

MADISON DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
March 14, 2019
COMMUNITY/TRAINING ROOM – 5:30 PM

Attendees: Chairman Ed Dowling (via conference call); Vice Chairman Marietta Lee; Commissioner Thom Cartledge; Commissioner Peggy Lyons

Also Present: Chief Jack Drumm; Capt. Joe Race; Al Goldberg, Board of Selectmen Liaison

Absent: Commissioner Steve Shaw; John Iennaco, Town Engineer; Ken Kaminsky, Board of Finance Liaison

CALL TO ORDER

Opening and Call to Order at 5:30 PM by Vice Chairman Lee; Chairman Dowling joined the meeting via a conference call.

REGULAR SESSION

All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

MOTION by Cartledge, second by Dowling to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 10, 2019. All in favor. None opposed. So moved. There was no February meeting.

CHIEF’S REPORT

BUDGET/FINANCIAL:

Chief Drumm reported that with the exception of labor we are where we should be. Overtime is a little high (about \$60,000) over however one officer is out on FMLA, one officer is in K-9 training for extended time. Somewhere in the ballpark of \$60,000 will be moved over. We will be \$30-\$33,000 into that line. We are backfilling for FMLA for an officer who was out for approximately 6 months; the K-9 officer is in training for approximately 5 weeks.

The police budget went through boards of finance and selectmen; they did not grant the highway construction project when an officer works an outside job at time and one-half, plus insurance and a vehicle. The accounts receivable line has the excess, there is an audit and it goes back to zero. We wanted to put more in the account to eliminate that step but the Selectmen did not want to do that.

Chairman Dowling asked what is year over %. Chief Drumm said a little over 2%.; the overall general government line is 6-6 ½%. Commissioner Lyons added last month we talked about funding for the training room – the Chief said it is under building and technology – Art Sickle’s budget. The Chief would like to see the carpets and chairs cleaned and new technology added. Regarding the construction line – a pet peeve is we go back in May for \$80,000 which is accounted for in accounts receivable; it appears we are asking for more money but we are not.

Commissioner Lyons mentioned greater visibility for uncontrollable things – construction, Hammonasset calls, parades, the 4th of July fireworks, etc. Is that this category? Chief said we track it by code, i.e., a fatal accident, Hammonasset, special events. He doesn’t think we will get an events line. We do it with fewer officers; all hands are on deck on traffic posts because we don’t have enough people. We use the state police at a much higher premium. Commissioner Lyons concluded, rather than explain it every year – next year highlight the costs for special events.

The Chief explained the cars are on a replacement schedule as mentioned in January: we negotiated a rate a little over prime. We own the cars; it is a lease but not the standard type lease. At the end of the lease there is no residual value; we use them at construction sites, at schools, etc.

ACTIVITY/STATISTICS

Activity / Statistics: 97 Alarms, 37 of which were Burglary; 34 were 911 calls; 15 Fire Alarms; 18 Suspicious Vehicles; 7 Suspicious Persons; 73 Criminal Investigations with 24 In-custody Arrests; 6 Involuntary Commitments; 1 K-9 Assist; 34 Animal Nuisance complaints; 0 Animal Bites; 0 Adults Missing; 0 Juveniles Missing (1-6); 1 Juvenile Missing (7-15); 0 Juvenile Alcohol; 0 Juvenile Narcotics-related; 0 Juvenile Complaints; 35 Fingerprint requests, majority for pistol permits; 146 First Responder calls with Medical Assistance (first on scene); 51 Assists to Person; 25 Assists to other agencies. Additionally, 31 Motor Vehicle Accidents with 3 injuries, 14 with Property Damage, 4 Private Property Damage; 31 Motor Vehicle Arrests; 41 Speed Enforcements; 2 DWI Arrests; 1 Seatbelt; 3 Cellphone; 97 Written Warnings; 68 Verbal Warnings. Total calls for service for the month: 757; 27 daily.

The Chief added he is working on a state level racial profiling committee project in a positive way to understand stops vs. profiling. Hammonasset is a major impact – the committee called Madison the most transparent agency. The committee is seeking a balance for all.

