

**MADISON DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICES
REGULAR MEETING –June 10, 2010
9 CAMPUS DRIVE, MADISON– 5:30 PM**

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

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

Absent: Commissioner Garry Gyenizs

REGULAR SESSION

Chairman Thornburg called the June 10 meeting to order at 5:33 PM and asked that all rise for the Pledge of Allegiance. He welcomed everyone and recognized and thanked liaisons Al Goldberg (Board of Selectmen) and Jim Matteson (Board of Finance), along with Mike Ott

CHIEF’S REPORT

- Budget / Financial Report

Chief Drumm reported he met with Art Williams (Finance Department) yesterday to review the closing and zeroing out of accounts for this fiscal year; we will be within the Finance Department time constraints. The forms in the packet are line item transfers, within the police budget. Jim Matteson said a lot of transfers have gone to the Board of Finance, then the Board of Selectmen; it is an acceptable practice. Usually, requests go to the Board of Selectmen first; Mr. Goldberg said he doesn’t anticipate any problems. Depending on the meeting calendar is it determined which board views the requests first.

- Activity / Statistics

The Chief reviewed activity and statistics for the Month of May: 1695 Calls for Service (CFS); 56 calls daily which included:

- 182 alarms, 112 of which were burglar alarms;
- 58 suspicious vehicles/21 suspicious persons;
- 80 criminal investigations with 31 in-custody arrests;
- 6 juvenile arrests/1 alcohol-related;
- 94 R-1 first responder calls with medical assistance rendered;
- 25 motor vehicle accidents, 4 with injuries; 20 with property damage;
- Motor vehicle enforcements: 195 verbal warnings; 259 written warnings; 106 infractions issued; 12 misdemeanors; 201 speed-related enforcements; 125 motor vehicle arrests; 4 DWI arrests; 15 seatbelt infractions; 26 cell phone infractions

Mr. Goldberg asked if it gets busier as the weather gets warmer. Chief Drumm said he knows of three incidents already involving calls to Hammonasset State Park, i.e., narcotics seizures and minors with alcohol. Traffic on Route 1 at Hammonasset Park on Memorial Day involved major action by the Madison Police.

Audience member Bonnie Rose asked if the Madison Police are responsible completely for Hammonasset State Park. Chief Drumm answered, in January we had 382 medical responses and 80 calls for other responses. We assist DEP (Dept. of Environmental Protection) and CSP (CT State Police); we respond to the scene. Ms. Rose asked if the state reimburses the town. Chief said we receive ‘pilot funds’ in lieu of taxes. Chairman Thornburg commented on May having the highest per diem call rate. Chief Drumm said officers are being more pro-active; economic times have a bearing and also the public is coming to the police more than in the past.

We submit stats to the State of CT; we are in the top 5 of the state for Memorial Day activity, at which time we reported 180 infractions / 2 MV arrests; 5 MV accidents. He continued, hats off to the officers who are doing all this work. Chairman Thornburg added, to this point the boards of finance and selectmen have supported us getting additional officers – this is a powerful stat. Chief they have taken on more of a team approach.

- Training

Chief Drumm reported five officers were sent to training: to include: Legal Issues for First Line Supervisors (Fox); Advanced Patrol tactics to focus patrol rifle training (Boggs); Firearms & Use of Force (Melanson; Rosati); Basic Crime Scene (Perron).

Commissioner Dowling mentioned he thought it would be helpful as we look at the annual data if we can continue to try to make some assessment of the cumulative training the department has; an area he thinks will separate us from other agencies in terms of the caliber of our recruits and the training we provide. First line supervisors; accident investigation – it is crucial. Chief Drumm added, it is paramount that first line supervisors receive front line training –the focus is to develop strong sergeants. With this training they will lessen litigation and be strong street supervisors. The budget used to account only for what was required; we are now taking a more aggressive route for training.

Statement analysis/interrogations is a very good school and highly desirable. Most training is free – the cost involved is to have the officer out of service and replaced for the day.

- Old Business: None
- New Business: None
- Correspondence

Chief Drumm highlighted a letter to the Madison Rotary Club, in answer to their request for an officer nomination, Det. Bill Roy has been selected to attend a luncheon on 6/17 as their guest and be recognized for service to the Town of Madison.

A conditional letter of employment is used to present a candidate to the Police Commission for their approval. POST requires a conditional letter of employment to start the process; in the future he will add a contingency in the letter that it is issued with the Board of Police Commission's approval. Chairman Thornburg noted, once the candidate is through an interview process that is technical, the field is narrowed. Before that person comes to the Board, other testing is required. Chief Drumm explained that previously, a lot of backgrounds were being done, all of which cost money. To start the process, as a whole, the testing consists of: a Cooper Standard (agility), polygraph, psychological, drug test, physical examination; after the successful conclusion of those tests the candidate is brought to the Board. To start the process, the conditional letter is mandated by POST.

