

MADISON DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
April 18, 2019
COMMUNITY/TRAINING ROOM – 5:30 PM

Attendees: Chairman Ed Dowling; Vice Chairman Marietta Lee; Commissioner Steve Shaw; Commissioner Thom Cartledge

Also Present: Chief Jack Drumm; Capt. Joe Race; First Selectman Tom Banisch; Beach & Rec Director Scot Erskine; Al Goldberg, Board of Selectmen Liaison; Officer Steve Manware; Officer Greg Martin; Officer Scott Pardales

Absent: Commissioner Peggy Lyons; John Iennaco, Town Engineer; Ken Kaminsky, Board of Finance Liaison

CALL TO ORDER

Opening and Call to Order at 5:30 PM by Chairman Dowling.

REGULAR SESSION

All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

MOTION by Cartledge, second by Lee to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 14, 2019. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

CHIEF’S REPORT

BUDGET/FINANCIAL:

Chief Drumm reported we have some negative OT balances for officer replacements. It has to do with light duty assignments, 1 absence which extended to 6 months, 1 FMLA. We have encumbered monies from Communications; less than \$20,000 will cover the shortfall. If we have to go to the boards of selectman and finance the amount will be mitigated down to \$20,000/\$30,000 by July 1. Chairman Dowling said we’re in the home stretch; Chief said it’s his 10th budget year and he’s still wagering on zero.

ACTIVITY/STATISTICS: Chief Drumm introduced Officer Manware, a former New Haven police officer, who is currently a School Resource Officer (SRO). We will periodically have the special assigned officers provide a report. Officer Manware explained to the Board that he covers 3 schools namely Jeffrey, Polson and DHHS. At Jeffrey there is not a lot of activity; Polson there is a little more – a lot of mediation for arguing, disorderly conduct. DHHS has a little more activity – criminal mischief issues –via surveillance cameras he made an arrest. Very minor arguments; if an arrest is called for he makes it and does drug awareness PSAs.

Officer Manware’s actions at the schools are community based, social work based, policing based. They met regarding a PSA about drugs in CT, overdosing, drug use and he acts as a facilitator. Commissioner Cartledge asked what are the parents’ reactions to his presence. Officer Manware said at first, a little apprehensive. His goal is to get kids on the right track. First reaction is to make an arrest; he meets with a principal, then meets with the parent as to what he can do regarding the arrest; does the JRB (Juvenile Review Board). In some instances he will meet biweekly with a student during their free period; parents like that. Parents are now more receptive. Chairman Dowling asked if he is active in orienting new teachers to the SRO program. Officer Manware – no. Chairman Dowling said unfortunately school security has not been a major topic of concern despite recent occurrences. Given Officer Manware’s insight it is something we want to convey as a sense to warrant best performances every day. You develop trust with students & teachers.

Chief Drumm continued we started with an SRO after Sandy Hook; we are very fortunate with the officers who participate in this program. Officer Manware has the experience with NHPD and is involved with sports in Branford which is this year's state champ in hockey; that led to the relationship with Madison coaches which is very important.

He explained JRB is utilized across the state for first time offenders; it keeps an issue in-house with the ability to communicate on this level. It's been around a lot of years.

Prior to showing a video, Chief Drumm reviewed the recent broken up police pursuit stating he wants to make it very clear to the Madison community that the Madison Police Department is involved with kids stealing vehicles – our hands are tied with the juvenile justice system. The officer involved followed our protocols to a 'T' and tried to make contact with the youth who operated with impunity. The police supervisor broke it off. The Chief then reviewed a video of the recent pursuit beginning with the officer posted at the North Madison Fire Department which showed vehicles going by at high rate of speed. At the 80/79 circle they went around the circle twice to get the officer to engage as they were Facetiming their friends at the same time. The officer made a loop; you'll see how fast the cars accelerate. Officer was told to break it off; we followed all our protocols.

Chief continued the State Police are doing an accident reconstruction since one vehicle drove around the officer and went off the road; second vehicle also went around the officer. The Mercedes SUV which was stolen from Island Avenue that evening rolled several times. The person who was ejected died on the scene. The Madison officer wasn't close enough to engage. Chairman Dowling said it is reassuring the officers followed the procedure –it was still a high risk. Chief Drumm concluded juvenile justice is reassessing how to handle this – he is on the legislative board.