Vice Chairman Lee asked about the car break-ins. The Chief said there is another series of break-ins including Madison plus the shoreline. The logistics of perpetrators is they are coming from Waterbury, Stamford, etc. We captured a Madison car – it had an occupant with a weapon that had been used in a homicide. Hats off to Officer Lazaroff who is working on the New Haven Police Department Task Force. We have had serious commercial burglaries in the last 6 months; restitution is difficult for the victims. The detectives have done a great job – thankful for DNA. Commissioner Lyons asked if there is a second wave coming? The last 2-3 months there have been reports of rifling through cars. Are they keying cars? Chief Drumm said they are stealing from cars – IPADs, computers, etc. Owners have to do due diligence. It does seem to be in waves, the 13, 14 years olds are now 15, 16 year olds. State laws make it difficult to incarcerate juveniles. There are people carrying guns who are wearing ankle bracelets. He is concerned about officer pursuits; the risk is huge – we generally call off the chase. The kids stealing the cars have been killed at fast speeds. Officers will not engage; they use stop sticks but they will not chase. State's attorneys have done everything they can with penalties for juvenile offenders. We won't create any liabilities for Madison in a chase.

Chief reported on Wildcat Road there have been 14 radar set ups with additional stops by officers; probably higher than other roads in town. The shifts are running 3 on the road plus one supervisor. Commissioner Cartledge concluded it is nice to be able to answer someone who comes to a meeting or writes a letter with a road concern.

TRAINING: Capt. Race reported on February stats: the most important was the Regional Active Shooter conducted with Clinton; the training consisted of officers making split decisions along with role players. Officers under high stress need to make split second decisions. The regional team has pitched in – Sgt. Roy spearheaded this – it was tremendous training encompassing a lot of hours. Additionally, training included: Use of Force; SWAT; and recertification mandates.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR: Capt. Race reported on the upcoming Leprechaun 5-miler with the Exchange Club from Surf Club to Seaview and back; Little League Parade in mid-April is being coordinated with Lt. Perron. We are starting to get summer requests, i.e., the Memorial Day Parade.

Chief Drumm noted we recently had a request from Michael Perry of the Rotary Club; they want to hold their annual carnival over the 4th of July holiday. The Chief explained there are several thousand people in town; it is not practical to hold a carnival over the holiday and in addition, we don't have the personnel; if they hired state police they would pay thousands vs. their income. Commissioner Cartledge added in the interest of public safety, by saying no for logical reasons, have they retracted their wish? Chief said they were told several times by Capt. Race and me again today that it would not work. Vice Chairman Lee asked if they usually hire our officers; Chief, yes. Capt. Race said there are always 2 officers on site the entire time the carnival is open.

Regarding the Surf Club's security company, Commissioner Lyons asked what their role is with the police for events. Chief said we've had some students working part-time and allowed them to issue parking tickets. People contest their parking tickets to Commissioner Cartledge who said in one night 13 people contested their Surf Club tickets.

Chief Drumm explained a security company is less cost than police officer; they are used to control intersections at the Turkey Trot where we can use flag men. At the Surf Club we still get incidents of vandalism after hours. Patrols check the Surf Club; Beach & Rec was using students. The town hired a security company (for football games) in addition to police officers for events. They've used security companies from New Haven or New London. Commissioner Lyons asked if this changes patrol. Chief said the security company uses their own cars; they pick up a radio from us at night. Chairman Dowling asked if there was orientation with expectations for behaviors or calling in protocols. Chief said yes, they are required by CT to have a photo badge. They are very courteous. They were given a protocol list from Beach & Rec, shown the facility; they dump the trash – things that would normally be done by Beach & Rec staff.

Beach & Rec now wants to go to a plate reader to read the license associated with each beach pass. Condition for a vehicle without a pass is to purchase one at the kiosk or leave the beach. We've had 2 meetings with the security company. The Chief is not a fan of plate readers; feels it can be biased at some point. Commissioner Cartledge asked if this been resolved? It is March. If someone doesn't have a pass, what happens? Chief said Beach & Rec is still working on it. Commissioner Lyons noted it is in the budget to roll out this summer. Chief Drumm said there were overzealous Beach & Rec student ticket writers; we are not the behavior police. Commissioner Lyons continued, she thinks there is confusion about the whole program – what happens – who enforces tickets if there is no beach pass. Chief Drumm said it has surfaced that companies selling the license plate readers for police are gathering information that can be turned over to ICE. Commissioner Lyons continued, who is following up when a license plate reader notes there is no beach pass? Chief Drumm said the town has statutory authority to issue a ticket; there were some flare ups with Beach & Rec student staff. He doesn't want the police to be the referees if this doesn't work. Commissioner Lyons asked if there is a committee on this; if so, the Chief should be on it.

