

MADISON DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
February 11, 2021 – 5:30
Meeting and Minutes via Teleconference – ZOOM

Attendees: Chairman Ed Dowling; Vice Chairman Marietta Lee; Commissioner Thom Cartledge; Commissioner Ann Rumburger

Absent: Commissioner Christina Cewe; Ken Kaminsky, Board of Finance Liaison

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

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

ACCEPTANCE – MEETING MINUTES

MOTION by Lee, second by Cartledge to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 14, 2021. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Steve Roane: 370 Copse Road, commented on the number of accidents on Green Hill – he has lived there for 15 years. During the last administration he met once with the Commissioners but nothing was done. He kept at Mr. Banisch, asking for a speed detector light at the top of Green Hill; he thought that helped a great deal. There were state professionals who looked at the problem; they lowered the height of Green Hill for visibility but that resulted in people going faster. At the 4-way intersection there are 2 stop signs, on Ridge there are 3 stop signs at a 4-way; on Nortontown there are 4 stop signs. Most traffic is at Copse/Green Hill where there are 2 stop signs. He thinks there have been close to 100 accidents there and one fatal according to a neighbor. He is asking to have the speed detection light which was removed, be returned; same as the one by Grove School. The sign hasn't been there for a while. He asked for a remedy for this because whatever has been done doesn't work. He stated there is less traffic now due to COVID; buses are up and down Copse and parents are driving kids to school. Asked to have the speed detector put back, maybe a 4-way stop or a blinking red light.

Chairman Dowling noted Green Hill is a regular part of our discussions for traffic issues; we have talked about traffic calming signs and there have been some maintenance issues. Chief Drumm told Mr. Roane according to traffic studies done by DOT along the length Green Hill since 2010 when he arrived, the area of concern for citizens is Copse/Green Hill. The speed sign gets damaged/vandalized; they are almost \$6K each and are hard to repair during COVID. A new sign is going back up there next week. Westbound from the Green Hill/Ridge Road intersection there is not sufficient time due to the incline for a motorist to stop at the 4-way stop sign at Copse/Green Hill; it poses a danger to be rear-ended and that is what the study always seems to go to. He spoke to Dave Anderson and Town Engineer John Iennaco for other options; all we can do is put up additional signage but there is pushback from residents who don't like signs or blinking lights which is how we would rectify the problem. There have not been 100 accidents; he would say approximately 19 within 5 years.

Mr. Roane has gone to the post-accident site; he has called in a dozen times and neighbors have as well, not necessarily during school year; a lot during the summer as well. Biggest problem is people coming down the hill – not the speed. People are stopped at Copse – if there is going to be an accident it will be a slow accident. The lowering of Green Hill (he heard close to \$1MM) just makes drivers go faster. Chief Drumm said he doesn't disagree that the road lowering encourages speed; he has suggested an additional sign there. A sign is going on Green Hill at the Killingworth line. People notice the signs and pay attention however the signs are often vandalized. The Chief said he will continue with the sign west of Ridge; we are trying with undetected cameras adjacent to the sign to curb vandalism. The

process is exacerbating. The 3-way at Ridge has people pulling out of Ridge assuming traffic stops all three ways. DOT does not encourage using stop signs to slow down traffic; DOT wants sufficient school zone warnings. There is a discussion to extend the school zone up the hill. DOT does extensive testing and studying. If DOT feels there is sufficient time for braking they will not advocate a stop sign. At Neck Road there is a 3-way stop which will not be a 4-way according to DOT – same as on Liberty at the Green Way Trail. We are trying to fund and mitigate the problem areas. We move patrols around town occasionally, when available, with radar. Mr. Roane agreed, putting the detector up will make a world of difference. Chief said we are already in motion with that.

