

MADISON DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
June 13, 2019
COMMUNITY/TRAINING ROOM – 5:30 PM

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

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

Absent: 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: Peggy Reavely of 535 Green Hill Road addressed traffic relative to the speeding on Horsepond and Green Hill. She has called several times about speeding but nothing happens; she has attended bicycle and pedestrian committee meetings. She hasn't seen an officer on Green Hill Road to enforce the 30 MPH speed limit.

Chairman Dowling noted the speeding/traffic on Green Hill is a regular topic for discussion based on the fact that it is a key road. There have been a number of efforts to try to slow traffic; we are aware it is an issue and we are committed to try to slow down traffic but we can't do anything about the volume. Ms. Reavely asked for a radar sign that shows speeds between Horsepond and Green Hill.

Leslie Sude of 113 Windsor Court discussed Green Hill from the Killingworth bridge to Rte. 79 and submitted a petition signed by neighbors. She has spoken with Commissioner Cartledge and explained people cannot walk or bike on the road. If you follow the limit you are tailgated; left hand turns are dangerous and it is unsafe to exit driveways on Green Hill. Nothing new has been tried in the past 5 years. She was asking for a posted radar system. Additionally, she noted the kids exiting school drive speed on Warpas. Chief Drumm said he doesn't disagree regarding the areas of Warpas, Rte. 80 north/west, Ridge, Rte. 450. They run patrols with officers and try to give more attention to school bus routes. Entering Madison from Killingworth is a 'slingshot'; the speed radar signs do work and we are trying to budget more of those throughout town as permanent signs, not rolling carts. SROs have written 70 tickets in that area. The Chief said he tries to follow school routes where some locations spike higher. He would love to have the permanent signs on every road with speed/traffic issues. A couple of months ago we asked to purchase 12 such signs for the town. Commissioner Shaw asked if we could we address where we are on funds for the signs. Chief said it is a CIP project for capital improvement. We have extra funds which roll to next year's budget. Problem is drivers "aim", it is a cultural thing. He tries to keep the budget where it is; Guilford has 8 more officers than we do. He would like officers on Colonial and Opening Hill but we still only have a handful of officers. Green Hill is earmarked for 2 signs.

Chairman Dowling noted the reality is we can't post an officer 24/7 at these sites. Building the budget going forward we see the effect of this technology traffic calming; we are trying to put in strategic budget plans – not a one year effort to build the capital plan. Based on studies we are looking at solar powered signs. We are committed to this project and are very aware of this issue. It is a real and frustrating problem.

Leslie Sude said what is needed is adding the signs coupled with public awareness town wide. Commissioner Lyons added Middle Beach Road now has signs which the neighbors have been requesting for public awareness and she echoed Commissioner Shaw's comments regarding pedestrian safety. We have had people coming forward the past

couple of months – we are working to get money in our budget for these signs. Hopefully we will get more money in next year’s budget to support this effort.

Sarah Kirz – Lover’s Lane. Spoke regarding the intersection of Lover’s Lane and Scotland which is now a speedway – people do not stop at the intersection. She has spoken with officers - the intersection is very difficult and they can’t even park a cruiser. Is there any chance for a light at that intersection? How do the police feel about reporting reckless drivers? The Chief said you are welcome to report reckless drivers; we follow up on the complaint and you would be a witness. Ms. Kirz asked what is the protocol to formally request a light. The Chief said it would require a study; perhaps a blinking red light would be a better option. It took about a year to get the 3-way stop signs at Bradley/Wall. They are currently working on a 3-way stop near VISTA on Bradley Road and are pushing for crosswalks downtown. This is not an excuse, just an explanation that it moves slowly. In the summer we try to use the SROs on the roads; there is such an influx of traffic in town. Midnight patrols run radar on Green Hill; we have asked the resident trooper in Killingworth to help on the Killingworth side. She asked about the blinking light at Scotland? Chief said that’s an overhead approach; a logistical issue. Chairman Dowling thanked the speakers for their input.

MOTION by Lee, second by Cartledge to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 9, 2019. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

CHIEF’S REPORT

BUDGET/FINANCIAL:

Chief Drumm reported the labor line still has some negative balances. Have approximately \$18,000 in the holiday account currently. Purchased services and communications will be used to buy some traffic calming signs. Chairman Dowling asked for the vote.

MOTION by Cartledge, second by Lyons to support the use of the funds as discussed for traffic calming signs. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Chairman Dowling noted we will work with the town engineer to develop a calendar for a master safety plan with the roads in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Commissioner Lyons noted we have previously talked about a schedule for the next couple of years to present to the town. Chief said he will discuss that with CIP; perhaps the money belongs in Public Works; Commissioner Lyons asked for a separate capital budget item. Chairman Dowling said it would be helpful if it fit into Public Works so as to not compete with all the other projects. Thinks that is an effective way to do it.

