

**MADISON DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICES
REGULAR MEETING – April 14, 2016
COMMUNITY / TRAINING ROOM – 5:30 PM**

Attendees: Chairman Eric Thornburg; Vice Chairman Ed Dowling; Commissioner Marietta Lee; Commissioner Thom Cartledge; Commissioner Kathi Traugh

Also Present: Chief Jack Drumm; Board of Selectmen Liaison Al Goldberg; Board of Finance Chairman / Liaison Joe MacDougald; Capt. Joe Race; Town Engineer Mike Ott; Ed Brunt Director, Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP)

CALL TO ORDER

Opening and Call to Order at 5:30 PM by Chairman Thornburg followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. He welcomed Mr. Goldberg, Mr. MacDougald and Mr. Ott.

REGULAR SESSION

MINUTES

MOTION by Traugh, second by Dowling to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 10, 2016. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

CHIEF'S REPORT

- Budget / Financial: attended BOS Wednesday for line item transfers and a Special Appropriation of \$65,000 for the Overtime Special Duty Account; the town bills the contractor and returns the money paid to the General Fund. Money balances at the end of the fiscal year. Additionally, Line Item Transfers from: Gasoline to Wages (\$4,000); Gasoline to Vehicle Maintenance (\$20,000); Gasoline to Police Services & Supplies (\$5,000); Gasoline to Wages/Vacation (\$1000); Wages (\$11,000), Part Time Officers (\$14,000) and Holiday Differential (\$35,000) to OT-Replacement were all proposed.

Chairman Thornburg commented that some lines are at 100% with some time left such as police supplies, armory. Chief said we are in Year 1 of vehicle replacement; an officer was broadsided – car was totaled and as a result, \$16,000 will go to the car replacement schedule. There was extra money in the gas account; most of our supplies are ordered up front.

The Chairman then asked if everything is OK with the Animal Control account. Chief said that account will experience contractual raises and additional mandated training for the full and part-time animal control officers. Mr. Brunt noted there are a lot of animal calls having to do with lost, roaming, injured animals. Chief said the only increases to that line are due to mandated training.

- **Activity / Statistics:** 131 Alarms, 66 of which were Burglary; 36 were 911 calls; 31 Suspicious Vehicles; 15 Suspicious Persons; 71 Criminal Investigations with 29 In-custody Arrests; 10 Involuntary Committals; 24 Animal Nuisance complaints; 2 Animal Bites; 2 Juvenile Missing; 0 Juvenile Alcohol; 0 Juvenile Narcotics-related; 5 Juvenile Complaints; 36 Fingerprint requests; 133 R-1 First Responder calls (first on scene); 1 Fatal – we initiated accident reconstruction with a team comprised of officers from Branford, East Haven and Madison; a woman was broadsided.

If you see something suspicious, call the Police Department; that's how we catch criminals.

- Training - March: Accident Reconstruction Updates, Firearms Training, High Visibility Traffic Enforcement Training, K-9 Training, Constitutional Law, Recertification, COLLECT Recertification, ERT Training.

Officer Hurrin worked through some of her training; she completed all needed courses last Friday and has been on the road alone since Monday. Chief Drumm attends mandatory Chiefs' Training; Sgt. Mulhern and

Lt. Perron will attend recertification training in June. Capt. Race explained his measures for tracking training are with South Central; everyone is on pace. It takes 3 years to complete the mandatory 60 credits; Madison exceeds POST requirements for firearms training in that officers go to the range 3 times/year.

Chairman Thornburg asked Mr. Brunt if there is similar training for Dispatch; yes, they attend 24 hours every 2 years for medical based courses.

TRAFFIC UPDATES: Town Engineer Mike Ott

Downtown project is going well; no traffic incidents. Town is still planning to resurface Green Hill to the Killingworth line; CT Water Company is still working on Circle Beach.

Mr. Ott reported on the No Right Turn on Red request which was reviewed by Mr. Pittman Lazarus of the Division of Traffic Engineering for DOT for the intersections of Rte. 1 at Rte. 79 and Meigs Avenue and Rte. 1 at Wall Street and Samson Rock Drive. Mr. Ott advised the request was sent to DOT by the Police Commission. DOT again, based on accident history at the intersections, sight lines for approaching pedestrians and peak traffic counts, noted it is not warranted for right turn on red prohibitions. If Madison wants the prohibitions DOT will agree although they have denied this request, based on data, a couple of times before. Mr. Ott does not recommend prohibiting the turns.

Commissioner Cartledge said the answer is the same again; per DOT, traffic and locations seem to be ok. Chairman Thornburg feels people will ignore the (No Right on Red) signs. There are no obstructions at any of the intersections; it is driver behavior. Commissioner Dowling asked if a bike officer can be assigned to that area as a point of enforcement. Chief said it will be the same as the beginning of the school year; a special team officer on a bike with a patrol car down a little way. We will start that policing before Memorial Day; the CSO (Community Service Officer) will issue parking tickets. Chief Drumm agreed with Mr. Ott to not prohibit right turns on red and he feels the downtown project will address traffic flow concerns. Commissioner Cartledge agreed – drivers need to be more aware and the public needs to be aware of restrictions; be courteous to pedestrians. Commissioner Lee thinks there will be more of a backup problem if the right turn is prohibited.