Chairman Dowling concluded the discussion by noting we have a traffic log; Thom Cartledge oversees it – we will tickle this request for 60-90 days and get an update from the Chief on the effect of the signage replacement.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL: Chief Drumm reported no surprises with the budget – we are where we should be this time of year. One officer has retired and he expects a second officer retiring within a month, one officer was on extended leave. We will be backfilling more than usual but will be taking the encumbered wages from those salaries to mitigate overages. Chairman Dowling asked about budget workshop schedules. Chief Drumm noted the final one was today with the Selectmen dealing with transportation. Most of the workshops pertained to CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) Projects – #1: Our priority for 5 years out is a replacement schedule for vehicles; it is \$120K ongoing every year – offset years are for administrative or K-9 vehicles which are generally cash purchases within that budget. That budget item is kept at \$120K so there are no vehicle surprises. When he first arrived, orders would be for 7-10 vehicles at a time. The Department just retired a 5-year-old vehicle which we gave to the fire marshal's office therefore by rotating the vehicles for which we can extend the life. #2: Police Technology (servers, MTDs in vehicles, modems, cameras in vehicles and on officers; we negotiate the best rate and pay it over 3-5 years; #3: Communication Upgrades: 2 components- retire debt for Phase 2 (installation of tower system throughout Madison, 2 payments are left at less than 3%; 3rd phase is in that as well for the last three payments for subscriber equipment – hand held radios for police, fire, ambulance. Old Rte. 79 tower is on private property which gives revenue to the town of approximately \$250K annually; when we built the tower we looked for vendors. Currently we have Verizon and AT & T as prospects for the Arts Barn tower. Most contracts are 20+ years. Once approved we have paying customers which will pay for the structure after so many years. #4: is the police building which is over 20 years old. Some areas need to be rehabbed as part of the CIP. Men & women locker rooms will be done this year; second is security upgrades, third is fitness equipment which we have already for a makeshift gym for officers upstairs in the attic – would like to put in HVAC. Extension of garage storage for equipment that is currently left outside. Half of the attic is filled with storage of documents. Chairman Dowling asked about the timing for renovation of locker rooms and the garage extension – is that 21-22 or further out. Chief said it is scheduled post 7/1/21 with an approximate cost of \$200,000.

Chairman Dowling talked about a plan for further analyzing cameras for downtown. Is that part of this process? Chief said our camera system and enhancements within critical infrastructure of the town and schools come through Art Sickles' office although the camera screens would be visible in the Police Department/Dispatch. Chairman Dowling asked for a date to present a request for a camera system on Main Street. Chief said at this point, it is a placeholder and has to do with completion of projects downtown and the library. A couple of poles downtown will need to be removed, crosswalks are in the discussion. We don't want to put equipment on poles that will be removed. He, the town engineer and the town planner will meet monthly to discuss, for example, the crosswalks at West Wharf. There is a placeholder for technology infrastructures.

Chairman Dowling noted it sounds like in terms of a specific request, there is a potential for downtown cameras for public safety which might be a future consideration as the project evolves. Chief said that would fall under technology, not police. A problem with DOT is we get a project done and then find out the State is going to repave a road. We are trying to focus on where the town wants to go and best maximize the planning within town offices. There are a lot of discussions that involve safety – people who send us letters also send them to the town; with the 3 departments meeting monthly we save time and money. If it involves safety it is the Police Commission; larger projects are in conjunction with other planned projects, i.e., downtown crosswalk, West Wharf project we like to do in conjunction with other projects, also for less money. DOT is starting to fund projects again – they will pay for mid-block crosswalk enhancements (handicap ramps); lights, signage, etc. We would rather have DOT pay for these projects. Chairman Dowling thinks it is helpful to review CIP projects. Perhaps we should target specific police plans on an on-going basis. The power system was a critical investment by the town; there are key investments throughout town.

Chief Drumm replied we have a very good rapport with the boards of finance, selectmen and CIP; if it is a wish list we tell them that. We don't know what the collection rate for the town will be next year – it is our problem too as part of the community. Chairman Dowling agreed, it is a prudent plan. As a Commission we support this going forward – what is the project status, what needs to be added, what needs to come off, etc. and he feels technology and communications are a critical concern. When we are going in to a budget planning year we can have a discussion as to what is the project, what needs to be added to the project, what is coming off because of completion – it would all be helpful to get us engaged as a Commission.

Chief is not sure with the Police Accountability Act (PAA) if there will be mandated technology improvements – for example, outfitting each officer with badge numbers and embroidery is approximately \$4000 – that's just a start; what is the cost for a psychologist on staff; now they are asking for 40 hours of training annually (overtime, schedules, cost analysis). This will all come to us next year; we might need an additional \$100K to meet the mandates. Al Goldberg has been very gracious when he reports back to the Selectmen. These are realities we will face very soon - he doesn't know the numbers.

