

MADISON DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
August 13, 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; Capt. Joe Race; Al Goldberg, Board of Selectmen Liaison

Absent: John Iennaco, Town Engineer

CALL TO ORDER

Opening and Call to Order at 5:32 PM by Chairman Dowling.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

REGULAR SESSION

MOTION by Cartledge, second by Lee to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 9, 2020. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

CHIEF’S REPORT

BUDGET/FINANCIAL: We are where we should be; expenditures for equipment, dues & training associations, office supplies, etc. have been submitted through July & August. Negative lines have to do with labor; those will be adjusted by HR when they settle one contract with the collective bargaining unit and for the unaffiliates we have. Chairman Dowling asked if there has been any tracking accountability relative to FEMA/COVID expenses? Chief said right now we are tracking through FEMA in regards to COVID and tracking in regards to the recent storm. The labor line for COVID/FEMA was \$54,000; the labor line in response to Hurricane Isaias is approximately \$11K. Chairman Dowling said he’s sure that number is going to continue to grow.

ACTIVITY / STATISTICS REPORT: We do the activity numbers quarterly but the Chief wanted to talk about COVID, the beaches and the storm. Regarding the storm, in a 24-hour period we had 213 Calls for Service (CFS); 64 roads were blocked by trees and wires. If there was high tide we would have exceeded the damage of hurricanes Sandy & Irene. Officers worked on average 16-hour shifts, including himself, Capt. Race, and Fire Marshal Sam DeBurra who worked through the nights. We were trying to keep the crews motivated and moving. Although he was reluctant to say it during the storm, he can now say he was very disappointed with Eversource’s response as to how they coordinated their operations in the field. If we had a line crew working with us in conjunction with the tree removal companies we would have been able to clear a lot more roads. We were able to get the tree companies, Lucas in particular, who cleared roads with our own crews, our payloaders, officers. We just couldn’t seem to get Eversource to participate. He realizes there were overwhelmed but this became exacerbated when we went through the second and third days but it was frustrating when a ½ dozen out-of-state utility trucks were just sitting idle for 3 hours and they tell us they are moving on to another site because this isn’t a priority. Maybe we should take a page from the military and hire a command sergeant – whoever he or she is and put them in charge of that operation. The town crews, fire departments, ambulance, police,

health department and building and grounds, payloaders worked hard alongside each other; great cooperation with each other – he just wishes it was up to the same level with Eversource.

Chairman Dowling noted Eversource is under a great deal of scrutiny right now – is there any feedback from the state that is asking town its assessments or that of key individuals like yourself or someone like Sam? Chief said he spoke with the State Attorney General's office and explained what happened in Madison and they concurred. A new storm was coming up the coast and there were other states which also suffered damage. He was disappointed because when people were working 16+ hours/day, including the Chief, Captain and Lieutenant and it gets awfully tiring – the crews were here. He knocked on the doors of Eversource when they were taking their snooze asking for help – that's basically what it amounted to; we hijacked two trucks from Lucas – that's how we got it going. Our officers were out there cutting trees – that's not really our job and you might recall, the last time our people were out on the roads clearing we had a grievance filed by DPW. We had to do it; there were people trapped in their homes and in their cul-de-sacs. It was a bad scene; some people didn't have water or food. In this day and age you would think we have it down. Public responses from fire, ambulance, officers, etc. were above reproach.

Chairman Dowling added we get hurricanes and blizzards but not to the extent of this which seemed to catch everyone by surprise. The key is response and information which seems to be a problem for a lot of people. Chief said when we start cutting trees we are told it's clear but it wasn't; the power was still operational, particularly on Green Hill which are a major power lines which feed over 130,000 households. Hopes this was a learning experience for Eversource which was overwhelmed. All they had to do was give us a tree crew and one truck and we could get the roads open; the power was secondary. We were fortunate – we had 2 ambulance calls we cut our way in.

