

MADISON DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
May 9, 2019
COMMUNITY/TRAINING ROOM – 5:30 PM

Attendees: Chairman Ed Dowling; Commissioner Steve Shaw; Commissioner Thom Cartledge;
Commissioner Peggy Lyons

Also Present: Chief Jack Drumm; Al Goldberg, Board of Selectmen Liaison; arrives at 5:51 Ken Kaminsky, Board of
Finance Liaison

Absent: Vice Chairman Marietta Lee; Capt. Joe Race; John Iennaco, Town Engineer

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: DHHS student Kevin Girardi submitted a request for a stop sign at Green Hill/Kelsey Springs. He was not present but emailed his request to Mrs. Hodge.

MOTION by Lyons, second by Cartledge to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 18, 2019. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

CHIEF’S REPORT

BUDGET/FINANCIAL:

Chief Drumm reported he sat with Finance Director Stacy Nobitz to go line by line on the budget; only line transfer is from the Communications budget because he backfilled from OT when the 3 dispatchers were terminated. The line transfers brought the monies back to the police line. The Board of Finance will review transfers next week. Some unknowns in budgeting for officers are injuries, need for light duty, etc. This past fiscal year we had both a non-work related injury and an officer on maternity leave. The biggest impact is to backfill the position of the officer on light duty which we can’t anticipate.

Communications – 3 employees were terminated/resigned due to investigations showing they were sleeping on the job. We conducted internal investigations; the last termination went to arbitration and the Unemployment Commission; these are external factors causing the budget to take a hit.

Chairman Dowling noted we’ve talked about putting together an end-of-the year summary training report which Capt. Race will present. Chief Drumm added the differentials for the Department are from statistics; we consistently are below a ratio of officers to population which we make up for by training our officers. We continue to invest in officers, training and equipment. We minimize the request for individual officers and at the same time, the officers have varied skills and a redundancy in specialized skills, i.e., accident investigations. Chief Drumm continued there is a cost saving factor with our own trainers.

Commissioner Lyons asked for next fiscal year it would be helpful to know what is required by the state vs what we feel is important to have to see how the training hours play out. Chief said he would love to be able to send officers to specialized training.

ACTIVITY/STATISTICS: Will be presented next month as a quarterly report.

REGIONAL SHARED SERVICES STATUS REPORT Chief Drumm said nothing is official but he reached out to Killingworth to discuss regionalization; we had that discussion about 3 years ago. The concept was well received when he spoke with a Killingworth representative; they are currently paying \$300,000/year for a resident trooper. The discussion will continue pending an endorsement by the Board of Police Commissioners. Chief said he would sit with Paul Sheehan of Public Safety. They talked about regional policing. We answer calls in Killingworth often – we have mutual aid with them. Why not make it more than just regional? Get compensated. We would add more patrol officers to the roster to cover Killingworth and its 30 square miles. It will not be a big impact and is a feasible idea to research. Chairman Dowling thinks it is something we are ready to pursue and it is very positive. Once there is a mutual interest he thinks we need to get officials involved. He doesn't understand why there isn't more interest in regionalization with neighboring communities – public safety, financial side, etc. We would be a very attractive partner with another community – partner is the key word and would pursue this with the proper agency.

Commissioner Shaw suggested having further conversations to see how serious they are. Chief Drumm said it is \$250,000 plus a reserve for a resident trooper. A new patrol officer is approximately \$108,000. It would provide back up for Madison and back up for Killingworth and we have personnel increasing the size of the agency. Mr. Kaminsky commented since periodically the ambulance covers Killingworth, the Board of Finance can be asked to have a consultant come in for the ambulance. Is there a way to leverage regionalization to offset the cost involved? If there is a value the officers can bring it sounds like a win-win. Commissioner Cartledge noted we attempted this earlier; it would be a smaller scale to pursue this with Killingworth and it benefits both towns. Commissioner Lyons noted other states have shared services; the agreement would be in the hands of the voters to structure the contract with the town.

