

MADISON DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

January 14, 2021 – 5:30

Meeting and Minutes via Teleconference – ZOOM

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

Also Present: Chief Jack Drumm; Capt. Joe Race; Al Goldberg, Board of Selectmen Liaison; Ken Kaminsky, Board of Finance Liaison

Officers: Lt. Rich Perron; Sgt. Jeremy Yorke; Sgt. Doug Harkins; Officer Rob Strickland; Officer Marcus Jacoboski; Officer Greg Martin briefly presented on officer activities

Absent: Vice Chairman Marietta Lee

Chairman Dowling opened the Regular Meeting at 5:33 PM; all rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACCEPTANCE – MEETING MINUTES

MOTION by Cewe, second by Cartledge to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 10, 2020. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Maureen Lopes 25 Old Farms Road. Asked for guidance regarding training as it applies to the Police Transparency Act. Would like to meet with someone; there are POST references for training and it would be helpful to have a better understanding. Chief Drumm explained there are 43 items in the PAA; a dozen were resubmitted for change by legislation. An area of concern for review is mental health. He suggested planning a ZOOM meeting with her, Capt. Race and some of the training officers. Chief said there is a lot of change going on right now relative to the PAA.

The Chief honored the recent passing of Sgt. George Roche – there was a strong police presence at the graveside service. George’s character was bigger than him, one of the early managers of the agency. The Chief offered his sincere condolences to his family members and fellow officers. I’m sure he is proud of where we are today.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL: There are some gaps in the OT lines regarding highway construction projects; we balance that out after July 1. Reimbursements are paid by vendors to the town’s separate account. Others are generated due to the expansion of services and COVID; the town has received \$110K to date. The Department will be reimbursed by DOJ for money spent for police vests via the General Fund then to our Police Purchased Services. CALEA gave notice that since the on-site was done via Zoom and they did not encounter expenses for hotels, airline tickets, meals, etc., they will be reimbursing the Town \$4300 which will go into the General Fund and then to Police Purchased Services.

Chairman Dowling asked for the upcoming budget workshops calendar; Mr. Kaminsky said it is now posted to the town website; no changes from previous years with the exception most meetings will be on Zoom and begin in two weeks.

Chief noted the 31st officer position which we have yet to fill; at this point his concern is the town, which has been successful this year, but is facing challenges. To that point, the Chief suggested to First Selectwoman Lyons that we pass on that officer position this year. Increases are at zero for the police budget with the exception of contractual increases. Mr. Kaminsky said he wished others in town were as cooperative and take that approach. He is concerned about this coming year; a lot of people are still

struggling into 2021. Economy is not in a place where it was pre-COVID and there is a long way back. The Board of Finance is trying to be as conservative as possible; we appreciate everything you've done to minimize increases for the police budget. Chief Drumm said his budget is predicated on needs; if it is a 'wish' he will specify it as such. Based on his recent discussion with CIP he asked that some items (the garage addition) come off the table. It is already in Bill McMinn's budget and they will proceed with the redoing of the male and female officer locker rooms – it's been 20+ years. Also, some security initiatives need to be upgraded in the building. Those projects will continue out of the Buildings budget. Mr. Kaminsky noted the Board of Finance is trying to focus on needs.

The Chief asked the Commissioners if this is the proper step. Chairman Dowling said deferring the officer this year makes sense; the economy will get better but will be months & months for certain industries. Some things need to be deferred, however there is justification, i.e., expand cameras downtown for public safety which we've discussed for several years. He noted the radio and communication upgrades which continue to pay dividends in terms of public safety. The recent bank robbery shows a more sophisticated technology might have been helpful. We may have a stakeholder in place for this year but we hope this is remembered. Mr. Kaminsky said he will remind people of the sacrifices departments make over time; over history your process is methodical and well thought out.

Commissioner Cartledge suggested making a list of deferred items (cameras) which could maintain itself as a priority. Lockers rooms are used daily; if it a reasonable number, we ought to take a look at what we can enhance for the officers on the street. Chief Drumm pointed out with some of our officers not taking benefits through HR, we have saved the town \$187,000 to \$214,000 annually in benefits over the past 10 years. There is revenue coming – antennas on the Arts Barn will be installed for Verizon which will generate an average income of \$24K/year - that can generate a public safety fund of \$100K over 10 years with several customers using the towers.