Mr. Goldberg said the Selectmen met this afternoon and will finish by end of this month for a budget presentation to the Town on 3/3. The Board of Police Commissioners will not need to meet with the Selectmen – we had no questions for the operating budget. The CIP budget seems pretty reasonable. After the Selectmen recommend the budget it goes to the Board of Finance for a check and balance for budget approval. As far as the Selectmen are concerned, the police budget is reasonable so far. The Selectmen are very interested regarding the Police Department as to the summer beach program – will beaches be extremely populated or be a more normal density usage; that's the main topic for the Selectmen with regard to the police. Chairman Dowling thinks last year's overall program the Chief developed was comprehensive. In a future meeting he will ask the Chief for his plans going forward to provide an early review.

QUARTRLY ACTIVITY/STATISTICS: The next report will be at the April meeting.

UPDATES: Chief Drumm provided investigation updates:

- Peoples Bank Robbery: one of the accused committed suicide
- Warrants went in for the death of a Madison resident which resulted from the car races up north 7 months ago; additional charges were added. Warrant is for racing,

manslaughter and potentially assault second.

- Regarding an FBI involvement at the Middle School that was raised last month – he spoke with the US Attorney - there was no federal agency involved.

TRAINING: Capt. Race reviewed last month's training report from Sgt. Yorke. We are staying on track with our training requirements. We did over 177 training hours in January; SWAT and K-9 training did their usual monthly training; 5 officers recertified with COLLECT (needs to be done every 2 years). We did Ethics training online and Use of Force in a hybrid model and worked between our software components and in person, trying to leverage our technology.

TRAFFIC: Also from Sgt. Yorke's report, Capt. Race noted 17 motor vehicle accidents, 4 with injuries. no DUI accidents, no fatalities. He thanked all the people in town who don't travel in bad weather; far less than we've ever seen. Kudos to the people of Madison who heed those warnings – it is tremendously helpful for us and Public Works. Following too closely is the top incident; very few injuries.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR: Chief Drumm reported other than the July 4 activities anticipation there are no other events. There have been discussions with bike groups, Touch a Truck and the baseball season – it is all up in the air.

REGIONAL SHARED SERVICES: Chief reported the Cybercrime unit met yesterday – discussed the funding for next year. This is 11 detectives ranging from Milford to Clinton to respond to cybercrimes – Madison has been invested for the last 3 years and we work almost every day on a related project. 80% of crimes in the country are committed with a cell phone; we have the technology to break that down and follow up with Secret Service and the Cybercrime Task Force. Spoke with Clinton about their radio project – right now it is not funded to the capacity that they would like as the town works through the budget process.

CHIEF'S CORRESPONDENCE: Chief spoke to letter to Ginny Rath; she asked to have Middle Beach as one-way; Chairman Dowling thought it was a comprehensive response letter. That issue has been and will be there for a while.

Chief noted last week he, the town engineer, Dave Anderson and Peggy Lyons met; had a discussion with Dave Anderson for what we could consider for Middle Beach and the Greenway Trail and all the related conundrums as we try to move forward. Dave suggested through his office to bring in planners (such as used in New Haven for bike and pedestrian lanes); thinks Dave will try to bring in an assessing company to come up with a plan that will work. Middle Beach is not the same width all the way, narrower by the curve with other widening preventive factors. It could be a needs assessment with a plan in conjunction with himself, Dave Anderson, John Iennaco and First Selectwoman Lyons to see where it lands.

Commissioner Cartledge thinks it is extraordinarily timely considering another summer with people staying in town, walking, jogging, etc. This request is on a regular basis for Middle Beach; he supports a needs assessment opinion. Anything that will help the public see we are doing our job. He would volunteer his time as a commissioner to meet in one of the sessions. Chief said there would be a presentation to Zoning, the Selectmen and the Police Commission. It would tie in housing that surrounds downtown; a traffic study for enhancements. Chairman Dowling thinks there may be some ideas out there that we haven't grasped yet. As a Commission we try to not have a winner/loser mindset with regard to requests; he would welcome someone who has assimilated a lot of data with their observations and potential solutions. Madison residents want to be able to enjoy the entire community; let's come up with some ideas. Commissioner Cartledge doesn't have a problem telling people they have lost because some of these subjects come up multiple times. People use the resources of the police and the town engineer's office and it's a repeat of the same question. If there is a validated

formal study that Middle Beach will not be one-way it saves everyone's time and efforts. Chairman Dowling agrees – how many times have we talked about Green Hill, etc. Commissioner Cartledge feels basically the solution for Green Hill falls on the residents to respect the speed limit and that it is a difficult road to drive.

