

**MADISON DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICES  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
5:30 PM  
Held via Zoom Video Conference  
February 10, 2022  
SUBJECT TO APPROVAL**

Attendees: Chairman Ed Dowling; Vice-Chairman Marietta Lee; Commissioner Thom Cartledge; Commissioner Ann Rumberger; Commissioner Jude Hession.

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

Absent: Chief Jack Drumm; 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 5:33 p.m. All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**ACCEPTANCE – MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION** to amend the minutes of the January 13 Regular meeting of the Madison Board of Police Commissioners. Commissioner Lee asked that Maureen Lopes and Steven Brunelle be removed from the attendance section of the minutes. Chairman Dowling asked that the Public Comment section regarding Ryan Duques presentation on Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Unit be amended to include, this is something the department will look at in the future with our long-term technology view. When we look at future technology, drone utilization will be a part of it. 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 Douglas Harkins provided an update on the budget. We are on target for the month of January. We had an uptick in overtime replacement due to officers out with COVID, and three officers out injured.

Chairman Dowling: We are asking for six additional radar signs for the upcoming budget, which includes \$2,000 per camera installation.

**Activity / Statistics:** Captain Harkins reported there were 6 arrests, 111 motor vehicle stops, 0 auto thefts, and 1 car that was rummaged through but nothing was taken. There were 2 catalytic converter thefts on the Boston Post Road; Toyota Prius' are being targeted. Lieutenant Mulhern added that large vans are also a target. There was a 35% decrease in auto thefts; 31 stolen cars in 2020 and 20 in 2021. The reduction is attributed to the MPD's partnership with the community with our Lock It or Lose It Campaign.

Lieutenant Mulhern: We had stressed to the community we could decrease auto thefts by being aware of your surroundings, lock your car, and have your neighbors on alert, and it worked. Try to park your car close to your

house and near a light. The State lab has been a lot quicker with forensic testing. We are getting samples back from some of the stolen cars and making arrests, which is a deterrent. We had a burglary on County Road in August and received notification we have an offender hit based on DNA. The detectives worked with Stratford PD and were able to seize his cell phone and retrieve evidence confirming he was at the crime scene at the time of the offense. They are in the process of preparing his arrest.

Chairman Dowling suggested publicizing the significant 35% decrease in auto thefts so that people understand that if public safety common sense recommendations are followed there is an effect. This is what police engagement means.

Lieutenant Mulhern: I give a lot of credit to the upset people that showed up to the meetings, took the steps to meet with us, sent countless emails, and they came up with great ideas.

Captain Harkins: This is a good example of the community working with the police. The police cannot do it all by themselves and the community needs the police to help them.

Commissioner Rumberger suggested to include information about the decrease in auto thefts and locking the cars when new flyers are printed.

**Training Report:** Lieutenant Yorke provided the training update. Department participated in a total of 171 training hours. Training consisted of Connecticut Ethics for Law Enforcement (58 hours), Annual Ethics training Course (29 hours), Emergency Medical Responder Recertification Training (32 hours); all of our officers are medical emergency responders, COLLECT/NCIC Recertification (4 hours); this gives the officers the ability to look for information in criminal justice databases, SCCTU (SWAT) (32 hours) and K-9 (16 hours). There is training coming up for the Police Accountability Act. Our Use of Force instructors have to teach in-person a post council mandated presentation about the new use of force laws that will be taking place in March. Also, five officers will complete their initial 60-hour EMR certification on-line, which takes 2-3 months.

Commissioner Cartledge asked how broad an access do we have for the database?

Lieutenant Yorke: It gives us access to license plates, criminal history, and a lot criminal justice information.

**Traffic Report:** Lieutenant Yorke provided the traffic report. There were 28 MVA with 5 involving injuries. The leading cause of the MVA involved deer strikes, failure to drive in established lane and failure to obey traffic control signal/device. We get more MVA in the winter due to adverse weather conditions. Zero DWI accidents as well as fatal MVA; 6 reported private property accidents, and 2 assists to CT State Police with MVA on Interstate-95.

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR:** Captain Harkins: There is nothing to report at this time.

**CHIEF'S CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**TRAFFIC ISSUES:** Commissioner Cartledge: There has been ongoing dialogue with Town about why Madison does not have crosswalks on the Post Road in the downtown area. The island in the middle has both water and electrical lines in various places which would mean a serious disruption of those lines and reconfiguration. The

only place we could potentially put a crosswalk, with the least amount of effort, would be at the end of the island, on the west part of Town by the firehouse. He will follow-up with John Iennaco on this one location.

Chairman Dowling: I had the opportunity to attend a BOS meeting Tuesday night where the availability of Federal Infrastructure Bill money was discussed. These would be available on a certain allocation basis and competitive requests from within the State. One of the things noted was the expectation that Madison is going to have access to certain funds for the extension or expansion of sidewalks. There may be Federal dollars available through the State. We will work with John Iennaco so that we have a public safety view of where some of these sidewalks, crossings or other street traffic modifications need to be made. My sense is you want to make your request earlier than later. We will reach out to Town Engineering to get a sense of what is the decision process, calendar and potential availability of funds because we have had some requests.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Captain Harkins announced our newest lateral hire. Officer Michael DePalma was a detective in Hamden prior to becoming an officer in Madison. He is receiving his field training with Officer Brian Phillips. Five new car dash cameras are in the works to be installed. The Madison Exchange Club presented the MPD with teddy bears to put in patrol cars as part of their program to reduce child abuse-Time Out Teddy. They want the officers to hand out teddy bears to children that may have been exposed to a traumatic experience.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:** Commissioner Lee thanked the men and women for their hard work covering for people out with COVID and working extra overtime. The Commissioners appreciate it and I think the community appreciates it as well. We need you more than ever.

Commissioner Rumberger: Thanks for also pitching in while the Chief is out.

Commissioner Hession: I think the Town really does appreciate the Police Department and knows the past two years have not been easy on you.

Chairman Dowling: Echoed the appreciation, and also with the separation of Joe Race in the fall, the officers here have stepped up and either directly or indirectly absorbed some of the duties. The referendum for special appropriations requests for the cameras which was approved by the BOS was supposed to be tonight and has been deferred until February 28, 2022.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN** to Executive Session by Hession; second by Cartledge. All in favor; none opposed. So moved. Meeting adjourned by 6:10 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION adjourned at 6:38 p.m.**