Mr. Kaminsky noted there is talk of the Department taking over signage management for the town. Chief said we can get it done quickly; historically, people make their request and it doesn't get done. Mr. Kaminsky asked if that has been discussed with the First Selectwoman; there could be a benefit in making some adjustments. The Chief said we've done that out of our budget; he might push that off to the next year. We do what we can afford to do. John Iennaco would like it to stay in his budget. When the Police Commission votes on signage, it gets done and is brought to closure as it is related to safety requests. It always comes down to something small, i.e., signs or a pothole. Mr. Kaminsky said as liaison it makes sense for him to raise that with Mrs. Lyons at the right time; perhaps as an internal transfer so it doesn't come out of the police budget. Chief says it is not a criticism; John Iennaco has a lot to do. Mr. Kaminsky said if it makes sense, he will follow up. Commissioner Cartledge added since the Chief has taken on some of these tasks, he addresses a town request and with the Chief's help can solve issues right away which takes a burden off John Iennaco. A lot of good will with very little money in a very short time.

Al Goldberg: Echoed Mr. Kaminsky – the budget is under exceptional pressure. He encourages the police that, for public safety perception, items with a direct impact on safety should be brought forward for discussion. The budget is not only how much we need to save, it has to meet the wishes of the town and he encourages the Commission to not be shy to advocate for what they need. Mr. Kaminsky agreed, for what they need.

Chairman Dowling noted there has been prudence to maintain our credibility; if there is a need for public safety impact we need to make the request, that's our responsibility and we take it seriously. We have a good relationship with the boards of Selectmen and Finance.

Chief noted this is the team officers that he works with to basically run this agency; he asked that they be present via Zoom to discuss the work they do. This is part of officer development. He congratulated the lead instructor who is now president of the Union, Rob Strickland.

QUARTRLY ACTIVITY/STATISTICS (October, November, December): 448 Alarms, 189 were 911 hang ups; 155 Burglary; 67 Fire Alarms; 17 Wires Down; 17 Medical; 20 Other. There were 45 Suspicious Vehicles; 35 Suspicious Persons (don't hesitate to call us about cars or persons); 152 Animal Nuisance complaints; 1 Animal Bite; 283 Criminal Investigations with 16 In-custody Arrests (COVID reduced); 24 Involuntary Committals (secondary to COVID is the psychological effect of people being home, out of work, etc.); K-9 Assists 7; 5 Adults Missing; 0 Juveniles Missing (1-6); 0 Juvenile Missing (7-15); 1 Juvenile Alcohol referral; 0 Juvenile Narcotics-related; 9 Juvenile Complaints mostly related to alcohol and kids hanging around); 138 Fingerprint requests (related mostly to firearms); 583 First Responder calls with Medical Assistance (first on scene); 147 Assists to Persons; 41 Assists to other agencies.

Additionally, 87 Motor Vehicle Accidents with 19 injuries, 40 with Property Damage, 18 Private Property Damage; 7 Car vs. Animal; 41 Motor Vehicle Arrests (down here and throughout the country); 21 Speed Enforcements; 1 DWI Arrest; 0 Seatbelt; 0 Cellphone; 16 Written Warnings; 14 Verbal Warnings. Total calls for service: 2137/23 daily.

Commissioner Rumburger asked if involuntary committal numbers are the same or higher as previously? Chief said we've seen an increase, less in custody because it is requested by the court not to hold people; we see increases at holidays, people with medication effects, psychotic episodes. Unemployment – people trying to hold on to their homes; divorce rates are up.

TRAINING: Sgt. Yorke as the Training Officer provided his update: We had 216 hours of training in December, 2020. Due to COVID, training ground to a halt mid-to late 2020 but law enforcement has been able to pick it up via Zoom. We got credits for our training in Human Trafficking in the Houston Force Summit was conducted via Zoom. In December every officer participated in Human Trafficking through the Daigle Learning Center Online Training Program. Human Trafficking is newly mandated by Connecticut for annual training for every officer; we will do follow-up training through the Daigle Learning Center. Seven officers renewed as Emergency Medical Responders and two officers renewed their EMT certifications, once again, through the Internet. We are getting all the mandated requirements accomplished online. Finally, there was 2-day regional SWAT training as well as K-9 handlers training.

Chairman Dowling asked Sgt. Yorke what his sense of virtual classroom training is. Going forward might it be a move to do virtual training almost as effectively to eliminate drive time. Sgt. Yorke replied the effectiveness is still there – the virtual training is put together very well. Video instruction is done by the same instructors we would have in person. For the budget standpoint it will save because we are not pulling officers out to go to training which may involve overtime – they can do the 2-hour training during their work shifts; thinks it will be the future of training. Chairman Dowling asked about the possibility of using our Training/Community Room and asked if there are things we need to do there to make it more effective such as wiring, video, etc.; we should think about doing that. His sense is there are a lot of businesses working from home and it will continue. He thinks it is very effective to train virtually.