Mr. Goldberg shared his face-to-face conversation with Senator Blumenthal and Congressman Courtney – they were both outraged by what they considered to be Eversource's failure to activate their contingency plan at the right time. He thinks Eversource was trying to save some money and hope they didn't have to respond heavily. Four points were: 1. Blumenthal thinks the public deserves a refund for undelivered power – that's symbolic; 2. Senator Blumenthal was concerned about who is paying for cost of cleanup – his opinion is it should be paid by the stockholders of Eversource not the rate payers; should not be allowed to bill the cost of cleanup into their next rate application 3. Blumenthal called for the resignation of the Eversource CEO which is not uncommon when a utility gets caught like this; 4. he also called for a break up of Eversource – they operate in 5 NE states. The Senator thinks they got too big to manage themselves and he thinks they should be broken up into 5 different operating entities. Mr. Goldberg thinks there will be some fallout from this; the public is outraged. Eversource had time to assemble assets and resources before the storm hit and apparently, they chose not to and that's why there was at least the 2-3 day delay; they did not have the right assets in place at the time the wind died down. For North Madison, power restoration was more or less a week.

Commissioner Cartledge noted those are very interesting talking points from Blumenthal. He suggested Mr. Goldberg make a memo to perhaps come back to the Chief or the Commission to see how he plans to follow up on the words he said to you to calm everyone down or do we just have a politician showing up with talking points. Mr. Goldberg said the Senator was at Robert's Monday morning, televised by Channel 8 and that's where he made these comments. Mr. Goldberg said he shares with Commission Cartledge the Senator's style in the past. Commissioner Cartledge said he made some very legitimate

points; and asked Mr. Goldberg how he follows up on some of the points to report back to us in a timely manner.

Chief added the Attorney General's office has established Eversource did not assemble the in-state crews rather a lot of the crews came from out of state; it is apparent to the AG that Eversource did not have the resources ready to go in-state. In a previous snow storm a few years ago Eversource assigned crews to each town and that worked; it would have cleared the roads a lot quicker if they did it this time. Commissioner Cewe added, she was out of power for 5 days; there was no coordination between the team asking to have them clear a path to reconnect the power for the team and it was not the path that was necessary for the team that came out. Seemed like they weren't talking to each other at all; that was very apparent there was a breakdown in communication. Chairman Dowling said there's going to be some feedback mechanism about this process. The Chief has on the ground experience; this storm seemed more complex. If something is needed from the Commission to support the Chief's observations and recommendations we are prepared to do that. Chief Drumm said there will be an after-action town wide with the Selectmen, himself, Sam DeBurra and others which will be conveyed up the chain. Chairman Dowling thinks it might be helpful when this after-action report is prepared we look internally with the officers and your input to see if there is a better way we could have briefed the dispatchers with a script, provided assistance, anything we as an agency could learn on our own from this separate from Eversource. Anything we might have done so we don't burn officers out for 4-6 day long periods. What can we learn for our operational planning. The PD did a superb job anticipating some of this however, it's going to happen again. Thinks it's helpful to have a written plan and checklist. The Chief continued the town crews have been through this numerous times; we learn and we prepare for it. We set up based on a plan that will work with Eversource, or any electrical company or state plows, whatever, but when they don't participate and we are waiting and waiting, it's frustrating. Obviously, it's power which we won't touch; if we found a tree without wires on it we cut it up and moved it out of the way. He is very confident in what the police, ambulance, public works, fire, etc. can do. The disappointment is the bigger picture of the people sending the help that doesn't come. If someone has a medical situation or on a machine, etc. we are the operational response teams and we have all done a great job – the police, fire, ambulance, town crews, etc. We are really on our own a lot. We've learned a lot, also – never trust it when someone says the power is off.