Chief said if it is just emergency calls, in 2 ½ years there are 70+ calls in Guilford and Clinton. We'll supply the people on a contract basis. Chairman Dowling added, to the Chief's point the first part is, is there an interest with mutual respect to begin a discussion process. He thinks it is positive; let's see where we are. Chief Drumm said there is no reason why we can't share dispatch services and police services with another community based on demographics. There are regional shares, shared landfill, shared school districts. Mr. Kaminsky asked if Killingworth pays \$250,000 annually for 1 officer. Chief said it is a contract. The Town pays contract prices per the attorney general. Westbrook spends almost \$4M annually.

NEW BUSINESS

TRAINING: Chief Drumm reported last month there was regional response training, K-9 officers training and we started our in-service for recertification. Two classes were for active shooters, school and weather events, etc. and that was the focus for the month. July 1st firearm training will begin and continue through the fall. Additional core subject matter will continue as required by state mandates. Two officers are certified in dispatch and trained with the state police for COLLECT; they are trained to cover dispatch shifts in case we need them.

Commissioner Shaw asked how the training plan works. Do you know what is required a year in advance? Chief Drumm said he budgets training on core requirements and it rotates by 5 officers. Police chiefs also have to do patrol techniques and he has two more weapons training classes; Joe Race's requirements are similar. We try to schedule officers with like duties together, i.e., administrators & detectives. Commissioner Shaw asked, if at the end of the fiscal year you work a plan for next year? Chief, yes officers have to recertify every 3 years with 9 hours in weapons training although 3 hours is mandated. We try to minimize training to avoid necessary replacements. Our training officers comply with training, i.e., Race, Harkins. We have probably 14 certified recertification officers who can train our staff and other departments. It is a state requirement for recertification every 3 years, depending on when you come in to the schedule. Chief Drumm reviewed the course schedule for the fall from SCCJA.

CHIEF'S CORRESPONDENCE

Community – There is a discussion about the Memorial Day parade to see if they would like to hold the memorial at the Town Green rather than at the cemetery. Next year he believes it will be a memorial service on the Green. We are dealing with trying to fill the OT jobs for the town paving job. We offered it to Branford, Guilford and Clinton when we couldn't fill with Madison officers – Tilcon does not want troopers. He hopes the project is completed within 2 weeks.

Chief Drumm explained the process of Madison officers/outside jobs and the payment by the contractor – for the officer, benefits, car and insurance. Mr. Goldberg asked if there is there a policy regarding auxiliary officers? Chief said you can have 'flaggers' on the road working in conjunction with the officers. There is a state DOT course that certifies them. A private security company can provide a 'flagger' – there are different state certification levels. Commissioner Lyons asked if that is an assignment – Chief said no, that is on the officer's personal time. The jobs are posted with specific work order details. We pay them out of the OT line; we are reimbursed by the vendor.

TRAFFIC: We received a request to revisit Green Hill Road; we have 4 signs west to east on Green Hill and it seems to be appropriate. A request to the Department is to increase the patrol on Green Hill to get people to slow down; there is an equal problem on Warpas. He rotates officers around for traffic control. The radar signs are expensive; he'd like more at approximately \$2500 each. There are now signs to be installed at Grove School which were paid for by Mr. Chorney as well as the town's signs to be installed on the beach roads for pedestrian safety.

Chairman Dowling said at the next meeting there would be specific requests to see if we have any capacity to add signs. It is a frustrating area due to the configuration of the road. Chief Drumm said when there is a police presence people flash their lights to warn drivers. He would love to have a traffic unit to rotate officers around and utilize overtime. Commissioner Cartledge will reach out to John Iennaco to see if there are signs anywhere in storage to put into service. Chief said maybe next year we'll be more aggressive with speed signs with cameras. He was counting on asset forfeiture funds but they were not released by the state back to us.

CURRENT ISSUES: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

CORRESPONDENCE: None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: None

MOTION by Cartledge, second by Lyons, to adjourn at 6:15 PM to Executive Session. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Present: Dowling, Cartledge, Lyons, Shaw, Drumm, Goldberg

Discussion:

- o Hodge Retirement and Return Part-Time
- o Promotional Exams – Discussion
- o Department Executive Officer

Return to Open Session at 6:52 PM

MOTION by Shaw, second by Lyons to recognize Captain Race and the expanded time demands and award him with a \$1000 bonus for his service. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

MOTION by Cartledge, second by Lyons to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:53 PM. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Minutes accepted: June 13, 2019