DONATIONS

- The Madison House raised \$2200 for the purchase of a safety vest for K-9 Starr
- The Madison Women's Club donated \$50 in appreciation for the visit/demonstration with K-9 Decker by Sgt. Neal Mulhern at their monthly meeting.

Chairman Dowling thanked Kaitlin Lynch for a very generous donation on behalf of the Madison House to the Madison Police for Officer Foito's K-9 Starr. Kaitlin said a resident brought up fund raising for a local police dog; she learned there was a need for the new dog Starr. They started fundraising in December through raffles, portraits and a paint night and met the goal by February.

MOTION by Lee, second by Cartledge to accept the two donations with thanks and appreciation. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Chief Drumm said at the March meeting there was a discussion about the parking verification system to be implemented at the Surf Club and other town beaches. Scot Erskine and First Selectman Banisch were present to walk through the procedure and answer any questions the Commissioners might have.

Briefly, Mr. Banisch said the fee is the same but now people can buy a pass online or at the parking lot. Mr. Erskine said this system is used in various communities - it is an online parking management system where people use their iPhone. All the data we had in last year's system has been imported. The staff has been hired and will go around the lots with a hand held reader to take an image of the license plate. It reads the plate; the data goes to a database to verify if there is a season ticket identified. Mr. Banisch said we are capturing images and comparing them with our database, not anyone else's. It is a closed system.

Commissioner Shaw asked what are criteria for the people you hired to take a picture of every car. Mr. Erskine said the attendants will walk through lots routinely to see if the cars are identified as having a permit. It will be similar to downtown where there is a limit; we are concentrating on beach areas. It is not a beach sticker; it is

parking validation. Hours for the attendants will be 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM. There will be 3 attendants in the lots and a person in the office during the day on the weekends. Commissioner Cartledge asked what if a car does not have a pass. Mr. Erskine said a warning will be issued for the first time – still working on details. Vice Chairman Lee asked if the hand held prints a notice. Mr. Erskine said the notice is printed on thermal paper with all the information about the violation and how to appeal it. It is not connected to the police - this is through a service we are hiring to handle the appeals. If you don't pay the ticket it stays in the system; the company has the ability to go to the owner of record and mark it for registration. Commissioner Shaw said they receive one warning ticket a second time? Yes. But they get a printed warning. There will be signage. Vice Chairman Lee asked if there is a study about phone self-service. Mr. Erskine said Verizon is stable at the beach. There will be someone in the Surf Club office to help. They looked at doing a kiosk; it was cost prohibitive.

Commissioner Cartledge asked, prior to 9:30 AM anyone can come in but the attendant readers will come in at 9:30? What are the fines? Mr. Erskine said they are working on costs but he believes it will be associated with a maximum of \$100/day. It is through CONNPLUS which has a 91% recovery rate for the fees.

Chief Drumm added there is statutory authority given to the town; they can issue their own infractions. It is not replacing a police function; they are working within the ordinance. We will be active for handicap parking. The Surf Club patrols will cover Exchange Field. Officer Pardales asked about the writing warning – how soon do they get a ticket? Mr. Erskine said a warning; on the ticket it shows when to pay. There is no charge for July 4th. Mr. Banisch said we can selectively enforce dates, i.e., July 4th and other events. Mr. Erskine said a warning will put the plate in the system; if they return they are repeat offenders. Commissioner Shaw noted someone can get a warning but stay for the day for a free ride. Mr. Erskine said we need to discuss that.

Officer Martin questioned details about, for example, a car from Meriden which is not our database. Mr. Erskine said it is from our database in the Rec Department. Officer Martin asked if they are from Meriden and would not show in our database how does the company get the billing data? Mr. Erskine said the company can access the information. Chief Drumm noted he doesn't want the Madison Police Department coming in to clean it up. Wants it planned, wants it to work. We have only so many officers who work hard; they can't be at the beach. Mr. Banisch admitted the parking lot attendants got over zealous last year; this is a whole different system. There will be no police enforcement. Mr. Erskine said either you have a pass or you don't.