Chief Drumm reported relative to the beaches – we are coming to the end of summer; numbers are starting to drop. The First Selectwoman enforced a 'residents only' policy which somewhat worked with some parking restrictions and we put a hold on any or more no parking signs; we will go back to our normal procedure. A lot of the neighbors made it very clear they don't need the signs saying those who park are town residents who don't want to buy a pass, not outsiders. He thinks we mitigated what we thought would be a lot worse at the beaches, in conjunction with the COVID response there was no problem. We took the signs down during the hurricane; some will be returning. Signs will continue through Labor Day. Chairman Dowling added at this point we are where we hope to be in terms of signage. We're pretty well set. Chief concluded we still have additional patrols, are using various vehicles and we back up recreation employees if there is an overflow at the beaches. Right now we're looking towards the start of school.

TRAINING: Chairman Dowling said there is no report at this time; it will be done on a quarterly basis.

TRAFFIC: Chief Drumm will discuss pending traffic issues with Commissioner Cartledge; currently the traffic statistics will be reported in the quarterly report at the October meeting.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR: Chief Drumm reported the fireworks, parade, concert have been officially cancelled; they were rescheduled from the 4th of July to Labor Day. We still have some service clubs (running, biking) holding events; Chairman Dowling said the “Ride for the Cure” will be done virtually; doesn’t anticipate any shoreline rides this year.

SCHOOLS: Chief Drumm reported he had a discussion with the First Selectwoman and the acting Superintendent of Schools. Schools will operate as of today with a Hybrid plan i.e., 50% for 2 days then rotate to the other 50% of students with one day of ‘lab’; on line there will be some COVID challenges, spacing, doors will be open for fresh air. Because this is counter to what we did post-Newtown and to alleviate parental concerns of safety we will give them some officers for the first couple of weeks of school. Schools will extend their security and also maybe with a separate service post those two weeks and will encourage car transportation – this is still fluid but is not finalized yet. School will start 9/3; our staff will work with school staff the week prior and the week of as well as the second week.

Chairman Dowling asked, are you saying no bus service or very limited? Chief asked Capt. Race who noted the Superintendent’s office has asked parents via a survey what is their transportation choice – seems to be a 50-50 draw as of this morning as to parents vs. buses delivering the children. They are trying to figure out the best way to deliver students and provide services during these conditions.

Chairman Dowling said he appreciates the uncertainty but if they are going to limit or significantly reduce the number of buses, it would seem that’s going to create a much higher volume of traffic; that has to be an interesting impact in the school areas. Chief said we will do traffic calming on the access roads prior to and the week of school – we will have officers in the street for traffic direction to handle the in and out plus drop offs. There will be some discussion – maybe one way in and out at drop offs. Schools that don’t have air conditioning will have to keep their doors open for air flow. It will be a challenge but we will get through it.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chairman Dowling acknowledged two attendees for public comments via Zoom.

Chief noted Maureen Lopes has some questions regarding HB 6004 which we have yet to discuss. Ms. Lopes reiterated that the HB 6004 topic is on the agenda and hopes the Commission is able to discuss it before their 7:00 deadline affecting some people. Part of her interest is her church in New Haven and the discussions there about police accountability have been strong and not consistent within the congregation. It caused her to think about Madison – whatever is good for one police department in the state is good for the others. We don’t want a situation where there is one thing going on in the cities and another thing in the suburbs. She thanked the Commission for taking up the discussion.

Barbara Manko – 15 Lawson Drive – thanked Chief Drumm for the No Parking signs issue and explained there really is not a parking issue on Lawson Drive and it’s a very minor issue. There are only a couple of weeks left. She thanked the Commission for listening to her and recognizing that they didn’t need No Parking signs in the neighborhood and that no one wanted them.

CHIEF’S CORRESPONDENCE: He received a letter from Maureen Lopes regarding the pending House Bill 6004; there was a letter asking for traffic control on Railroad Avenue. The Chief voiced his appreciation to all the people who send food items to the officers in support of the police and public safety during the storm and certainly during COVID.