Chief Drumm said regarding the current budget, his guesstimate is we will come in with a surplus of about \$14,000 on 7/1; the money for construction projects (Outside Jobs) is negative but will be processed through billable hours. There will be an adjustment by Finance.

ACTIVITY/STATISTICS for Quarterly Report: January-February-March: 324 Alarms, 150 of which were Burglary; 133 were 911 calls; 41 Fire Alarms; 68 Suspicious Vehicles; 33 Suspicious Persons. “See something say something “. 262 Criminal Investigations with 48 In-custody Arrests; 18 Involuntary Committals; 9 K-9 Assists; 89 Animal Nuisance complaints; 0 Animal Bites; 2 Adults Missing; 0 Juveniles Missing (1-6); 2 Juvenile Missing (7-15); 0 Juvenile Alcohol; 0 Juvenile Narcotics-related; 3 Juvenile Complaints; 85 Fingerprint requests; 792 First Responder calls with Medical Assistance (first on scene); 141 Assists to Person; 77 Assists to other agencies.

Additionally, 76 Motor Vehicle Accidents with 11 injuries, 48 with Property Damage, 17 Private Property Damage; 105 Motor Vehicle Arrests; 140 Speed Enforcements; 5 DWI Arrests; 1 Seatbelt; 10 Cellphone; 292 Written Warnings; 181 Verbal Warnings. Total calls for service for the 3-month quarter 2520; 28 daily.

Commissioner Lyons asked if there has been any change in the number of car thefts. Chief said we've done OK in Madison but there is still a rise in the state levels. Chief said there are also thefts of other items, i.e., oil from restaurants; scams against seniors, etc. Commissioner Shaw asked about tickets for cell phone use/texting – do we know what is ticketed. Do you know how many warnings were for texting? Chief said he will research. A lot of stops downtown are for people on their phones; when they are in the system for previous offenses they receive a ticket.

Texting has to be visibly seen. You can watch text-ers from behind as they weave. Warnings are in conjunction with a stop. Commissioner Shaw inquired about the number of phone violations vs. the number of texting violations. Chief said the officer has discretion to give a warning vs. a ticket. Commissioner Shaw would like a monthly basis for calls for service. Chief said it would be a breakdown in our CAD system; we'll give it a try. We submit this as a part of our annual report. Our racial profiling report identifies a further breakdown. Commissioner Cartledge added there are X number of lines on this report which are broken down for officer responses. We've got a busy department.

TRAINING: Focus is on recertifying; 12 officers need to be recertified this year; it is a 3 year rotating scale. Minimum of 60 credits per officer are required every 3 years. K-9 and SWAT take up a lot of training time; Lt. Perron and Sgt. Mulhern finished their recertification. There were 204 hours of training for the month; slows down going in to the summer. It will be SWAT and K-9 training plus mandates through the summer.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR: Entire focus is Fourth of July which is the biggest event in town. Officers work tirelessly for 36 hours; all hands on deck. Everyone is on a traffic post 7/3 for the fireworks. For the public, we are going to shut down the beach roads between 7-7:30 PM and when the Surf Club is full. Extremely limited parking; by 7:30 PM on 7/3 those roads will be closed to vehicles due to pedestrian traffic. Only traffic permitted will be the shuttle buses on their route. Neighboring departments will assist. We expect 15,000-20,000 people will come to the fireworks. This event is a tremendous undertaking. Take the shuttles. Park at the Green; we will close West Wharf at the end; one side for pedestrians one side for cars. Roads will shut down at 10:45 for the parade on 7/4. Units in the parade will not be able to exit out the front during the parade. Chief said we have a 26,000 person capacity at Hammonasset. We have the Surf Club, West and East Wharf plus the Green. Over 60,000 people will be in town. Men and women of the PD work very hard. Commissioner Shaw said he likes the idea of a hard line – 7:30 the roads will be closed. Capt. Race said the press release will be out on 7/2 in the Source. We will get the info up on Social Media as well as go door to door along the beach roads with bulletins and we will use the message board on I-95.

REGIONAL SHARED SERVICES STATUS REPORT: At some point we will start a dialog again with the Town of Clinton to share resources. He spoke with Killingworth as well; they will be part of the health district. After November we will get people focused on it. Good for both communities, tax savings. 53 mutual aid calls in Clinton; 19 into Killingworth and Durham. We work together already.