Chairman Thornburg correlated the difference between law enforcement and public industry; in the past perhaps the Board interviewed a number of candidates to no avail which cost money; the Board now will look at the Chief's recommendation for candidates who have been through all the 'gates'. Commissioner Cartledge added, previously, the Board would rate several candidates in one evening.

Mr. Goldberg asked, as the letter is worded, if the candidate gets through the hurdles is there still an 'out' for the Commission? Chief Drumm said yes there is; the caveat will be incorporated in future letters. We need the approval of the Police Commission and the money to fund the position(s). Chairman Thornburg would like to know, for the future, how we want to continue with this process. Commissioner Kritzman feels the process changed when chiefs changed; what we wound up seeing were viable candidates. The interviews weren't at the start of the process; we got certain background info which was not provided prior to Chief Nolan. The candidates interviewed had been vetted. Chief Drumm noted the expense of prepping for candidates could run \$1200/each. Commissioner Cartledge noted that some candidates were interviewing in several other towns at the same time due to timing and/or money.

Commissioner Kritzman reiterated, the processing order changed with Chief Nolan. Chief Drumm added, a candidate's 'issue' will be discovered quickly. Commissioner Dowling thinks it is appropriate to include the Commission during the interview process.

Chief Drumm mentioned a letter to Officer Greg Martin congratulating him as the ABC (A Better Chance) annual meeting speaker. In his earlier life, he was Commander Greg Martin. Commissioner Kritzman

commented on the ABC mailer which announced Officer Martin's appearance. He was congratulated for his fine work.

Chairman Thornburg commented on the statistics reported as a part of transparency as related to public safety for the Town of Madison. He complimented *The Source* on its inclusion of last month's statistics.

In response to questions from meeting attendee Bonnie Rose, Chairman Thornburg answered there are steps to take for the clear costs for the North Madison substation. Ms. Rose is a representative of her neighbors relative to the status of the sub station for this fiscal year or the next. Chairman Thornburg said to be transparent, there is nothing identified for a facility. If it is determined the community demands and needs that, it will be revisited. Commissioner Cartledge added, rather than have the impacts come from the community, he asked that we review statistics to see if it is Board of Police Commission initiated. Commissioner Kritzman continued, the Chief spoke with someone to provide space at no charge.

Chief Drumm reported he spoke with Mr. Fusco, a VP from Guilford Savings and the gym manager. What is key is what would be of the least fiscal impact. He would love to have someone offer 'in-kind' space and would hope to share resources in North Madison; he doesn't need 2000 square feet, but could use desk space to provide a presence. The discussion is on-going. Chairman Thornburg wants community consensus and input. We can make a difference in certain areas. Commissioner Kritzman feels the Chief is pursuing what mall managers do, which is provide space at no charge for police departments - putting the space in the shopping center gives the police a higher profile, rather than at the fire department. Free, available space has no downside. Chief Drumm said a lot of communities provide open space (Westbrook, Old Saybrook). We have reconfigured patrols; we have adequate staffing up north to provide a presence. Chairman Thornburg asked for a brief summary of what the Chief sees, from his perspective as the benefits to the community for a substation. Chief Drumm said in town people see the officers; in residential areas up north officers are getting out of cars and knocking on doors.

ACCEPTANCE – MEETING MINUTES

- Regular Meeting of May 13, 2010

MOTION by Kritzman, second by Dowling to accept the minutes of the May 13, 2010 meeting. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKING ISSUES / TRAFFIC CALMING UPDATE

- Traffic Updates: Town Engineer Mike Ott

Mr. Ott reported a resident wrote about the intersection of Neck Road, off Rte 1, to include the area on the west side of the School House Deli. The concern is cars running the stop sign. Mr. Ott thinks the intersection at that site is wide for boat/trailer traffic. The Town could create a more controlled intersection by putting the stop sign in a better position; he will propose to Board of Selectmen to make the improvement to the intersection and he has left the resident a voice mail to that effect.

Another resident's concern, to be addressed through engineering, is that at the Bradley Road/Wall Street stop sign is that it is difficult to see oncoming cars to the right. Mr. Ott measured the intersection and reported the site distance is obscured by parking spaces on the west side of Wall Street diagonally across from Bradley & Wall. The solution would be to eliminate two parking spaces; he will talk to the property owner to trim the tree which obscures the sight line, or to post the parking space for a small vehicle. The posting would have to be approved by the Board of Police Commission as a parking restriction.

MOTION by Cartledge, second by Kritzman to modify the type of vehicle parking allowable in the two spots on Wall Street to provide a clear line of sight. . All in favor.

Mr. Goldberg asked if there is merit in talking to the property owner directly. Commissioner Dowling thinks it should be delayed a month to have a discussion with the property owner. The motion was retracted until next month.