TRAFFIC: Chairman Dowling said there are some pending items. Commissioner Cartledge there have been new issues, some of which came up tonight concerning no parking. Everything has kind of been on hold regarding his conversations with Town Engineer John Iennaco. John has been out with the town crews as they work to clear areas. Yesterday they discussed installation of safety signs/warnings at the intersection of Surf Club Road and West Wharf Road where the golf course crosses the road; that is an on-going problem. To address the problem there could be warning signs of a stop sign ahead or white lines at the crossing area for pedestrians and golf carts. Commissioner Cartledge will follow-up with Mr. Iennaco next week to discuss the plan that he has formulated.

Commissioner Cartledge continued, last month Chief commented about Neck Road speeding concerns last month which maybe have been alleviated by the construction. Now that the construction seems to be over the Commissioner requested an update from the Chief who said he has requested a traffic study on Neck Road to be performed by DOT – we will hear from them shortly. Additionally, he had made a request for a study on Rte. 1 at West Wharf for a crosswalk/blinking lights/speed reduction calming signs which could be strobes which is also on-going and being reviewed by DOT. As far as changes to Birnbaum, we posted two no thru traffic signs which the contractor doing work on East Wharf took down because they were in his way; they will be going back up. A much earlier request was been made to DOT for the Rte. 79 mix master by the on/off ramps on 95 heading north by the Ambulance Barn. DOT will start work very shortly which will go all the way up to Green Hill with traffic calming signs and will replace the traffic lights with an automated system, and an additional light where the north bound ramp comes off 95 and the 95 on ramp just north of the Ambulance Barn. The Ambulance Barn and fire services will have controls for the lights up to Green Hill for when they are called out. Commissioner Cartledge asked the completion date; Chief has no information on that – hopefully a couple of weeks. There are subcontractors involved; most of the work will be performed at night.

Chairman Dowling added we are still waiting for DOT to address the complex intersection at exit 62 at Duck Hole/New Road; thinks this goes back about 6 years with the state. It's a complex intersection with probably an expensive solution. Commissioner Cartledge said he and John Iennaco will meet next week to discuss traffic issues. Chief said once school starts and there is a regular maintenance schedule for the crews and hopefully by the second week of September there will be a lot more response and they will be done with the clean-up from the storm.

NEW BUSINESS/CURRENT ISSUES:

Chairman Dowling asked the Chief for a brief overview of the Police Accountability Act (PAA); this will be a topic over the next several years as a phased implementation. It is impactful – not so much on Madison because we already do many of the items.

- **Update & Status: Police Accountability Act**

Chief Drumm was prepared to discuss his conversation with State Senator Gary Winfield, one of the bill's sponsors. A lot of what is in the bill the Madison Police Department already does as we are CALEA dually certified and it is required. We go beyond some of what the state is suggesting and report it in our annual and monthly reviews; he thinks the time has come and wasn't too concerned. We are only as good as our worst agency no matter how good we may be - he sees that more and more in this line of work. The bill takes effect on 10/1/20, 1/1/21 and 7/1/21. There is a task force established for the second week of September regarding some of the other requests, and a second task force regarding officer certification and training. He expressed to the senator that he has an interest in serving on this committee. The senator knew of our work with racial profiling and criminal justice and the Chief offered to help be somewhat of

an architect of good laws in training and the future of policing for this state, if not the nation. The document, which is 73 pages with 43 points and starts off with certification and decertification of an officer. We had that happen in this town; it is a project to remove an officer absent firing them to get them decertified. It also includes another officer on scene or a supervisor that if there is an incident of willful misconduct by an officer they have to stop it. Part of this bill makes it a lot easier for a police chief or police commission to remove or decertify the officer or others involved in willful misconduct. It's a good thing.

Behavioral Health Assessments or Health of Officers: This requires annually for a percentage of the agency is to have behavior assessment which is similar to the psychological evaluation done for the hiring of an officer. Sounds reasonable but the expense is on the community. He thinks if there is an issue we may remove them from service but now would have a workman's comp issue; that will be an expense down the road for a community. We don't want unfit officers but this potential cost is a concern. A lot of the bill has yet to go through a financial review. The task force will take up some of these measure on how this will be paid for by the communities.