CHIEF'S CORRESPONDENCE – None

TRAFFIC ISSUES: DOT Project: RE: The Adjustment of Intersection of Wall Street / Route 1
Chief Drumm reported we have sent an approval letter to Mr. Roth at DOT regarding a **Right Turn Only** lane at the library and indicated we were satisfied with 'Plan 3'. The letter went out; they are moving on the project. Chairman Dowling asked for clarification of the changes on the Route 1/Wall Street adjustments.

Mr. Iennaco said the DOT design is to widen westbound at the intersection of Wall Street, creating a bypass lane which will allow vehicles to turn right. Currently, left turning traffic makes the traffic back up. The bypass will alleviate that. Chairman Dowling asked for a sense of timing. Mr. Iennaco feels construction will be in the fall. Mr. Goldberg added he thinks it sounds like a great idea; wants to follow the correct process. What are the steps? Chief Drumm said the DOT controls the project; they looked to the Local Traffic Authority (LTA) for endorsement. The First Selectman and town engineers reviewed the plan; believes the state is doing this at their expense. Mr. Goldberg asked if the Board of Selectmen is required to sign it. Chief said generally the CEO signs off on it. Mr. Goldberg reiterated it is not a town road. If it was a town road the selectmen would need to approve; he was looking for

assurance for the correct process. Chairman Dowling said the LTA has looked at the plan and made the recommendation. It will not interfere with the library; Expense to town is zero. He has spoken to the First Selectman and town engineer. Next is Bradley near Vista; that will be a town project. There will be a 3-way stop there. Mr. Iennaco said they just hired a design engineer for their analysis of the project. First Selectman asked for a discussion about a stop near Vista for the students which he thinks it is a good idea. Three way stop, west bound, third sign over the train track bridge. Chief said he will request a strobe. There will be two signs in each direction on Bradley and at the current stop sign site.

Mr. Goldberg asked is there no expense to the town at the turn on Route 1; does the Board of Selectmen need to approve this? Chief said if it involves money the Selectmen would need to approve. This is a question for the First Selectman. Mr. Goldberg said he wants the record to show maybe the Board of Selectmen need to go back and do this; this has not been brought to our attention. Chief said it is a margin of opportunity for the town to save traffic dollars. Commissioner Lee doesn't think the Selectmen have approved anything for action on state roads. Chairman Dowling concluded, we will arrive in the same place.

Commissioner Lyons commented on the off-ramp on Rte. 79/Durham Road where people want a stop light or a blinking light; that is a dangerous intersection. Chief said 4 years ago there was a study of the southbound ramp which has a light. Maybe we should revisit that area. He will make a request to do a study.

Chief Drumm asked John Iennaco about the Middle Beach, Middle Beach West and Seaview pedestrian signs. John will replace the missing signs. An order went in for yellow with black walker images. Chairman Dowling added a request for seasonal parking; yellow pedestrian *Walk Facing Traffic* signs with black imprints on both sides. John said he can make them up. The Chief suggested adding the new signs to the existing signs. Also, we have missing *No Parking May-September* signs. Capt. Race said he talked to Guy MacPherson about the signs regarding the best ones to fit in although he did not put it in writing. He was going to see if they can go on existing signs rather than add new posts. Chief said we've been waiting for 7 months. Chairman Dowling asked for completed status update by the July BOPC meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Current Issues: None

Donations:

MOTION by Cartledge, second by Lyons to accept with thanks and appreciation the donation to the K-9 Fund by Peter Scranton (\$150) and the memorial donation to the K-9 Fund by Ronald Newman, Sr. (\$20). All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Update: Ad Hoc School Safety Committee

Chairman Dowling reported he and Chief Drumm met with School Superintendent Tom Scarice to discuss a senior level committee with the school system for safety and security issues where there have been observations for school safety. There has been a difficulty scheduling a follow-up to identify the process; we have a meeting set for 6/19 to move forward. We have school support; hopefully by the next meeting we will determine how we are moving forward. We will iron out the charge to the committee. Chief reported House Bill #380 passed the State Senate and House; this was deemed a reaction to shootings in Wethersfield and Hamden. We already do what they are proposing relative to policing with body cams. Also included in the bill is to not lock a vehicle. Our training already includes this; we will have to buy some hardware for our current system to be able to redact the videos we send out. Chairman Dowling asked the status – Chief said it passed and will become law. These two past incidents pushed the bill through even though it had been in committee. Chairman Dowling said we should feel satisfied that we have taken a proactive stance.

OLD BUSINESS: None

CORRESPONDENCE: None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: None

MOTION by Lee, second by Cartledge, to adjourn at 6:58 PM to Executive Session. All in favor. None opposed.
So moved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Discussion: Employment Contract with Capt. Joseph Race

Return to Open Session at 7:10 PM

MOTION by Shaw, second by Cartledge to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:12 PM. All in favor. None opposed.
So moved.

Minutes accepted: July 11, 2019