

**MADISON DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICES
REGULAR MEETING – June 9, 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; Town Engineer Mike Ott

Absent: Board of Finance Liaison Joe MacDougald; Capt. Joe Race

CALL TO ORDER

Opening and Call to Order at 5:34 PM by Chairman Thornburg followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

REGULAR SESSION

MINUTES

MOTION by Dowling, second by Traugh to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 14, 2016. All in favor. None opposed. So moved. There was no meeting held in May.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Clark Denslow and Naomi Dempsey of 69 Webster Point spoke to the dangers of cars parked on the north end of Webster Point Road where it intersects with Liberty Street and Rte. 1. Cars are parking near the stop sign to access the Shoreline Greenway Trail leading through Hammonasset which is prohibiting visibility of walkers, joggers, other cars, etc. Ms. Dempsey noted a missing stop sign where Pent Road intersects and also the Neighborhood Watch sign. Commissioner Cartledge verified that 2 of the 4 signs are overgrown; feels signs are facing the wrong way. Chairman Thornburg said they will consult with the town engineer to assess and resolve the concerns but he could not give a timeline right now. Mr. Ott said he had looked at the area; he will review and take measurements to figure out exactly where signs will go. Police Commission approval will be required because these signs are regulatory.

Mr. Ott reported that Ginny Raff from Shoreline Greenway Trail made the same request. He will order the signs. Commissioner Cartledge supported Mr. Ott's assessments adding, we have to follow a process. Chief Drumm also looked at the area and took pictures; tickets were issued for those in the No Parking areas. It will be reposted up to the critical lines of the intersection. Chief Drumm said previously there was an issue with people parking on Rte. 1 to get to the beach; signs were installed prohibiting parking there. Chairman Thornburg asked if action should be taken tonight. Mr. Ott said he has to order some signs (1 week); could do a general statement vote to install parking prohibition signs on Webster Point between Rte. 1 and the Pent Road intersection. He added, there is no good record of where parking prohibition signs should be. We have to evaluate the situation; can't make blanket prohibitions.

MOTION by Cartledge to follow the guidelines outlined by Town Engineer Mike Ott to follow the parking prohibitions and take the necessary steps prior to the next meeting. Commissioner Dowling added, if there is any ambiguity it will be revisited next month. Mr. Ott concluded there are standards of practice for the prohibitions. Second by Traugh. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Mr. Ott noted Neighborhood Watch signs are not installed by the town; there were grants in place years ago that provided funding for the signs.

CHIEF'S REPORT

- **Budget / Financial:** We have \$31,000; held off on all discretionary purchases. We will meet the budget guidelines. Mr. Goldberg noted, the budget was approved 'as is'. Past practice will be in place. Credit balances get restored based on the town's billing of contractors which affects the OT Special Duty Pay.
- **Activity / Statistics:** 108 Alarms, 59 of which were Burglary; 31 were 911 calls; 43 Suspicious Vehicles; 10 Suspicious Persons; 103 Criminal Investigations with 29 In-custody Arrests; 8 Involuntary Committals;

2 K-9 Assists; 27 Animal Nuisance complaints; 0 Animal Bites; 1 Juvenile Missing; 0 Juvenile Alcohol; 0 Juvenile Narcotics-related; 1 Juvenile Complaint; 26 Fingerprint requests; 141 R-1 First Responder calls (first on scene); requests continue for pistol permits.

Commissioner Cartledge asked when bike patrol will be more active; Chief said end of June, early July; bike patrol is not downtown now due to construction project.

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

- Training / May: We will start mandated 60 hour training for officers. All officers whose certification expires by June 30 are in training. Chairman Thornburg commented on the Command Officer courses for the 2 newly promoted supervisors. Chief Drumm explained the Southern Police Institute is very similar to the FBI National Academy training – it gears people for leadership positions. The classes are held in West Hartford; a grant provided scholarships of \$4000/officer. The classes meet the first 2 weeks of each month through August. The Chief said he feels this opportunity was very important in that it develops the department for the future; our two supervisors are in the top 10% of class.