Mungertown/Green Hill Road intersection: There was a request for a stop sign on the NE corner of Green Hill as well as removal of several trees the writer felt were blocking the Mungertown to Rte. 1 sight line; this request was based on a recent accident at that intersection. Mr. Ott reported that during reconstruction of Green Hill Road he looked all intersections to make sure stop signs were in the right place. When he inspected the north side of Mungertown, south to Green Hill, he saw the signs are placed correctly; there are several trunks of trees along the way but the town does not denude the side of the road at intersections. All the distances are above standards for sight line excesses; there is no reason to cut down trees. A couple of trees are in the right of way; a couple are not. A driver can see an approaching vehicle; it will be out of sight for no more than a split section. He concluded the grades are flat; no vegetation impairs vision. When asked to comment, Chief Drumm declined because the fatality which recently occurred is an open case.

Northbound 79 at entrance to 95: Mr. Ott spoke with business owner Mr. Shaw of an Oak Park business who asked for modification of the traffic signal to allow a left turn into Oak Park north on Rte. 79; Mr. Ott thinks that is reasonable. The Board of Police Commission needs to make a request to DOT.

MOTION by Cartledge, second by Dowling to endorse DOT to take the next step in modifying the traffic signal at Oak Park. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

NEW BUSINESS:

• Current Issues:

There is a proposal for PSAP Bill #5061 to consolidate PSAPs (Public Safety Answering Points) to reduce funding; it goes to the Senate in May. Chief spoke to Sen. Kennedy who feels regionalization of PSAP centers is the way to go, partner with the State of CT and Emergency Management – he thinks the Bill will pass. Chief suggests starting regionalization dialog with Clinton. He knows the Clinton police commissioners look forward to meeting with Madison's commissioners. When Chairman Thornburg asked what the financial implications are if we do not regionalize, Chief Drumm said the cost could be several thousands on a monthly basis; we would have to pay for

maintenance line upgrades and upgrade the system, independent of state funding. Right now that would be about \$250,000.

We are in a good position to be picked as a PSAP and he feels we should be proactive. Chairman Thornburg agreed to talk with Clinton to collaborate. Chief will discuss the proposal with the boards of finance and selectmen adding, we should submit an application with the present language OPM (Office of Policy Management) has accepted. Chairman Thornburg feels the Board of Selectmen is informally encouraging the Chief and Board to proceed. We will take the lead on this. Mr. Goldberg said he thinks the Commission should move ahead. Chief Drumm suggested putting together representatives from the Board of Selectmen, Finance and the emergency chiefs. Mr. Goldberg said officially, it would make sense to explore options through a formal committee. The Chief will include Killingworth in the conversations.

Mr. MacDougald suggested going to the Board of Selectmen to get on the agenda and explain that they want to explore this conversation; get authority for a discussion from the Board of Selectmen; then you are driving it. Mr. Goldberg thinks it would be good to have a formal discussion; thinks the Selectmen would give a green light. Commissioner Traugh said she is a proponent of regionalization and asked if Waterford is the model? Can we see their contract? Chief said there are others besides Waterford. We built a system that would have the capacity. Thinks the Clinton police commission runs their dispatch center. Clinton implied they would like to start the discussion.

Hammonasset State Park: Chief Drumm reported there are 3 events staged this year at the park which is currently undergoing major construction. He spoke to the DEEP Deputy Commissioner to see if part of the park can be used for parking for major events (Turkey Trot, Penguin Plunge, Half-Marathon) but not actually go into Meigs Point. They will speak to their contractors to see if that part of the park can be used. This is pending with no decision at this time.

Chief announced the Senior Class alumni will meet with him on April 28th at the Senior Center for pizza; he invited the commissioners to join the group.

CALEA: Capt. Race reported he is reviewing proofs; he can grab dispatch sound bites to put into an assessment file. The project is moving forward; mock assessment in September for both law enforcement and dispatch. The formal assessment will be 12/11-12/14/16 with 3 assessors. No other agency/dispatch center in CT has achieved both law enforcement and communications accreditations.

Chairman Thornburg said there has there been evidence from an operational standpoint that this is working. Chief said the training is good; found areas that would be of value to the Department. Mr. Brunt agreed, it's been very good. Chairman Thornburg said when dispatch and the police are working together we should see benefits. Chief Drumm said with the policies in place we see how dispatch is in compliance with police regulations and that is what we need for accreditation. Commissioner Dowling said he appreciates how much it took to become certified on the police side; has a full sense of the effort and encourages continuing. The payoff of what it means for both functions and its support of fire/emergency will be a model.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Traugh: Very positive; proud of the police department
Commissioner Cartledge, Lee and Dowling all agreed, things are good.

CHAIRMAN COMMENTS: Agreed with everyone's comments.

MOTION by Cartledge, second by Dowling to adjourn 6:25 PM. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Minutes accepted: April 14, 2016