

**MADISON DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICES  
REGULAR MEETING –July 8, 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; Town Engineer Mike Ott

**REGULAR SESSION**

Chairman Thornburg called the July 8 regular meeting to order at 5:30 PM and asked that all rise for the Pledge of Allegiance. He welcomed members of the public and said he appreciates the community interest in the police department and the commission. He welcomes any input and feedback to the commission and the chief and recognized and thanked Board of Finance liaison Jim Matteson for attending so that he is able to carry information back to his board.

**CHIEF'S REPORT**

• **Budget / Financial Report**

At the close on 6/30 of the fiscal year, police accounts have approximately \$86,000 remaining; still have wages to pay. Budget runs approximately \$53,000 bi-weekly; we expect to have approximately \$23,000 left over. He concluded, he feels good about this year end budget.

Mr. Goldberg arrives at 5:33 PM.

Chief Drumm continued we will show a shortfall in investigative OT which is approximately \$39,300; we just incurred more expenses related to the untimely death.

Commissioner Kritzman commended the chief on the budget; last year the department returned monies to the town. He finds it commendable that the budget is being managed so well. Chairman Thornburg added, it comes down to being a good steward. Commissioner Kritzman feels the obligation is to meet the needs of the public; to return large sums indicates the needs have not been met and puts the department in a negative position. Mr. Matteson said the \$23,000 surplus goes to the general fund. Chief Drumm concluded we have controlled our 'known' expenses; feels the promotions vs. the savings in OT are the reason.

• **Activity / Statistics**

Chief Drumm noted fewer calls for service on the midnight shift, which is just as important. Chairman Thornburg said at the beginning of the year calls were approximately 42/day – now we are at 57/day – part of which is activity based on how we are responding to the needs of the community.

Chief Drumm have some statistics from January to July 1; As of 7/1 there were 134 animal calls; last year 117; assist to persons 470 vs. 365; background 2 vs. 17 last year; alarms - burglar 497/586 so far this year. There is a general increase – the economy is affecting stats. Commissioner Kritzman asked about Hammonasset Park calls -the Chief has asked for DEP and CSP statistics - he is working on that for his 6 month report. Commissioner Kritzman asked if the summer calls at Hammonasset can be shown. Chief Drumm said last year's calls showed 82 for criminal activity the balance was calls for service. Motor vehicle enforcement - 908/last year 425; traffic stops with infractions. 425/665 to date; verbal 1157/last year 757; traffic stops with written warnings:

Mr. Goldberg asked if we are getting better at keeping statistics. Chief Drumm answered the officers are enforcing the law and working hard. When asked by Mr. Goldberg if more calls are coming in, Chief Drumm answered - absolutely. Chairman Thornburg added that calls are up but we are providing more service to Madison. We respond to the false alarms, but they are not designated as false until the officer is there; we are providing the services. Chief Drumm said the Memorial Day holiday statistics showed 205 enforcements ranking Madison as 5<sup>th</sup> in the state. We are in the top 5-10%; we are doing heavy enforcements at the connector and Rte 1; officers are working very hard.

Commissioner Kritzman noted that when staff was reduced, problems were not addressed; we are at an approximate level of staffing where that type of enforcement is required. Chief Drumm noted we now have two supervisors and a CSO on the road; that will increase statistics. We can get more coverage out there now. Commissioner Dowling added that some of the trends noted are important in terms of getting a sense of where the resources are going – on a quarterly basis he would like an Excel spreadsheet with year-to-date trends for yearly comparisons. These statistics will have implications down the road. If we see false alarms, for example, continue to grow we may need to implement an aggressive homeowner notification plan. Chief Drumm said increase in crime is throughout the state and tied to the economy; the key is our officers are really performing and that shows in individually generated enforcement. The midnight shift bike officer is also biking through town on his shift.

- **Training**

Officer Blackwell completed her POST training make up sessions; officers Race, Martin and Rosati have graduated from bike school; Lt. O'Connor had a mishap at bike school and is out with a bruised knee. Additionally we had one part-time officer re-certified who returned from Afghanistan. Chairman Thornburg asked for an update on Officer Pugliese's status. Chief Drumm said Officer Pugliese is now done with FTO and is covering his own shift as of today; Officer Blackwell will be off FTO next week. All the reports from their field training officers are very positive – they are very good at initiating calls.