Commissioner Dowling commented that the key strategy you learn when you work closely with the police commission is the investment in training. He asked that both officers give a brief assessment of their experiences when the course is completed and how what they've learned may help the department. In the future when we have tight budgets we can show that it is important to support training; it is not a frill. We can show it as a budget item that we take it seriously.

- Correspondence: Jim Schreck of the Lobster Tail wrote concerning officer handling of a recent medical call/customer issue on site. Officers Bull, Hurrin and Sgt. Roy responded to the call for assistance. Detective Chris Sudock was recognized by the Rotary Club for his outstanding service to Madison; he has done a yeoman's job and participates in all functions of the department. Officer Greg Martin was nominated for Officer of the Year with the Exchange Club – he does a tremendous job for the department. A former commander and pilot for the Coast Guard he is actively involved with most sports in town. Very dedicated training officer; we owe him gratitude.
- **CALEA** – No Report

TRAFFIC UPDATES: Commissioner Dowling asked Town Engineer Mike Ott, for a highlight of the downtown project. Mr. Ott said the goal is to be substantially complete by 7/1. Today they completed one-half of the cross walk on the eastbound side at Samson Rock and Wall St. near Walker Loden. The established traffic pattern worked well during today's fire emergency. They will be starting the other half working toward Guilford tomorrow (6/10). Brick work on the southern corner remains to be done; tapping the water main tomorrow. Tree plantings are to be done in a week or so. Goal was to have that done before the July 4th parade.

Because of the traffic signals, there will be no crosswalk signs. At Samson Rock and Meigs Avenue the pavement has been narrowed and the walking distance at both ends of town on Rte. 1 has been shortened. New pedestrian walk signals will be installed. New countdown-type signal heads will go in; a push button will emit a tone for visually impaired. Chairman Thornburg asked if narrowing will provide traffic calming. Mr. Ott said it will, in part; we tried to make accommodations. Going toward Clinton, officially there is only 1 lane at the light at Samson Rock but there will be room for side by side vehicles.

On the west end, the street is very wide. We have brought curb lines in and will extend the median to make the area safer & more controlled.

Mr. Goldberg asked Mr. Ott to speak to the new median. Mr. Ott said vehicles can still back out of diagonal spaces; the design is in accord with standards. People can back out without issues while traffic is traveling down the road. There are no curb cuts; no breaks were in the prior median which was 4' wide. The State will not allow mid-block crossings because a driver would not expect it. The median will be landscaped with 5 6' wide paver areas that are officially where the landscapers can work but there will be obvious breaks.

Chief Drumm asked about any traffic calming speed devices. Mr. Ott will look into that; doesn't think the Clinton side is working.

Additionally, Mr. Ott said Green Hill Road is being resurfaced from Rte. 79 to the Killingworth line. Possibly they will pave next week as the project is moving faster than expected.

Communications Center: Chief Drumm met with the engineers; the towers will be constructed behind the Arts Barn and the skate board park will be relocated. There will be trenching from the town hall to the site; this project will take 14 months. Extra costs may arise during trenching; looking at 7 year term from Motorola. There has been some discussion to share resources with the Town of Clinton to save town costs.

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS

- Update: Communications 911 Center: Chief Drumm reported we are still conducting in-service training; hopefully accreditation will follow. The dispatcher position was taken out of the budget but then potentially put back. Mr. Goldberg added, the position will possibly have a delayed start.
- Project Phase 1: The consoles are dialed in. We received 2 additional frequencies and a backup channel for fire/ambulance. Chairman Thornburg asked about the status of the integration of dispatch, fire and police. Chief Drumm said they all continue working together, meeting monthly. Discussion at this point is more training, accountability. Worked together on the budget. Currently we are speaking to an alternate radio project. Mr. Goldberg added he thinks those concerned are now working together; townspeople are well served. Chief Drumm concluded we are mutual partners for public safety and have come a long way.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: None

CHAIRMAN COMMENTS: None

MOTION by Dowling, second by Lee to adjourn at 6:17 PM. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Minutes accepted: July 14, 2016