process: it is an important vote for the town next Tuesday. The boards of selectmen and finance have endorsed very important budget modifications for the police department and provided additional resources to achieve our level of staffing. He hopes providing the statistics clarifies

important resource questions and he hopes the townspeople will support the budget so we can move forward with the important police business.

- 2 Summer residents: struck by people not being happy to be stopped by officers and the traffic influx. This is another important opportunity for our department to build trust with the community. Vacationers may not be apprised of the gains made by Chief Drumm; this is an opportunity to work with summer residents. Parking, etc. monitoring is important, we cannot lose sight of respect for visitors.
- 3 Experience at POST graduation: felt the graduation of Pugliese and Blackwell was a very moving experience and he could see their pride and that of their families as well as the esprit de corps of the graduating class. We have two great young officers who have been through strong training.

7:05 PM

MOTION by Kritzman, second by Gyenizs to adjourn to Executive Session. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Consideration of Legal and/or Personnel Matters

Present: Thornburg, Kritzman, Dowling, Cartledge; Gyenizs; Chief Drumm; Goldberg

8:05 PM

- Return to Regular Session

MOTION by Kritzman, second by Thornburg to adopt the resolution that the Board of Police Commission, having the statutory responsibility for management oversight of the police department, has been informed of the results of the contract re-opener negotiations. AFSCME Council 15, representing the full time permanent investigatory and uniformed members of the Police Department and the Town of Madison, has reached an agreement. The Board of Police Commission urges both parties to ratify the agreed upon terms as soon as practicable. The Board of Police Commission further commends both parties to the negotiations for the cooperative and professional manner that led to such an agreement. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

ADJOURN

MOTION by Kritzman, second by Gyenizs to adjourn at 8:10 PM. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Minutes accepted: June 10, 2010