Management Policies: We have that within our CALEA; we already train with POST Council. Basically, it is a description of how they want us to train to handle crowd control. It is implicit bias training for officers; some would have that now with POSTC. They want to increase that for qualified trainers; there is a cost of approximately \$7500/course to cover the department because is not funded by the state. If we have to fund that it will be substantial; if POSTC handles it, because it is not funded by the state, he's not sure how they will handle that.

Collective Bargaining/Public Disclosures: Disclosures do not affect us; that affects the CT State Police where their police personnel file cannot be shared with the public. Obviously, there are some aspects of that with medical files that he understands however with regard to discipline he thinks that should be under public scrutiny, particularly if there are multiple causes and cases of an officer's willful misconduct. He thinks that changes have to do with a couple of union contracts that are out there in Connecticut that prohibited police officer files from being disseminated to the public under FOI.

Reporting on Recruiting Minority Police Officers: Reports on recruiting minority police officers – we do that now within our CALEA structure. It is now required state-wide; departments that are not certified or have some type of accreditation will be required to provide a recruiting report annually. We do that already in our Annual Report.

POST Membership Changes: He thinks this is fantastic. POST Council has always been the circle of friends of somebody; it was always a closed group although it had representation from one civilian and perhaps others from smaller agencies. This now creates a larger POST Council that basically represents all walks of life, all populations and all demographics. It expands the members of the POST Council and doesn't limit it to a group just appointed by the governor. Now it's appointed by all member groups of the General Assembly, including towns. It's not a bad thing.

Badges and Name Tags: Police identification and name tag is required to be on officers when they are enforcing the law – we do that and he's not too sure of many officers that would not do that.

Civilian Review Boards: He's not sure where this is going to go; the police commission is a civilian review board but the discussion is there that they want the police commissioners to run for office as

opposed to being appointed– that is an ongoing discussion within the task force. He knows that Connecticut Council of Municipalities (CCM) and regional governments have all weighed in on this. A lot of towns already have this established and it works well for police accountability within their towns. For us, Madison’s commissioners are the civilian review board.

Chairman Dowling noted elections would change the tone – he can’t see people campaigning for an unpaid job; he appreciates people volunteering their time. Chief said it would have to be a change to our charter, have an impact on labor law and on our employee contracts. We’ll see as it progresses – it’s not an easy thing. This is on the short list of the task force.

Feasibility Impact of Social Workers Responding to Certain Police Calls: He spoke with State Representative Noreen Kokoruda and also the head of Central Connecticut State University’s “Grace Project” via webcasts. He was on that panel with the head of the NAACP and of the Racial Profiling Project. He thinks there are some calls we could have social workers on staff or on call to assist in mitigating a psychological crisis but when there’s violence in the household he’s not sure how we would apply that for after-action. This will need work and research for a policy to put out there. It’s being looked at; he can’t send a social worker to a call where there’s violence and certainly not alone without an officer. This is a work in progress.

Body Cameras / Dashboard Cameras: This is a large portion of the bill – Section 19. We do it all already. Only downside for us is we have to invest money (\$35-50k) to have the cameras always running; that means spares for additional equipment and the hardware to download and space for it to stay within our server. That’s a real cost for us this fall. The length of time videos stay on the server depends on the investigation. If we lock it, indefinitely – if it’s routine, such as a traffic stop, the cycle is anywhere from 90 days to 2 years. Commissioner Cewe asked if we can evaluate where we are and where we need to be, capacity-wise in terms of servers. She asked who handles that. Chief said we have a civilian IT officer here and we work with Art Sickle and the town’s IT department to constantly update and maintain our data. We are at capacity now. His concern is the units are good but if you don’t download the information it is a problem, batteries stop taking charges and so forth. We invested \$300K in a server 3-4 years ago and purchased approximately 35 cameras which are approximately \$1,000 to \$1,500 each; add the additional videos front and rear in the cars as well. The cars download to the server while the officer is in the vehicle but it is evidence – it cannot go into the Cloud; a lot of compromise in that. We are OK for now but may have a major hardware upgrade in 8 months. Some cities don’t have a dime to put into this and they have a lot more officers. Chairman Dowling noted that’s a point to consider – it is a great idea but the financial aspect of how do you differentiate cost to another town without money in their budget as opposed to a town like Madison which has updated equipment with a strategic vision. Who’s going to pay for this. Those are complex issues. Commissioner Cewe feels it needs to be a joint effort with the state for fiber optic infrastructure; a lot has to be considered. Chief said the state will reimburse 30-50% for some departments – most of the money ends up in the cities. They’re talking \$60-80M to accomplish this state-wide including the state police. We have a WatchGuard System for which we spent over \$300K which is a dominant system; it serves us well. He needs to have spare equipment which will cost about \$35-40K which was not budgeted. A lot of chiefs are resistant to this unless the state buys them for their departments; he doesn’t agree. They are worth their weight in gold; it’s our order of business. He’s glad to see the state going this way, along with accreditation.

