Attendees: Chairman Ed Dowling; Commissioner Ann Rumberger; Commissioner Thom Cartledge; Commissioner Michael Carrano.

Also Present: Captain Douglas Harkins.

Absent: Chief John “Jack” Drumm; Al Goldberg-Board of Selectmen liaison; Jean Fitzgerald-Board of Finance liaison.

CALL TO ORDER – REGULAR SESSION

Chairman Dowling called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACCEPTANCE – MEETING MINUTES

MOTION by Cartledge to accept the minutes of the December 14, 2023 Regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners. All in favor; none opposed. So moved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - None.

Chairman Dowling stated Chief Drumm is attending an out-of-state meeting.

CHIEF’S REPORT

Budget/Financial Report: Captain Harkins provided an update on the budget. We are over in Overtime due to being down three (3) Officers and replacement during the Holidays. We are over in Vehicle Maintenance due to older vehicles in the fleet that we plan on replacing this year. Communications we are over $21,888 due to acquisition of a new server for the Department; this cost was split with the Town’s IT Department. Police Services we spent money on four (4) AED devices, seven (7) taser cartridges, four (4) oxygen cylinders replacement and five (5) autism bags.

Activity/Statistics: Captain Harkins provided the report for the fourth quarter of 2023. There was a noticeable difference in motor vehicle enforcement from Oct-Dec 2022 to Oct-Dec 2023. This is attributed to the six (6) new Officers hired in the last year.

Chairman Dowling noted the increase of Speed Enforcement from 263 in Oct-Dec 2022 to 786 in Oct-Dec 2023. These statistics show the impact of additional officers on public safety. One of the things that has been talked about here is how delighted we would be if Madison was known as a speed trap.

Captain Harkins commented on the recent storm. Fortunately, Madison was not hit too hard; had some flooding and power outages, but not too bad. In preparation we hired an additional Dispatcher and an additional Officer to make sure we had enough people to respond in case the storm turned out to be worse than anticipated.
Captain Harkins reported in the first week of January there has been an attempted robbery, three (3) car accident on Rt. 80 with injuries and the accident reconstruction team responding-family was extricated from the car, commercial burglary and a firearm investigation where there was a recovery of a cut-off shot gun and pistol.

**Training Report:** Captain Harkins provided the training update. The Department participated in a total of 234 training hours in the month of December 2023. Training consisted of Body-Worn/Dashboard Cameras, Taser Recertification, Crisis Intervention, COLLECT/NCIC Recertification and SCCTU (SWAT) training.

Commissioner Cartledge asked how an instruction class runs for Body-Worn Cameras. Captain Harkins explained we have a contract with Post University for online courses. An Officer will come off of the road, sit at a computer and go through the class online, take the test and go back on the road and serve the Town. This has helped the department because in the past we would have to take someone completely off the road, send them off-site, reassign them in order for the Officer to attend an in-person class. The cost savings have been tremendous.

**Traffic Report:** Captain Harkins provided the traffic update. There were twenty-four (24) MVA with two (2) involving injuries. The leading cause of the MVA involved animal strikes/debris in roadway, failure to drive in established lane and failure to yield. There was zero (0) DUI and zero (0) fatal accidents. There were eight (8) reported private property accidents and one (1) assist to the Connecticut State Police with MVA on I-95.

**Community Calendar:** Captain Harkins provided the calendar update. Jingle Bell 5K was held on December 10 at the Surf Club for the Arthritis Foundation; they hired two Officers for security. The MPD Toy Drive was highly successful with many toys and clothing donated by the Community. There were thirty-one (31) families and seventy (70) kids assisted by the Toy Drive. Holly Berke commented that once word got out to the Community that she had a wish list for each child, people were extremely generous. She mentioned with the successful food drive, the PD was able to give many of the families an extra turkey. The turkeys that could not be used by

**Regional Shared Services:** None.

**Chief’s Correspondence:** None.

**Traffic Issues:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Current Issues:** Captain Harkins discussed the MPD’s participation in the new LINKED-Autism Safety Project. This is a program that helps the MPD provide services to our autism community and their families. The MPD will compile important individualized information about the person with autism, which will be turned over to the Officers in the field. The confidential information will only be used as needed by first responders. Police cruisers will be equipped with sensory bags to help work with the families during an emergency.

Dispatcher Nolan Rich resigned on January 2, 2024. He went to the Hamden PD where he grew up and felt he had a better grasp of the landscape. We anticipate advertising for the Dispatcher position in the near future.

Personnel-Officers Mark Welz and Wyatt Bosma were honored by the CT Police Chief’s Association. They were awarded the Luciano Award for the highest scholastic average in their respective class in the Academy.
Recruitment-South Central Criminal Justice held their entry level police test yesterday. Lt. Yorke will follow-up to make sure we get the list to explore recruitment.

Camera request was approved by the BOS and will go in front of the BOF on January 17, 2024.

Liaison with State Agencies: None.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: Chairman Dowling noted that longtime Commissioner Marietta Lee completed her ten (10) year term. She held the important backup role as Vice-Chair of the BOPC.

MOTION FOR NOMINATION: Commissioner Cartledge nominated Commissioner Rumberger as Vice-Chair. Rumberger stated she would be honored. All in favor; none opposed. So moved.

Chairman Dowling stated the quarterly statistics are important to look at. They are helpful to look at the trend line and metrics? How often has an event occurred? What difference does adding two additional Officers make? They are useful to demonstrate the use and importance of resources and how they are utilized.

MOTION TO ADJOURN to Executive Session by Carrano , second by Cartledge. All in favor; none opposed. So moved. Meeting adjourned by 5:55p.m.

Executive Session adjourned at 7:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Holly Berke