

**MADISON DEPARTMENT OF POLICE**  
**July 9, 2020 – 5:30**  
**Meeting and Minutes via Teleconference – ZOOM**

Attendees: Chairman Ed Dowling; Vice Chairman Marietta Lee; Commissioner Thom Cartledge;  
Commissioner Ann Rumberger; Commissioner Christina Cewe

Also Present: Chief Jack Drumm; Al Goldberg, Board of Selectmen Liaison

Absent: Capt. Joe Race; John Iennaco, Town Engineer

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Dowling began the meeting by noting we are live streaming; he welcomed the commissioners, Mr. Goldberg, Chief Drumm and new commissioner Christina Cewe.

**REGULAR SESSION**

**MOTION** by Lee, second by Cartledge to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 11, 2020 and Special Meeting of June 24, 2020. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**CHIEF'S REPORT**

**BUDGET/FINANCIAL:** Chief Drumm reported the 19/20 fiscal year finished with an \$8K surplus. A lot of the expenses will show up such as those we pay in July/August to take advantage of discounts on office supplies, association dues, etc. Right now we are where we should be – we returned monies from the last fiscal year and he doesn't anticipate any major expenses - replacement vehicles ordered on 7/1; won't see them for 30-40 days. The Department stays within the appropriated monies, other than expenses related to COVID – beaches, traffic, etc.

Chairman Dowling asked the Chief if he was able to assess what the impact of COVID has been over the last 5 months if you put everything in the totals – special cleaning supplies, impact of COVID in terms of beach access, etc. Did you estimate at all what the impact is on the Department? The Chief replied from January 20 to July 1, Madison had 4,332 Calls for Service (CFS); usually we are over 6K. The calls are different now as burglaries are down, but responses are seen in CFS for a personal nature such as family in crisis, domestic issues. As far as COVID, people are cooped up in their homes and are now heading to the beaches – has additional patrols resulting in OT, impact of Hammonasset for additional officers. The Governor is aware of Hammonasset's impact on Madison; we have had additional officers in the past 10 days; you see the cones. The state is using the message boards on 95 when the beach is closed; the expense of this is in personnel since January, approximately \$27K for Madison and we are waiting to see July's impact. Expenses also include equipment, the signage in town, message boards which are leased. We are tracing COVID expenses for a 75% reimbursement from FEMA. We are following up with a second generation of expenses. Outside of Hammonasset's impact, people are getting used to it. He doesn't anticipate much more expense.

Commissioner Cartledge asked what the timeline is for FEMA. Chief answered – that’s a good question. It took 18 months for Middle Beach Road following the storm. Other areas are probably harder hit than Madison; he expects it in the next fiscal year.

Chairman Dowling noted we are incurring some of the expenses going into the new fiscal year – patrolling – we’re still buying special cleaning equipment. Those expenses are not going to end with the fiscal year. Chief agreed, they will continue with decontamination, mitigation to the facility, vehicles; we have met all the criteria on the FEMA application.

**ACTIVITY / STATISTICS REPORT for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> QUARTERS of 2020:**

The Chief explained how alarms are tracked; payments after 3 false alarms go into the General Fund. 734 Alarms, 262 of which were Burglary; 316 were 911 calls; 87 Fire Alarms; 14 Wires down; 37 Medical; 18 Other; 145 Suspicious Vehicles; 81 Suspicious Persons; 535 Criminal Investigations with 68 In-custody Arrests; 43 Involuntary Committals; 22 K-9 Assists; 178 Animal Nuisance complaints; 4 Animal Bites; 9 Adults Missing; 0 Juveniles Missing (1-6); 2 Juveniles Missing (7-15); 0 Juvenile Alcohol; 3 Juveniles Narcotics-related; 12 Juvenile Complaints; (total of approximately 21 juveniles – kids have been out of school); 120 Fingerprint requests; 850 First Responder calls, 94 Assists to Persons; 72 Assists to other agencies. Additionally, 117 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 22 with injuries, 1 Fatal (up north/there will be an arrest-doing affidavit now); 73 with Property Damage, 21 Private Property Damage; 126 Motor Vehicle Arrests; 170 Speed Enforcements; 7 DWI Arrests; 0 Seatbelt; 6 Cellphone; 292 Written Warnings; 64 Verbal Warnings. Total calls for service: 3649.