Mr. Cartledge added the common complaint on a pleasant weekend is you can't park; word of mouth will get out that you get a free day therefore he suggests a fine policy ASAP; not a second chance. Mr. Banisch said we can change the system on the fly to address a problem for things unforeseen. All the games are typically what clog the lots. There will be a specific pass for sports-related cars. Commissioner Shaw asked why do a warning when there is a sign. Mr. Banisch thinks it is educational at first. Mr. Erskine will start the early part of May. Vice Chair Lee asked if the company helps with PR. Mr. Erskine– yes they provide signage – mass email through our system and will advertise with message boards and releases.

Chairman Dowling concluded chronic abusers will continue. We appreciate the engagement with the police department. This is a town ordinance you have the authority to implement. How do we support this ordinance? It makes sense from a revenue point of view; the beaches are extraordinary community resources. Mr. Erskine stated one of the 3 employees will contact the office and advise. If needed police will be called for situations such as misuse of handicap spots, parking situations.

CALEA

Chief Drumm asked Capt. Race about the annual CALEA compliance. Capt. Race and Officer Harkins both did a great job as part of the annual compliance.

Capt. Race explained it is a 4-year cycle. This is the second time we've gone through this; about 50% of our files have been assessed. The assessor was very easy to work with; his idea of terminology was different. We worked through

communications and law enforcement. By next March we will have 75% of our files reviewed and they will prep us for the on-site in December 2020. There is so much minutiae; we've embraced this from the beginning and everyone knows what we have to do. Full court press to prep for 2020.

Community Calendar: April 27 will have the quick Little League Parade downtown from Stop & Shop to Jaycees Field with hundreds of kids participating. We are receiving the usual requests for fund raising bike rides.

REGIONAL SHARED SERVICES STATUS REPORT

\$24,000 cash was seized from a VT franchise in Madison; 153# of marijuana and new vehicles. The money we seized was given to the State of CT. In May our officer on the New Haven Task Force will return to us and go on midnights. We are upset about the state keeping the seized money. We followed the proper paperwork for the seized money; if it was received by the Department we would use it for police budget exception items. Our officer on the task force worked very hard on this; in the fall we will send another officer to NHPD. Chief said he tried to take this seized money and vehicles situation up to the Capitol.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Drumm exhibited a plaque noting Madison's selection in 2018 as the "Safest Community in the State of Connecticut for 2018"; we were #3 in the country. This was a job well done by the officers.

Chairman Dowling agreed and said this is a prestigious award and a wonderful accomplishment. Congratulations!

TRAINING: Capt. Race reported for the month of March training hours were for: Use of Force, K-9, SWAT, Instructor and Recertification / Mandates.

CHIEF'S CORRESPONDENCE

Chief reported the Grove Schools signs they requested are in; additional signs on Seaview and Middle Beach West will be replacing limited parking signs that 'disappear'.

NEW BUSINESS

- Current Issues: None discussed
- Donations:
 - The Madison House raised \$2200 for the purchase of a safety vest for K-9 Starr
 - The Madison Women's Club donated \$50 in appreciation for the visit/demonstration with K-9 Decker by Sgt. Neal Mulhern at their monthly meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: None

CORRESPONDENCE: None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

- Commissioner Cartledge said he marked 4 items on the Traffic Log complete.
- Commissioner Shaw asked if any engagement is needed with the striking Stop & Shop employees. Chief said we have officers at the store, paid for by Stop & Shop. He talked to a labor agent today and they are getting close to agreement. The issue is medical. Lot of seniors get their prescriptions there.
- Commissioner Lee appreciated the update from the SRO (Officer Manware); this is very positive – great work.
- Chairman Dowling concluded recognition is certainly supportive of the numbers we look at and the capability and professionalism of the officer to be recognized.

MOTION by Dowling, second by Cartledge, to adjourn at 6:40 PM to Executive Session. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Present: Dowling, Lee, Shaw, Drumm, Goldberg

Discussion:

- School Resource Officer(s)

Return to Open Session at 7:05 PM

MOTION by Lee, second by Cartledge to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:05 PM. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Minutes accepted: May 9, 2019