Officer Rob Strickland was asked by Chief Drumm to speak to the Use of Force, Less Lethal and Firearms. Officer Strickland thanked the Commission for having him speak. He continued as Sgt. Yorke said, a lot of the officers attended the Daigle Use of Force seminar which he felt was incredibly outstanding. He likes online distance learning philosophy. A while ago we had a basic qualification which took place at the Clinton Range; it went very well. We have training coming up for firearms in the near future along with Use of Force training in the classroom and Baton and Handcuffing training.

Lt. Rich Perron gave an update on patrol. All our patrol officers at the moment are healthy – we are moving a few around. Officer Lazaroff is going to New Haven on a special assignment to be working on Federal Task Force relating to the Hamburg homicide. Officer Manware has been pulled from the schools, replaced by Officer Bob O’Neill who is a great addition for the school and will do a great job. We recently had one officer resign and anticipate a retirement soon so we had to move some people around to make more of a minimum patrol. CID continues to investigate potential leads from the People’s Bank robbery in Stop & Shop that occurred Saturday night and are hoping to get someone into custody soon.

Sgt. Doug Harkins reported the new cars (Tahoes) are all running very well; the computers are installed; the lights have been fixed so officers are on patrol with those 4 cars. We are down one officer as of this week; another one may be retiring relatively soon. We haven’t had to do order-ins; officers are volunteering for the vacancies. Staffing is fine. SWAT and K-9 units did their usual training. As the lieutenant mentioned, Officer Lazaroff will be working on the Special Task Force. The SRO change is that Officer O’Neill is now assigned to Hand, Polson and Jeffrey. It’s been a busy month since the new year; 8 arrests, 4 DUIs, 2 domestics and 1 forgery; one person in that group was arrested twice – once for threatening and interfering with officers and once for a domestic. All is well.

Chairman Dowling asked what the cost is to outfit a new car, lights, computers, etc. The Chief said the base car is \$36-38,000; some equipment can be moved from car to car. We are in the start of the new generation - but the final cost is about \$52-\$55,000/car.

Commissioner Cewe reported she heard of a Cyber assault at one of the schools her child attends; what is being done to train and educate teachers? Do you work with the school board to help the teachers? She continued, there was a huge incident this week; she heard the FBI was involved and asked why it wasn’t the Madison police.

Chief Drumm said he has spoken to the superintendent daily for the past 6 business days; no one mentioned the FBI investigation. We are all part of the Cyber Task Force with the Secret Service; we have expensive equipment here which they provided. Along with 9 towns we are participating with the Cyber Task Force including the state police and the FBI which has a Financial Crime Unit; this may be something they did not make us aware of. Commissioner Cewe said it was a 5th grade class that was quarantined. Kids are on social media platforms; communication with some officers and teachers would be helpful. The Chief asked how she heard about this. She said they got a letter/email but it’s through other parents. Chief said he can’t go by Facebook or other social platforms - he has to go by intelligence that has been verified. He asked her, how do you know what you know; he’ll be on it tomorrow. She said she got an email from one of the teachers at Brown but it’s interesting because she pulled two of her kids from the schools; that’s how she found out about the incident. The Chief will make an inquiry tomorrow.

The Chief said States Atty. Nowak is handling Task Force crimes, one of which is the Joven homicide in New Haven and the Hamburg case in Madison. One of our officers is working with the Task Force and the State’s Attorney assigned to it on a full press; the case is active. With regard to an FOIA request, we are challenging it to seek an injunction which we filed 12/24/20 to be heard in Superior Court; they

are seeking other evidence which we are not going to release. The hearing will probably happen later in the spring. He has been instructed by the State's Attorney it is part of the investigation - that is all he can say.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR: The Chief heard the Exchange Club has signed a contract for the fireworks to be held on 7/2 with a 7/5 rain date, the concert that Saturday night; parade on that Sunday neither are etched in stone. 'Touch a Truck' would like to be held soon but he doesn't see that happening. Capt. Race said nothing has been brought up as to races, the Memorial Day parade, etc. No applications to date.

REGIONAL SHARED SERVICES: The Chief reported he still meets with our regional partners. We work together to schedule 1-a and 1-b vaccinations. Regarding radio dispatch – Clinton is looking to do some rebuilding in their communication center; if discussion starts, it starts. We train together but no information on shared services.