**TRAINING:** The Chief reported we are still doing POSTC on line; there are some additional classes for CIT; supervisors are trained – he would like to increase that number because CIT training is essential when learning how to deescalate a situation in a crisis or psychotic situation. Chairman Dowling asked about the regular training report – Chief said that is generated on what we receive back from POSTC but they don’t have that report to give us at this point.

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR:** The Chief reported we signed off on permits for the Labor Day fireworks which were reviewed with the fire marshal this morning – they will be abbreviated with a new approach; not sure about the parade. The concert series has started up again. They will figure out how to grid the green; wear masks. We had the Black Lives Matter and a large student gathering last month on the Green, both of which were well attended.

Commissioner Cartledge asked Mr. Goldberg if the Board of Selectmen has a plan about the Concerts on the Green to announce for safety measures. Mr. Goldberg said at the last meeting they announced the concerts would resume starting this Sunday – the first one is 60s music; doesn’t know if there will be more messaging. Chief said they will block the south entrance and have Beach and Rec staff act as ushers putting cones down. There will be no police presence as this is being managed by the Rec Dept. They anticipate more folks than usual – maybe 100-150. Chief Drumm added the road races, Turkey Trot, etc. will come back at some point but he doesn’t know when. A lot of people realize we are in this for the long haul. We’re down 3 officers; a lot of officers and dispatchers are ordered in. Some officers are helping out in Dispatch. When it comes to negotiations he hopes the hard work they’ve done is recognized.

Commissioner Cartledge asked if there is a message to put out to the people about the cops. Chief responded we have great people – the men and women have done a tremendous job. We are one of the few accredited agencies in the nation – only 1 in CT for dual accreditation. We’re doing all the right things. We still have a long way to go to gain back the public’s trust. That will be some of the government changes you’ll see in policies and procedures. We are doing best practices – we have good

officers in this agency – they go the extra mile. We have our concerns also – we have children also. If someone has the opportunity to speak with an officer to engage them that’s important – inquire how they are. It’s great interpersonal. If you want to ask questions, please do. Commissioner Cartledge concluded he is getting a lot of positive feedback with the motorcycle and bike patrols - they are doing a great job.

**CHIEF’S CORRESPONDENCE:** Chief said we have a lot. Chairman Dowling said some relate to traffic; maybe we can summarize where we are with the traffic studies and asked for an overview. Chief Drumm said a lot of folks bring food and send letters of support which we certainly appreciate. Some have social distancing concerns; a lot involves younger folks in town on the beaches. We have folks to discuss concerns of Hammonasset. As to traffic now – there is construction right now along Neck Road the road is dug up so DOT can’t do any assessments at this time. He will reach out to them but the assessments will wait until the road is paved. For Birnbaum Lane/East Wharf perhaps there should be additional signage which will control people using that road to cut through. People need to be aware of traffic on the beach roads. A traffic study and measurements for traffic control on Hammonasset are taking place by DOT; that will happen this year as well as Route 79 and the areas of the traffic ramps on 95. We are still waiting for additional signage near Rockland; the fatal accident was in that area and there may be additional signage there.

Commissioner Cartledge added he talked to Christie and John Iennaco about expanding the traffic log; we will do that and ask residents to pay attention to the speed signs. An active project is West Wharf and Surf Club Road at the golf course. He took some pictures of the stop signs hidden by the privet hedges; they have been trimmed back by the town. A study will be initiated for that area; will probably involve road markings. Chief added we need to revisit Route 1 and West Wharf where we had discussed crosswalks. Right now, with all the folks on the beach roads, he can see how a signal may work there before the curve coming east or west. Commissioner Cartledge asked about the sight lines. Chief said it would work if they put a sign on the curve – signal ahead – a blinking light - a warning of some type. Commissioner Cartledge asked for an email with his thoughts which he will discuss with John; Chief said it is for DOT to assess. There are a lot of bikers in town. Commissioner Cartledge continued, the traffic on Route 1 has dramatically increased this summer. Chief added we’ve made several attempts to get out in front of this. It would be a positive situation for us to establish bike lanes; thinks it is warranted.