Chairman Dowling supports the Chief being a part of this proposed study which we welcome when it has reached the appropriate stage; it is another piece of information for the Traffic Authority to consider. Chief said as this is formulated he would like a couple of commissioners to sit in on the meetings.

The Chief reported on areas of safety: Railroad Avenue where Scotland meets the overpass – his observation is it is dark there – the light is covered by the tree canopy. People accelerate at the 4-way; they rush down Railroad to the old train station area at the hard left. We need a warning device at Conestoga for the crosswalk; thinks it warrants a stop sign. Second part is at the village/apartments. Officers park at the side yard of the old train station to run radar– people go through at 50-60 MPH rather than 25 MPH. Before it goes to the left there is a crosswalk that requires additional signage and stoppage. Might be excessive to some but that is where walkers cross the street from Scotland to the train station. Consider additional signage there and up to a stop sign, perhaps a second. All Commissioners agreed it sounds good.

Shortly you will they are going to put see a blinking strobe when someone is in the crosswalk and hits a button. At the crosswalk by VISTA and The Hearth, the State of CT has offered to put in other mid-section crosswalks. He will ask for a blinking strobe at Railroad and one by the car dealerships (there is a crosswalk there). He will also ask for a sign on Green Hill. At \$25K/each, if the state will put them in it is good.

Chairman Dowling said there is no reason not to do it for pedestrian safety; not burdensome to the town. Chief feels it is appropriate and will also ask for an overhead light there as well. Chairman Dowling asked how that would appeal to residents. The closest street light would be attached near the old train station; other one would be at Scotland but the canopy of trees could block it out. John Iennaco will look at it.

NEW BUSINESS:

- COVID Update: Chief said he received his second vaccination. Chairman Dowling asked if everyone who has requested the vaccine has had it; Chief said 80% have received 2nd dose.
- Public Safety Protocols
 - Liaison with State Agencies – Chief had his first series of meetings last week; he is a voting member. Has been placed to respond to the mental illness mandates, disabilities have been expanded out. It is very informative and he believes their chairman appreciated the law enforcement responses to crisis discussion. Probably some mandate changes; subcommittee submitted motor vehicle changes. Wide variety of members on the committee –elected officers, two who were formerly incarcerated, ACLU members, religious representation, state's attorney's office, police, substance abuse, CHRO, mental health. There are 16 members, 6 do not vote. Chairman Dowling asked if there is a mandate for the recommendations. The Chief said the prior committee he was on sent the mandate up to the committee he sits on now. Some laws will require further study. They want committees from both houses to weigh in prior to the vote. This will be quite a challenge and expense. He worries about some larger police agencies complying with this. There are mandates without funding. Chairman Dowling thinks it is very important that the Chief is a member.

- Chief noted Capt. Race is now a CALEA team leader for assessments. He trained last week; first assignment is in NC towards the end of March to assess other agencies via Zoom at this time. Chairman Dowling congratulated him and wished him luck. It is a honor for him to be asked to be a team leader.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Lee: None

Cartledge: None

Rumberger: Gave a thank you to the police department. On Sunday during the storm her husband was driving home and saw several accidents between Middletown and Madison. She noted the assistance by the officers along the route as well as one at the top of her road involving a woman in a Jeep who ran up an embankment. She thinks a police officer said he was going to drive her home and another officer was going to follow. She wanted to give a shout-out.

Chairman Dowling: Healthy discussion about our budget; appreciates that we did effective planning and communication with the Selectmen. Appreciates the Chief's effective planning and communication with the Selectmen.

MOTION by Lee, second by Cartledge to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:50 PM. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Minutes Accepted: April 8, 2021