

**MADISON DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICES**  
**REGULAR MEETING – August 11, 2016**  
**COMMUNITY / TRAINING ROOM – 5:30 PM**

Attendees: Chairman Eric Thornburg; Vice Chairman Ed Dowling; Commissioner Thom Cartledge

Also Present: Chief Jack Drumm; Capt. Joe Race; Lt. Richard Perron; Town Engineer Mike Ott

Absent: Commissioner Marietta Lee; Commissioner Kathi Traugh; Board of Selectmen Liaison Al Goldberg;  
Board of Finance Liaison Joe MacDougald

**CALL TO ORDER**

Opening and Call to Order at 5:34 PM by Chairman Thornburg followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Cole Brinn, who sold water balloons to raise money for the K-9 fund, led the Pledge. Chairman Thornburg commented how we all appreciate Cole's support of the police community and the police dogs.

**REGULAR SESSION**

**MINUTES**

**MOTION** by Dowling, second by Cartledge to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 14, 2016. All in favor. None opposed. So moved

**MOTION** by Dowling, second by Cartledge to move the Town Engineer's report to the beginning of the meeting due to the dedication of Salt Meadow Park requiring his attendance; Mr. Goldberg is attending that ceremony as well.

**TRAFFIC: Town Engineer**

- Updates
- Crosswalk Feasibility Study: Route 1

Mr. Ott reported that No Parking signs for both sides of Webster Point, extended to Pent Road, came in on Wednesday; they have started the "Call Before You Dig" protocols. Additionally, pedestrian and cyclist safety signs will be installed for the Greenway Trail.

Crosswalk Feasibility: DOT asked the Board to discuss a request received directly from a citizen for a crosswalk and flashing beacon on Rte. 1 near Lenny & Joe's. Chairman Thornburg questioned that we discussed this earlier. Mr. Ott said we did and now DOT is looking for a decision from the Board of Police Commissioners if a feasibility study is requested. Mr. Cartledge feels it is a dangerous concept for the line of sight up over the hill. He recommends we do not encourage a study which has no value; a crosswalk would be in a dangerous section of Rt. 1. Chairman Thornburg asked, isn't that what the study would determine? Mr. Ott suspects that would be the result of the study.

This is not a controlled intersection; it is a straight road. Pedestrian volume is not enough to warrant a crosswalk, except in the summer for use by campers. Commissioner Dowling agreed. With all due respect, there is no reason to do the study. We addressed this when Salt Meadow Park was established. Chief Drumm added, they came to us looking for crosswalk by Dunkin' Donuts at Dud's Village. There was a study; they left it up to us. It is a high speed and high traffic area with an increase in accidents at the park's service road. Commissioner Dowling added, earlier the Chief had suggested an exit going through the park egress rather than allowing cars to come out where they do onto Route 1. He spoke with DOT to make it 1 way in and 1 way out to connect to the access road.

**MOTION** by Dowling to reply to DOT that we do not support a crosswalk at the discussed intersection. Second by Cartledge. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

**MOTION** by Dowling to evaluate the change of egress from the parking area so it goes into Hammonasset State Park rather than out onto Route 1; modification was that the Board of Police Commission has not been consulted about the egress therefore they entertain the study. Second by Cartledge. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Chairman Thornburg commented on the Green Hill Road project which is nearing completion. Mr. Ott added, the crews are just beginning a 400' section of the road from East River past Nathan's Lane.

Commissioner Cartledge commented on a continuing dialog regarding the residence at 90 Middle Beach Road and their neighbor's fence. While the resident feels he has a legitimate concern, according to Town Attorney Floyd Dugas, there doesn't appear to be any reason for the Police Commission to get involved as it is not a police or traffic matter. It is a legitimate fence on the neighbor's property although the resident of 90 Middle Beach does not like the height. Chairman Thornburg said it is a matter of using appropriate caution when exiting.

Chief Drumm is trying to get update on Rte. 79 just north of the 95 overpass by Oakwood Park. DOT said they are really busy; he expects study results within 60 days.

Congratulations were extended to Town Engineer Mike Ott on the park dedication which he left to attend.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Chairman Thornburg introduced student Cole Brinn asking how he got so interested in police matters. Cole brought cookies to the Board of Police Commissioners which he distributed to all in attendance; last month the Board accepted his donation to the K-9 fund.

### **CHIEF'S REPORT**

**Budget / Financial:** Chief Drumm reported we are where we should be at this time; a lot of our money is encumbered. We are down 2 officers until January 2017. He would like to move \$65,000 to cover the overtime line from the regular wage line and \$10,000 from the holiday line to OT. There are approximately 6 spots per pay period which need to be filled. We are just moving money with within our budget lines.

**MOTION** by Dowling, second by Cartledge to accept the transfer of funds. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Chief Drumm reported he met with Director of Finance Stacy Nobitz and Accountant Kristen Bartosic to confirm that at the end of the fiscal year \$4100 was returned to the town; this final figure accounted for all contractual cash outs by officers for vacation and sick time. Chairman Thornburg asked if there were any omissions or errors in the current budget as it seems there are no concerns at this point. Chief Drumm said everything is on track; the vehicles are on their replacement schedule.