Chairman Dowling said we will make this an agenda item for next month to stay focused on it – decals, signage, lane, etc. to come up with a plan to get the town to sign off on. Thinks now is the time to take a hard look at this. Chief would like to get a speed sign before the curve coming from west to east; same as on Green Hill before Copse.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Current Issues

Chief said with COVID our pending projects are off. We borrowed Guilford’s motorcycle; we have trained motorcycle officers in our agency. Currently Officer John Palmer, who is trained, is patrolling on the motorcycle. Do we proceed with a motorcycle program? Commissioner Cartledge commented the public is very positive and would like a motorcycle cop all the time. The Chief said the bike is worth its weight in gold during the summer and he is looking to put it into a policy. Right now he is doing research with Harley Davidson. Commissioner Cartledge thought a motorcycle up and down the connector at Hammonasset on weekends would be good. Chief Drumm continued, we have the bicycle officers – that works. Chairman Dowling said to come back to the next meeting to see if we should look at leasing a motorcycle; look at an operational plan with an assigned officer for 6 months out of the year. The feedback from the public hits the sweet spot of how we are trying to get involved. Weave it into our

vehicle program. Chief replied over the last 7 years we have had some savings in the replacement fund. Harley Davidson is very aggressive with their leases. He will report back at the next meeting. Chief thinks at some point the acting superintendent will discuss the SRO program; there will be changes in appropriating monies into mental health. Thinks there will be some opportunities with partnerships with MSW, etc. Right now there is a lot of negativity in police funding. We have a great relationship with the Board of Education, Madison Family Services, etc.

Chairman Dowling noted Peggy Lyons was the last formal recording secretary for the Police Commission but we did not replace her. He nominated Ann Rumberger to be the official recording secretary to be sure the proper notes are taken.

**MOTION** by Dowling, second by Lee to designate Ann Rumberger as the Recording Secretary for the Board of Police Commissioners. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Mr. Goldberg offered his personal words of praise as to how pleased he is with the sensitivity about recent public events. He praised the leadership of the Chief for his level of response – he hit the mark exactly. This Commission has done a wonderful job of gauging the community with its responses. Chairman Dowling concluded, when you have several hundred people together things can happen. You can allow peaceful protests – thinks everyone felt good about how it was handled. It was a terrific reflection on the town and he thanked Mr. Goldberg for mentioning it.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Cewe: Asked about the COVID reimbursement – do you anticipate a reduction if COVID continues to impact our community. Chief said it is 75% of the money spent related to COVID to include labor, equipment, resources which are subcontracted. FEMA has changed how it approaches disasters. Only time he’s seen FEMA cut back was on flood insurance however nothing we have tells us that. Right now, per Stacy Nobitz who is the Finance Director, we have no indication it will happen. Mr. Goldberg asked if FEMA will reimburse 75% and the State will reimburse 25%? Chief said that’s what they stated.

Commissioner Lee: Thanks for all your hard work.

Commissioner Cartledge welcomed Mrs. Cewe and added we’ve been doing this for a while if you have any questions or concerns.

Commissioner Cewe: Is looking forward to learning from all of you. Happy to be here. She saw the video from the protest gatherings which showed how everyone worked together.

Commissioner Rumberger: Welcomed Commissioner Cewe and thanked the Department for all their work - the presence of the MPD was terrific.

**CHAIRMAN COMMENTS:**

Chairman Dowling: Attended the very brief promotion ceremony this morning of Sgt. Phil Rosati and Sgt. Doug Harkins. It was very well done; First Selectwoman Lyons and a number of officers, dispatchers, and the fire marshal stopped by. It reinforced what we saw when we interviewed these individuals. We have some other promotion activities later this year; they have the right values and respect of other officers. It was a very brief process; the families were delighted with the recognition.

Chairman Dowling then asked if we could go into Executive Session; this should be attended only by the Commissioners, Chief and Al Goldberg. Chief stopped the recording.

**MOTION** by Cartledge; second by Lee to adjourn to Executive Session at 6:38 PM. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Present: Dowling, Cartledge, Lee, Rumberger, Cewe  
Also present: Chief Drumm, Al Goldberg

**Discussion**

- Labor Contract Negotiations
- Discussion of Patrol Officer Applicants

Return to Open Session at 7:03 PM

**MOTION** by Lee, second by Cartledge to adjourn at 7:03 PM. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Minutes Accepted: August 13, 2020