Mr. Goldberg arrives at 6:12

Chairman Dowling lost his conference call connection

Mr. Goldberg reported the police will not be the enforcers; we (Selectmen) will be hiring high school students to walk around parking lots with the readers. They will take a picture of the license plate and the reader immediately tells them if the pass has been purchased. If the light is red, a ticket will be issued; if green nothing will be done. Police are not responsible.

Commissioner Cartledge asked, so there is no gate guard? Mr. Goldberg said that is correct; enforcement will take place over a longer time period. It is thought people without a pass go to the beach after 5:00; the enforcement officer will be on duty until dusk.

Chief Drumm thought a plate reader would be at the gate; if a driver doesn't have a pass they can go to the kiosk to purchase a day pass. Mr. Goldberg thinks they want to eliminate the gate so there will be no lengthy discussions holding up traffic; thinks it can be done via a cell phone app. Capt. Race said there will be a kiosk to swipe a card and pay or you can purchase a pass when you pull in to the parking spot. Students will go car by car. Chief Drumm asked if Beach & Rec staff is at the Surf Club – is the director there? Commissioner Cartledge said their presence is random, not full time. After hours there are security services. He suggested requesting Beach & Rec to come to the April meeting and do due diligence for the Board of Selectmen. We need to be cohesive. Mr. Goldberg suggested the Chief meet with Beach & Rec Director Scot Erskine; Chief said he has. Commissioner Cartledge concluded, the Board of Selectmen is in the public eye. This is an accident waiting to happen. He asked Mr. Goldberg to gather some data. Mr. Goldberg agreed to bring the Beach & Red director to the next meeting.

REGIONAL SHARED SERVICES STATUS REPORT: Chief Drumm said Clinton is going to a town manager format so shared services are off the table right now. He would like to continue the discussion. It is very manageable; we work together well. We still maintain a regional traffic team, a task force, financial crime team and SWAT.

CHIEF'S CORRESPONDENCE: Shoreline Soup Kitchen: We received a thank you note for 558 pounds of turkeys; MCS Board of Directors thanked us for 509 pounds of food and BH Care thanked us for donating coats, frozen turkeys, winter hats and various beauty products for women seeking shelter from domestic violence. All the recipients of our donations sent a sincere thank you to the police, citizens and commissioners. Chief Drumm noted the Madison Police Department also works with organizations in New London; he thanked Ann Nyberg and others for their assistance with this program.

TRAFFIC: Commissioner Cartledge will get together with John Iennaco to bring his traffic log up to date. Nancy Cunningham noted road freezing – we will pass that on to DOT regarding the condition of the state road. Chief Drumm added, at the Rte. 1 overpass DOT started making tributaries; there is water coming up through the asphalt as well. DOT is inspecting town bridges on Route 1 and on County Road. Mr. Goldberg asked how serious the flooding is; Commissioner Cartledge said cars get stuck and water comes up to car doors. People drive through even when signs are posted to not drive through high water. Chief Drumm concluded he would like permanent flashing lights at the overpass. If we put our own flashers out there, an inspector will call us right away.

NEW BUSINESS

- Current Issues: None discussed
 - Chief Drumm asked for a brief Executive Session

OLD BUSINESS: None

CORRESPONDENCE: None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: None

MOTION by Cartledge, second by Lyons to adjourn at 6:31 PM to Executive Session. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Present: Lee, Cartledge, Lyons, Drumm, Goldberg, Race

Discussion:

- Personnel Issues relating to staffing at the Surf Club

Return to Open Session at 7:07 PM

MOTION by Lyons, second by Cartledge to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:07 PM. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Minutes accepted: April 18, 2019