CHIEF'S CORRESPONDENCE: Most of the recent correspondence is thanking folks for food and toy bank donations; approximately 38 letters were sent out.

Chairman Dowling spoke to a request by Ginny Rath of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee to consider congestion issues on Middle Beach Road. We will log it into the Traffic Log. It is an issue we deal with annually but there are reservations from town agencies for making the road 1-way. We will develop a response so we can close the loop on the communication side. Commissioner Cartledge notes we have had the Middle Beach issue come up several times; nobody has anything positive to say to change the road to 1-way. He continued, past discussions have determined Middle Beach will not be one way; there a lot of things that take more time than this. Chairman Dowling concurred but added we need to communicate formally. There are real concerns from emergency and fire departments; we will explain the rationale to them.

Chief Drumm reported a diversity crosswalk request has been referred to the First Selectwoman; it is not on the agenda yet. We approve use of a crosswalk but we don't approve changing the dynamics of a crosswalk – that's the Selectmen. Neck Road will be marked soon; signs for a bike route, signs encouraging courtesy to walkers, dog walkers, bicyclists. **Bike Route** signs will go up behind School House Deli; Bradley Road has been finished. Commissioner Cartledge asked when Neck Road is done can we have a patrol car there for a couple of days due to the new signage? Chief Drumm replied that's standard – there will be a stop bar present and the sign will be covered for the first 30-40 days before being unveiled.

North of Rte. 79 DOT ground the center line; the shoulder area will be enhanced very soon as well as Rte. 79, Horse Pond Road and Rte. 1. That is a great safety feature. The Chief continued, he still hasn't heard back from town counsel about the private roads off Neck Road with regard to walkers – it has been 4 months. Chairman Dowling will follow up.

Regarding a crosswalk in the area of Rte. 1 by West Wharf the Chief asked DOT to do a site inspection and study which will require additional flashing lights; that helps us with the trail downtown. Coming up Rte. 1 from Clinton past Hammonasset to Scotland, a left on Railroad Road to Bradley has had money approved at one time. Next area is in conjunction with the Madison Country Club for a path on their property along West Wharf; thinks they are partnering with the town.

Mrs. Raff added the Greenway Grant, which the town controls, hasn't been spent yet. It has to lead from where Greenway now ends to Guilford so she doesn't think going down past the golf course area will be approved. The idea of going up and around Railroad Avenue is part of the DOT design study for the trail. Chief Drumm said he is trying to move forward on this with a Zoom meeting with Ginny

Raff and Dave Anderson to get some direction. It would serve the town very well, particularly for bicyclists.

NEW BUSINESS

- Resignation: Officer Jason Dolce

MOTION by Dowling, second by Cartledge to accept Officer Dolce's resignation. All in favor. None Opposed. So moved.

Commissioner Rumberger asked if this action is just a formality? Where is he going, another agency? Chief said he believes he is going to stay home with children.

- COVID Update: Approximately 22 officers received the vaccine, some through Yale some through our health district. Two officers to go; they will be vaccinated along with dispatchers in 1-a. Second officer appointments have been scheduled Six people declined taking the vaccine.
- Public Safety Protocols
 - Liaison with State Agencies

Chief reported he has another Police Accountability Act Committee meeting tomorrow; they are generally held every Friday. He also has a Zoom meeting on 1/19 with the director and the attorney general and his executive staff for some discussions on laws. Additionally, on 1/21 he has a meeting with the Connecticut Bar Task Force for police accountability to discuss edits and/or changes.

Chairman Dowling noted he thinks it is very helpful for the Chief to participate on these committees; it is helpful with his experience with the state police and as a chief of police making it helpful as they sort through these bills. You are figuratively representing law enforcement in CT.

Chief said it is very hard to convince people who don't like change that the policies from the 60s, 70s, and 80s aren't working anymore – things have changed. Slow process to get people on board and achieve a consensus.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Cartledge: None
Rumberger: None
Dowling: None
Cewe: None

Chairman Dowling thanked the officers who joined the meeting; it is helpful to hear from those who do the heavy lifting.

MOTION at 6:40 PM by Cartledge, second by Cewe to adjourn to Executive Session. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Present: Dowling, Cartledge, Rumburger, Cewe

Absent: Lee

Also Present: Goldberg; Drumm (for personnel matter discussion only)

Discussion:

1. Police Chief Annual Performance Review (continued)
2. Litigation Matters

MOTION by Cartledge, second by Cewe to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:21 PM. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Minutes Accepted: February 11, 2021