

**MADISON DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
5:30 PM
COMMUNITY TRAINING ROOM-MADISON POLICE DEPARTMENT
February 9, 2023
SUBJECT TO APPROVAL**

Attendees: Chairman Ed Dowling; Vice-Chairman Marietta Lee; Commissioner Ann Rumberger.

Also Present: Captain Douglas Harkins; Lieutenant Neal Mulhern; Lieutenant Jeremy Yorke.

Absent: Chief Jack Drumm; Commissioner Thom Cartledge; Commissioner Judith Hession; Al Goldberg-Board of Selectmen liaison; Jean Fitzgerald-Board of Finance liaison

CALL TO ORDER - REGULAR SESSION

Chairman Dowling called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACCEPTANCE – MEETING MINUTES

MOTION to amend the minutes of the December 8, 2022 meeting of the Madison Board of Police Commissioners. Commissioner Lee asked that Under Budget Requests, the statement should read, The Chief is (rather than I am) very sensitive to asking for more money after the budget is set, second by Dowling. All in favor to accept as modified; none opposed. So moved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Budget/Financial Report: Captain Harkins provided an update on the budget. We are under in Salaries and over in Overtime due to vacancies that we are trying to correct with the six police recruits in the Academy. We are not over budget for vehicle maintenance or gasoline, however we spent \$4,543 on vehicle maintenance in January and if we continue to spend at this rate we would be over budget. We will keep a close eye on this and we believe the YTD spending on vehicle maintenance should last us until next fiscal year. Police Services and Supplies we spent \$11,821 in January. Some items include PlanIt annual software update, COVID test kits, Narcan nasal spray-we want to make sure our officers have this available in case of an overdose, Polygraph testing for police candidates, Mandated Drug Tests for Officers, 3-part Accident Summary forms-an accident report can take 7-10 days to be finalized and signed; 3-part form allows us to give to the Public a form right away. Staff Uniforms: \$5,713 spent on new uniforms for Police Recruits and \$528 for wool hats for Officers to be worn during the winter months. The MPD will be asking for a Special Appropriation of \$61,194.20 for start-up costs for seven police recruits; we have six in the academy and anticipate a seventh recruit to start this spring. The POST Academy fee of \$26,000 is basically the tuition to send 7 recruits to the Academy; \$9,200 is for Ammunition, the recruits have minimal firearms training and they have to learn to be very proficient in the use of a handgun, rifle and shotgun. Ammunition in training is very expensive. The \$9,200 would use up most of our

\$12,000 annual budget for Armory. Duty Gear of \$5,869 consists of the leather belt, holster, handcuffs and case, radio holder, baton and holder. Chairman Dowling asked if when an Officers retires or resigns, do they turn in their duty gear? Captain Harkins stated yes, they do, and we try to recycle what we can provided it is in good working order, excluding the bullet proof vests. Lieutenant Yorke added that after several years the leather does not hold up well.

Commissioner Lee asked if all six recruits will graduate at the same time. Harkins stated three are tentatively scheduled to graduate on April 5, 2023 and the second three on June 30, 2023. They are with a Field Training Officer (FTO) once they graduate for ten weeks or 400 hours. For the 7th potential police recruit, there is an Academy class starting April 6, 2023. Chairman Dowling asked the Administrative Staff if it would be helpful to expand our training to have more focus in order to bring the six recruits up to speed a little faster. Captain Harkins relayed items that have been discussed include expanding our FTO program, possibly adding a supervisor, and having Lieutenant Yorke get them into specialized training once they graduate from the Academy. Lieutenant Mulhern added that our FTO program is extensive, tried and true. FTO's have policies and procedures to run through as well as daily check lists. The program works well and should not be a problem with the number of recruits. It is a matter of getting the FTO's up to speed.

Activity/Statistics: Lieutenant Mulhern provided the update for December and January. In December we had 195 motor vehicle stops; 2 verbal warnings, 185 written warnings, 6 infractions, 2 misdemeanors, 0 fatal accidents, 13 custodial arrests, 2 for DWI's and 1 in relation to a MV theft from July 2019. In January there were 146 motor vehicle stops; 6 verbal warnings, 3 misdemeanors, 10 custodial arrests and 2 DWI's from MV accidents. We are seeing an uptick trend in mail theft. People tend to put checks in their outgoing mail with the red flag up. Checks are being intercepted from the mail, washed and changed to make it out to themselves for a large amount, or the thief find someone on the street with an ID and pays them to cash the check. We caution people not to put outgoing mail in your mailbox.

Training Report: Lieutenant Yorke provided the training update. The Department participated in a total of 188 training hours. Training consisted of Ethics in Law Enforcement, reviewing Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct; Taser Recertification; EMR Recertification; COLLECT Recertification and SWAT training. Officer Welz attending Crisis Intervention Training (40 hours) and Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement Training (16 hours) which detects signs of both alcohol and drug base. About half of the Department is certified in both of these and the goal is to have every officer get certified.

Traffic Report: Lieutenant Yorke provided the traffic report. There were 25 MVA with one involving injuries. The leading cause of the MVA involved animal strikes/debris in the roadway, following too closely and unsafe movements. There were two DUI's and zero fatal accidents. There were 2 reported private property accidents and 2 assists to the State Police on I-95.

Community Calendar: Captain Harkins provided the update. Drag Queen Bingo was held at the First Congregational Church with maximum capacity. Goal was to raise money for a youth service trip to Appalachia to repair homes in poor communities. There was both community support and pushback for the event. Police Officer was hired and the event went well. We currently have a Diaper Drive through February 16th; this involves several Shoreline towns as well as the State Police. Super Bowl VII will take place in Town on February 25th; this is a contest for people to showcase their soup and chili.

NEW BUSINESS

Captain Harkins reported that the most recent Dispatcher we hired decided that the job was not for her and resigned on February 1st. We have a conditional offer out to someone to replace her. We will commence the background check and anticipate filling that position. We also interviewed two people for the additional Dispatch position today and have one scheduled for next week. We are currently in contract negotiations with the Dispatchers.

Correspondence: None.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: Commissioner Lee asked for an update on Shared Services. Chairman Dowling noted he and the Chief had a meeting with First Selectwoman, Peggy Lyons about considering the feasibility of Madison providing law enforcement services to the town of Killingworth. The First Selectwoman will look into how we can begin those discussions in the next month or so to see if it makes financial, political, and operational sense. It is encouraging to say we will begin those discussions.

Chairman Dowling stated they will be going into Executive Session to discuss the Chief's performance review.

MOTION TO ADJOURN to Executive Session by Lee, second by Rumberger. All in favor; none opposed. So moved. Meeting adjourned by 6:07 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION adjourned at **p.m.**