Vehicle Searches: They will reduce the searches of vehicles: inner cities are trying to get guns off the streets. He understands how this affects the cities where the ‘shot tracers’ are going off. They need to

stop ‘fishing’ expenditures to search the cars for example if someone runs a stop sign and an officer then says they want to search the car. In training we work very hard to address that and not have that mind set in Madison. This won’t affect us. Capt. Race said we will have 2- hour training sessions next week. You can’t just go up to a car for a consent to search; but in the bill if it is unsolicited consent it has to be captured on body cameras or documents. We will focus on the operational aspect with regard to use of force and search & seizure; biggest focus will be for patrol.

Chairman Dowling asked if an officer stops a car at a stop sign and senses this person looks really nervous, asks the person if he can search the car and the person says no you can’t search my car is that it? Capt. Race – we can’t ask that question without probable cause; cannot ask passengers for identification if not related to an arrest or crime.

Section 24 notes a penalty for people who misuse 911 for a “potential” crime. Chief calls that a ‘set up’ component. An officer is dispatched based on information gleaned by the certified dispatcher. Person making the anonymous complaint is penalized; officers can get in trouble with an anonymous complaint. This is to hold accountable the person making the false complaint.

Justification for Use of Deadly Force: Choke holds are forbidden – they are not instructed and are forbidden in our policy. If an officer is fighting for their life it is a different story; there’s a provision for that within the statute. This is looking at how we try a de-escalation and how we handle reduction of officer provocation. That is the tough area – shooting occurs in a split second. It is very hard to prevent escalation if someone is running at an officer with a firearm or deadly weapon; training kicks in and you have to stop the attack on yourself or the third party. He spoke from experience - this should be a priority for the task force.

Officers Duty to Intervene and Report Excessive Force: We discussed earlier; this is another component. This would end in decertification of an officer as well as criminal charges. This is when an officer is standing by when someone is being attacked and that officer does not intervene; that officer will also be charged

Record Keeping Use of Force: Departments are now required to have an annual Use of Force review; we do that already in our Annual Report in conjunction with our CALEA certification.

Private Security: Laws that address private security guards will have a litany of changes for subcontracted approach to security.

Office of the Inspector General: Not a bad idea; we had one years ago after Ella Grasso more geared more towards the abuse of college/university system spending and other government agencies. This is focused on police unlawful misconduct that will be within the office of the Chief State’s Attorney however it will be a separate entity with separate investigators. Understands there will be a component for the Attorney General on civil litigation for civil misconduct where they will go after the officers’ pensions, assets, etc.

Police Use of Military Equipment: A caveat of this is police may request a continued use such equipment for a rescue operation. That is strictly what we use our vehicle for; we do not have logos, open turrets on it. Some cities (4 or 5) do drive around with the vehicle – he thinks that is threatening. Ours is modified to use in high water. If we had a school shooter we would use ours to save people but we are

not on the radar for this. We have done a responsible management of the 1033 Program; we do not have any weapons or rifles from this 1033 Program.