- **Monthly Traffic Report**

Accidents: 29; Property Damage: 20; Private property Damage: 2; Injury: 7; Fatal: 0; Motor Vehicle Arrests: 163; Speed Enforcement: 131; DWI Arrests: 4; Seatbelt: 20; Cell Phone: 57; Written Warnings: 158; Verbal Warnings: 296:

- **Old Business**

- CALEA Accreditation

Sgt. Pardo, the CALEA manager and Lt. Stimpson met with Chief Palmer from the Coventry Police Department. Chief Palmer the head of the CALEA accreditation in the state – formerly from Norwalk Police Department. He will help us in the process prior to our initial inspection. Chief Palmer feels we should complete this project in one year; officers are very optimistic. We will have to create a couple of new policies, i.e., maternity. Chairman Thornburg reminded the board that CALEA accreditation will provide the best practice, efficiency and effectiveness, in addition to being great liability insurance.

Commissioner Kritzman added that in addition to the CALEA international organization, there is state certification as well. CALEA is seen as a premier certification. Chief Drumm concluded, state certification will follow the CALEA certification.

- **New Business**

Chief Drumm has started research on community policing. He continued his conversation with Guilford Savings Bank and other shopkeepers in the North Madison plaza. He has looked in to making the old ambulance operational for use by the officers in the community. Officers in the north district are active in making arrests and following leads; they are in neighborhoods, making stops and following information they cull from the stops. The officers are doing a great job. Some challenges they are facing include: north/south patrol on 38+ square miles; a financial aspect to create and maintain the sub-station; change of the town culture. He asked that the board review the document and contact him with feedback. He thinks the 6-month report is a good piece of information for the townspeople and complimented The Source and the New Haven Register for keeping readers apprised.

Chief Drumm reported that he and Officer Race competed in a 25 mile bike race for Special Olympics resulting in them winning a bike won a bike. It will be donated back to the town – we have a 5<sup>th</sup> bike now to use. Officer Race has been involved in Tip A Cop; the bike race and a race challenge with area police departments.

Chairman Thornburg asked about the Chief's reaction to his first 4<sup>th</sup> of July in Madison. Chief Drumm said some people think he is padding his pension; he made it clear he does not get comp. time, overtime, etc. He thinks the strong police presence helped throughout town. There were a couple of minor incidents; a minor accident in a parking lot; an accident on the barge during the fireworks. Officers did a great job; the concert went very well and he enjoyed the home-town parade. The feedback the Chief has received so far is people like

seeing the officers on the bikes around town. Chairman Thornburg said he has received positive feedback about the Chief being in the parade rather than observing the parade and he commended the Chief's style.

- **Correspondence - None**

#### **ACCEPTANCE – MEETING MINUTES**

- Regular Meeting of June 10, 2010

**MOTION** by Gyenizs, second by Kritzman to accept the minutes of the June 10, 2010 meeting with one correction. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Walter Lippmann: Commented positively on the Chairman's example the way a citizen's complaint was handled. Traffic control is markedly different from last year; there were no problems during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holidays and he thinks what is being seen is that the Board and the Chief have a vision. Mr. Lippmann commented on the representatives of the boards of selectmen and finance and their attendance at the commission meetings. He said he read that possibly the police officer appointment would be pushed back and feels if we can get someone trained we are not training for another department. A police department cannot forecast money for investigations; we have had a homicide and an unfortunate death. The officers are clearing up cases that have been languishing in the past; you cannot predict investigative overtime. He is delighted with how things are going – would like some issues of the past be dealt with by the Commission. Chairman Thornburg said 2 positions are still in the business plan of the town that the Board of Finance plans to present. There is a hiring delay from July to mid-September for the first officer and January for the second officer. He asked for community support. Mr. Lippmann noted what he feels is a need for crossing aids – pedestrian crossing; and/or stanchions to hold walkway signs in place downtown and near the post office. Commissioner Cartledge asked that he be contacted to intervene on this with Walter and Mike Ott. In conclusion, Mr. Lippmann reiterated how well traffic was managed this year after the fireworks.