Mr. Ott continued his report and advised he has been working with Madison Public Schools to improve visibility of the entrance/exit of the Brown/Ryerson School driveway. At that location on Rte. 79 the posted speed limit is 50 MPH. There is an advisory speed plate on the flashing signs, when flashing the speed is 25 MPH. He has talked to the Board of Education to request a sign that would be more visible; there is regulatory signage which can be enforced during school hours when lights are flashing. Supt. Klein asked that it be brought forward to the Board of Police Commission to send a letter to the STC to investigate and respond to the Police Commission if a reduced speed limit zone can be approved. Mr. Ott would hope to have this approved by September.

MOTION by Dowling, second by Cartledge to submit a request to the State Traffic Commission to assure proper notification installing regulatory signage at the Route 79/Brown and Ryerson School driveway. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Additionally, there was a discussion relative to a no parking restriction on the southerly end of Scotland Avenue near Route 1. There is a new restaurant ready to open which is close to the intersection; residents in the Mews are concerned about on-street parking that might occur with restaurant/bar customers.

The request is for when vehicles exit the Mews they have a proper sight line on Scotland Avenue. Mr. Ott would support the request, adding, we don't know if there is a problem because the restaurant is not open yet. There is limited parking at the restaurant site. Chief Drumm asked if zoning/building permits take in to consideration the number of patrons and the number of spaces. Mr. Kritzman said they would have counted street parking. The Chief asked, if we took away street parking would that affect the permits? Commissioner Cartledge asked for a copy of the restaurant's presentation so the numbers can be seen; if we know what was approved we could address this situation with the restaurant owners. Mr. Ott agreed that would be helpful and he will review the P & Z files; he would not think they did not count the off street parking but he'll check. Mr. Cartledge asked for a presentation next month.

On Street Parking – Mr. Ott said there are calls in the summer for on street parking at the beach areas, Neptune, in particular, where there has been 'No Parking' signs for a long time. He anticipates residents asking the Commission to revisit the no parking restrictions and is advising the Board as something that may be addressed by residents. The signs are old and sporadic. Chief Drumm said that was brought up in March – there is a limited shoulder area and any vehicle in the roadway will be issued a ticket. We have had contractors remove their vehicles to which there has been some resistance. The law is – no parking on roadways. There needs to be a medium between the carriages, walkers, bikers, etc.; patrols are cognizant of this; contractors are complying.

Mr. Ott spoke to the latest revision of the traffic calming program; feels it is appropriate to have a working group meeting with the Board of Police Commission and the Board of Selectmen; some things need to be addressed by the boards together as this will be setting policy.

The Board will review the plan; Chairman Thornburg noted the speed trailer is on Waterbury Avenue as an interim step. Mr. Ott and Commissioner Cartledge will work to schedule a joint representative meeting; Mr. Goldberg suggested including Finance Board liaison Jim Matteson.

Commissioner Cartledge reported a traffic log was started. On 5/18 a gentleman wrote of his traffic related concerns; Mr. Cartledge received the letter on 5/20 and discussed it with the author who was pleased to receive a response. Comments on traffic calming will be given to Commissioner Cartledge.

NEW BUSINESS

Madison Planning & Zoning has started to update their plan; there will be a steering committee of citizens to serve and is asking if the Police Commission would provide a committee member for the 1½-2 year assignment of 6 hours/month.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Kritzman congratulated the Madison track teams who participated at the state championship.

Commissioner Dowling: None

Commissioner Cartledge thanked the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance liaisons (Goldberg and Matteson), who are attending our meetings and forwarding pertinent information back to their respective boards. Chairman Thornburg added, Mr. Matteson has advocated for us and challenged us to have a good plan. Both the Chief and Commissioner Kritzman have put in a lot of hours at Board of Finance meetings.

CHAIRMAN COMMENTS

Chairman Thornburg noted we are passing our first 6 months as a board and with Chief Drumm; a great deal has been accomplished. He thanked Madison officers for creating a culture to be proud of; something special is underway and it is exciting to watch. He congratulated the chief, the officers and the board who are building trust with our citizens. You can see it – the budget aligns with the strategic plan and we have generated the support of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance in the face of economic headwinds to support the department with two new positions. He is counting on the community to continue the support and vote next week. Chairman Thornburg complimented the Chief for the trust that is being built with the community. He congratulated the Chief and his team.

MOTION by Kritzman, second by Cartledge to adjourn to Executive Session at 6:55 PM. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

- Consideration of Legal and/or Personnel Matters

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

Discussion: Memorandum of Understanding – Town of Madison and Madison Police Union Local 1836 regarding Compensation Time

- Return to Regular Session

ADJOURN

MOTION by Kritzman, second by Cartledge to adjourn at 8:05 PM. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Minutes accepted: July 8, 2010