- **Activity / Statistics:** 114 Alarms, 63 of which were Burglary; 22 were 911 calls; 41 Suspicious Vehicles; 20 Suspicious Persons; 122 Criminal Investigations with 31 In-custody Arrests; 5 Involuntary Committals; 29 Animal Nuisance complaints; 0 Animal Bites; 4 Juveniles Missing; 1 Juvenile Alcohol; 0 Juvenile Narcotics-related; 17 Juvenile Investigations; 28 Fingerprint requests; 125 R-1 First Responder calls (first on scene); requests continue for pistol permits. Very busy due to the holidays; this was the largest crowd for fireworks since he's been here; parking lots were full. Hammonasset closed early. Commissioner Cartledge asked what constitutes changing a number to 0 for juveniles. Chief explained juvenile laws have changed; marijuana has been decriminalized. We have adults using gateway drugs. MV laws help limit their driving; officers do a good job of selective enforcement. We haven't seen opium spikes as have other towns.

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

- **Training:** Capt. Race reported training slows down a little in the summer; he and Lt. Perron are in the final 6 days of class at the Command School in West Hartford. COLLECT recertification to access databases is required every two years by all users. Sgt. Baxter and K-9 Paco continue training as does the Emergency Response Team. Chairman Thornburg noted how much the Board appreciates the training efforts of Lt. Perron and Capt. Race; the Command School course is 400 hours/8 weeks in duration.

Community Events: This is a busy time of the year for charity bike rides and walkathons to include: Madison Triathlon; Braking Aids Ride; Outrun 38; Bikes for Kids; The Arc; Tour de Shore; Walk for VISTA. There have been more requests to the town based on the closure of Hammonasset to all events however we cannot accommodate 300+ people on town roads. For charities planning an event they should provide details a couple of months in advance, as well as a copy of their route for review/approval.

Chief Drumm reported the annual Turkey Trot, normally held at Hammonasset, has posed a challenge to find enough personnel to man the intersections based on its start this year at the Town Green. We will need to maintain safety posts; the Jaycees may have to hire officers from other towns. They don't want to cancel their big fund raiser as the proceeds go back to the town.

- **TRAFFIC:** The Chief reported the majority of accidents are inattentiveness and following too closely. A program with Clinton to "Take Back Route 1" is in the planning stages. It will be a weekend focus on Route 1 between the two departments.
- **CHIEF'S CORRESPONDENCE:** There is a general theme evidenced by several letters and actions in support of the Madison Police Department; Scott Cochran, Director of Youth & Family Services sponsored a program in town called the Madison Police Appreciation Day. Members of his department brought sandwiches to the officers and provided baskets of blue ribbons throughout town for people to show their support of the police. We thank him very much.

APK Charities organizers Bob and Helen Keiser-Pedersen delivered food to share in memory of Special Forces Capt. Andrew Pedersen-Keel and in support of the Madison Police Department and thanked us for our service.

Jack and Nancy Reynolds collected 5 pages of townspeople's signatures supporting the police. The Chief read the letter which stated:

"Dear Police Officer, We the undersigned want to express our profound gratitude for the brave and selfless actions that you do and are forever willing to do to protect each of us, our community and our public spaces regardless of our color, creed, political affiliation or national origin. We want to acknowledge the sacrifices that you make each and every day and the split second decisions that you are far too often forced to make in the face of danger and uncertainty. As thankful citizens of this great town for your unshakable commitment to our safety and well-being, please be assured that 'we've got your back' as well! Thank you for your service and all that you do!

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Current Issues: No Discussion

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Update on Communication Integration:

Chief Drumm reported we signed a contract with Motorola to build a critical infrastructure for the town wide radio for police, fire, schools and EMS and will meet with the engineers within the next few weeks. A Clerk of the Works for the project will be appointed. The replacement tower at Town Campus will be 17' taller than the existing one; the Ridge Road tower will be replaced. Prior to the end of the summer the Chief expects to see construction begin; this project has been fourteen years in the planning.

Last year the Board of Selectmen asked the Chief to take over the administration of Dispatch; we have partnerships with other emergency services in town. Taking out a tower up north vs. the cost of upgrades was cost prohibitive. He thanked the emergency services chiefs who were with him at the budget meetings. This project is long overdue – it is a very robust system. All the emergency services have signed on; hopefully this will serve the town for the next 20 years. Commissioner Cartledge commented that this is another example of what the department has been able to accomplish by working together with town agencies.

**NEW BUSINESS: DONATIONS**

- Donation: Scott Whitney (\$25)
- Donation: Alexis Kuszpa (\$20)

Chairman Thornburg thanked Scott Whitney for his donation of \$25 to the K-9 fund and thanked Alexis Kuszpa for her donation of \$20 to the K-9 fund from the proceeds of her lemonade stand.

**MOTION** by Dowling, second by Cartledge to accept the generous donations to the K-9 fund and offered their thanks to each of the donors. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:** None

**CHAIRMAN COMMENTS:** Chairman Thornburg again thanked Cole Brinn for attending the meeting and asked him to rap the gavel once the meeting was adjourned.

**MOTION** by Dowling, second by Cartledge to adjourn at 6:30 PM. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Minutes accepted: September 8, 2016