Chief Drumm added he sees a value in portable crosswalks; Mike Ott will research this.

#### **PARKING ISSUES / TRAFFIC CALMING UPDATE**

- Traffic Updates: Town Engineer Mike Ott

Commissioner Cartledge reported there are have several dates for the third week in July with the Committee to discuss traffic calming to accept the facts Mike Ott has put together; we will try to use the resources we have. We want to affect something – it is our goal in support of the boards of finance and selectmen and the town that the plan can be implemented. There are also issues with Wall St. and Bradley Road that will be addressed. Updates by Mr. Ott:

1. Spoke to owner today of a business on Wall St at Bradley heading east and discussed posting two spaces for smaller vehicles; owner was agreeable. He also spoke to the same owner about trimming the tree in front; the owner was fine with Mike's suggestions.
2. Request went to state to reduce speed zone on 79 at Brown/Ryerson driveway. STC has begun the process of reviewing.
3. Had a request to install audible pedestrian signals downtown to include East Wharf at Scotland. State has a policy that installation for pedestrians is on hold; probably for new crosswalk regulations. Each crosswalk is approximately \$50,000. Resident asked him to make a request to the board to make a request to the state, which will get the request on record. This person is sight-impaired; he asked Police Commission permission to submit the formal request. When asked by Chairman Thornburg if this is a reasonable request, Mr. Ott said he thinks we need to learn more about the sounds that are made by these signals. Commissioner Dowling asked for clarification about the request; he would like more information about the operation of the device before the request is made. Mr. Ott said he understands the signals that were used are speakers that emit a sound; now it is a speaker on both sides of the crosswalk – they would have to change the pedestal; it also emits a tone. The tones on the speakers get louder as people approach; there have to be sidewalk ramps which would require support of downtown project. Commissioner Cartledge wants to be sure the person requesting these signals knows this is a long-term study but we will start the process. Mr. Ott said the town is responsible for

site costs although the state will pay some of the costs. He has not seen the new devices. Chief Drumm added a lot of civic centers have them outside their venues. It is an audible, low-pitched tone. Mr. Ott will investigate newer installations and get an idea of what it sounds like. Chief Drumm suggested DOT be contacted for a list of area signals. Chairman Thornburg added although we want to be responsible we also want to be aware of all the impacts on the community. Commissioner Cartledge asked if we can give the go-ahead to start the process now as he feels there is a need to move forward in an effort to be pro-active. Chairman Thornburg agreed to get in line to start the study; Mr. Ott will draft a letter requesting a study by the DOT.

**OLD BUSINESS - None**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Kritzman asked when Sgt. Pardo is going to the FBI Academy. Chief Drumm said he reports September 26; Chairman Thornburg and the Board will initiate an article later this summer.

Commissioner Dowling commended winning a bike in the competition and also to Chief Drumm and Officer Race putting their personal entry fees in to join the competition.

Commissioner Cartledge is pleased with the unity and teamwork among the Board of Police Commissioners and the boards of selectmen and finance. Everyone is responding in kind to the presence of Chief Drumm.

Commissioner Gyenizs agreed with Commissioner Cartledge relative to the commissioner interactions and how nice to see how things are going as opposed to how they were handled in the past.

Chairman Thornburg commented on the budget, stating with a new board and a new chief he appreciates so much work and understanding by the boards of finance and selectmen that the new commissioner and chief needed some time & space to put their mark on the budget. They have supported the Commission in a difficult time; minimum staffing drives that request for new officers. He sees how tough it is on the boards relative to budget cuts; this Commission appreciates the extension of trust from the boards and citizens to the Board and department – they intend to earn at every day. In conclusion he said he is hopeful the community will support this budget so we can move forward.

**CHAIRMAN COMMENTS - None**

**MOTION** by Kritzman, second by Cartledge to adjourn to Executive Session at 6:38 PM to discuss personnel/legal matters. 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

- Return to Regular Session at 7:07 PM

**ADJOURN**

**MOTION** by Kritzman, second by Cartledge to adjourn at 7:07 PM. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Minutes accepted: August 12, 2010