Chairman Dowling noted due to time limits for some of the commissioners tonight, this is going to be something we will be talking about regularly as some of the issues are clarified and analyzing further. He advised Christie to keep this as an on-going topic during each meeting for updates from the Chief. We will try to get that information to the commissioners prior to the meetings for review. Fortunately, we are already engaged in many of these issues and other towns need to catch up.

Department CALEA Certification; Chief noted included in the bill will be CALEA certification which may be modified to be state certification. He had an in-depth discussion about Madison's CALEA certification with Senator Winfield and Senator Cohen when he spoke to both the House and Senate regarding difficulties, costs, etc. We're good on this aspect. Every meeting he will update on changes from the Task Force or effects to our agency. We will address updates from the Task Force at each meeting.

Civilian Review Board: Commissioner Rumberger asked about the item addressing an elected Civilian Review Board for all towns. Will this be mandated under the purview of the Task Force to look at before it would be implemented or is that to be implemented by one of these three dates? Chief said he believes that will be one of the first items because it raised a lot of concerns with the organizations for the municipalities. The Police Commission Association lobbyists are also working on that. Commissioner Rumberger continued she is curious about the elected portion – that the board be elected – is that something that the Task Force is going to look at. Chief said, a lot of towns already have that; the intent is to keep it politically independent. In our Town Charter the position is appointed. He thinks this will be on the short list for the task force and will be one of the first items since it affects a lot of municipalities.

She watched the meeting with Noreen Kokoruda where she mentioned, and you both discussed, the portion of the bill about civilians being able to hold officers accountable. She said the only other state that has this is Colorado and there is a limit of \$25K that an individual could recover from a police department but our bill doesn't have that. The Chief said it does not but it he understands the other approach and he had this discussion with the NAACP representative from New London who said this should be punitive with a dollar amount. He feels it is a unfunded mandate for communities. He thinks it may increase frivolous lawsuits. They are trying to protect government officials conducting government business. Every time this comes before the Supreme Court they stay silent and say if there's a problem you need to go to Congress to change the law. Problem for the towns is we have to hire an attorney to defend the action and officer. He guesses if the officer is found guilty the town gets its money back. There will be an increase in these nuisance lawsuits because the towns will not want to pay \$50K just to get to the threshold so we offer them \$20K to go away. That's how they will mitigate it. He thinks it is a good idea that needs more research as to the effect on communities; it will be addressed by the Task Force.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

- Commissioner Lee offered kudos to the Police Department, again. There was a lot of damage during the storm, a lot of residents were trouble – we were all working on fumes due to COVID – thinks the police did a great job. Thank you.

- Commissioner Cartledge noted a complimentary letter to the Chief on 7/21 from Clinton Chief DeMaio about the cooperation between the two towns regarding a fatal motor accident – that is the kind of relationship the Chief is building around the state. Kudos to the department for that last few days.
- Commissioner Rumberger thanked the Chief for all he and the officers do especially in the past week. She watched interview with Noreen Kokoruda and said she is very proud to live in Madison. It is clear the state sees the Chief as a leader.
- Commissioner Cewe also watched interview which gave her a better understanding of the bill. It shows that the Chief's leadership is based not on what's popular but it is imperative to do what is right.

CHAIRMAN COMMENTS:

Chairman Dowling concluded when there is a community crisis and all the first responders are out there, they are more than likely not having power at home. They have families trying to cope. They are putting in a lot of hours. They are dedicated. Thank you to the Chief and Capt. Race - please pass it on to the officers.

MOTION by Cartledge, second by Lee to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:00 PM. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Present: Dowling, Cartledge, Lee, Rumberger, Cewe

Also present: Chief Drumm

Discussion

- Labor Contract Negotiations: Town presented the final offer with increases of 12% over 3 years for patrol and 12.75% over 3 years for sergeants and lieutenants to bring salaries up to market rates. The Union is considering the offer including non-wage issues.

Return to Open Session at 7:05 PM

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

Minutes Accepted: September 10, 2020