

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

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

Also Present: Chief Jack Drumm; Capt. Joe Race; Al Goldberg, Board of Selectmen Liaison; John Picard, Board of Finance Liaison; Officer Rob Strickland

Chairman Dowling welcomed and expressed his pleasure that John Picard is now the liaison with the Board of Finance. He opened the Regular Meeting at 5:35 PM; all rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ACCEPTANCE – MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION** by Lee second by Cewe to approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 11, 2021. All approved. Chairman Dowling asked for any changes, omissions or additions. Chief Drumm asked that he have the minutes edited; the point in the content is fine. Chairman Dowling suggested deferring the February minutes to the April meeting giving the edits time to be introduced until we have one official version.

**MOTION** by Dowling, second by Cartledge to postpone the approval of the February minutes to the April 8, 2021 meeting. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Chairman Dowling welcomed public comments; there were none. Capt. Race will facilitate any comments.

**BUDGET/FINANCIAL:** Chief Drumm reported Union President Rob Strickland is a participant in the audience tonight. The up to date budget is in the handout that was distributed in the packet. Adjustments to negative balances will be made by HR by the end of March. Spent \$78K over the general budget for overtime to replace patrol and also replaced 2 vacancies and covered most of the patrols through the mid-summer into the fall in regards to COVID. There were additional patrols along the shoreline during COVID; approximately 1187 calls for service related to the beach roads for one year (January 20-January 21). Hammonasset influences that and was approximately 25% or 487 of the calls between the Surf Club and Hammonasset. That's about a 45% increase in calls for service with a big impact affecting the budget. Officer Dolce retired the end of January; Officer Pardales is retiring the first week of April to move to SC to return to the Marines working security with the civilian rank of captain. He will work with the Provost Marshal within the police agency. Thank you to him for all he's done for Madison. Before we finish this fiscal year, Pardales will be gone for 6 pay periods; Dolce for 11 pay periods for \$52K in unencumbered funds which after the adjustments are made by HR, will be moved to the OT line by a line transfer to mitigate that expense. The Chief will not fill those ranks until July 1. Chairman Dowling asked if we are moving any regular salaries to deal with excess OT due to increases of service demands. If those increased service demands also occur in 2021, how does the 2021 budget look? Presumably, we may not have the flexibility to move regular salaries to the OT budget if the service levels jump 25% or 45% and occur at the same rate.

Chief said most of those influences have to do with one, the response to COVID and the influx of people to Madison, particularly the beach areas, and second, the loss of 2 patrol officers. Anticipates filling those 2 positions; we may have 2 more retire as of July 1 but they haven't given a definitive answer yet. As to COVID, he is hoping this will end prior to the start of summer but he feels it will continue to fall, at a minimum. As long as there is still a declaration we will see reimbursement for that

funding. He can't give a definitive answer – during the budget process we replaced one officer but not the second SRO. He was asked if he could forgoe that during COVID because we don't know where we would be with collection rates in town government. So, we're a team player and said we would make do. They would rather do an appropriation to backfill OT than fill another position at this time. That's where we're at today and that's why the budget went forward the way it did with the small increase. If there is a shortage they will ask for a special appropriation. Chairman Dowling said OK and asked if the OT demands continues at the same rate as last summer with people saying they've got to get out of the house, some of that mentality may continue although he doesn't think we will be at that level. Do we still anticipate an increase in patrol demand along the shoreline? Addressing Mr. Picard, he said his guess is this may fall in your area if there is COVID relief aspect, then that is a life ring we hope we can get. Commissioner Cartledge asked, if they are having the fireworks this year which requires a lot of hands-on-deck, where will that budget funding come from? Chief answered the fireworks are generally paid by the vendor and we use mutual partner agencies – that's a wash. Chairman Dowling asked Mr. Picard about COVID relief. Mr. Picard said obviously we will be looking for COVID relief – it's quantifying – and if we get the relief it will help offset the OT expense. We're all on the same page and agree that's a big component to be reimbursed for expenses. Chief said he agreed the way Peggy (Lyons) presented it - it is \$100K to put an officer together, \$60-\$70K in OT as we get through COVID annually. He would rather go with an appropriation for the lesser amount particularly if we're worried about collection rates. We don't want to have to lay any officers off if something happens– that's why it is being done this way as we discussed previously. We went to battle again and spoke with DEEP again, since the day he arrived in Madison. At one time there was \$1.2MM in pilot funds for all things Hammonasset; now it is less than \$300K. If you add up what it costs to do this (businesses love it) however it costs us money to answer those 400+ calls. We send an ambulance, fire trucks, cops and they (DEEP) put a skeleton crew down there. Probably a bold statement but they don't care; we brought this up time after time after time. Hats off to First Selectwoman Lyons because she reached out to them twice and is preparing a factual letter. When we met with them I listened to all the different approaches management- wise for the state and I was very clear and direct. This all about money. We'd like them to pay for the services we are providing to Hammonasset because at some time Madison citizens are going to say they don't want to spend money - we don't have it to send to aid them and they are going to have to do it on their own so stop sending resources. We don't ever want to stop and never not answer a 911 call but the reality is, it's an expense on the infrastructure of Madison. It happens in other towns (Milford, Rocky Neck, Westport, etc.) where there are state parks – it's not fair to the communities. Most of these government people are still there and he feels for the ECON police and the people who work in the park because they are the ones who are a skeleton crew with up to 20,000 people at Hammonasset on any given weekend – that's a city that we cover. We have a letter going up next week, he's met with them. He suggested tacking it onto a bill of a special appropriation for the Town of Madison for public safety at the park during the season...end of story.

Mr. Picard said you went to DEEP and asked if he went to anyone else – Chief said spoke to the new Deputy Director who understands what we are saying but they are following directives. Bottom line is if I was a community such as Killingworth and I want to hire a state police officer it's going to cost me over \$100K plus a reserve to have that officer in my town. The State already has that mechanism in place and could do the same thing by putting troopers at the park and not drain the resources of Madison. Every time they have a conflagration that shuts down Route 1 we are the ones to go in and clear it up and it's not fair. The ambulance and fire trucks are not reimbursed for those calls. We've been saying this for years. Commissioner Lee said we talk about this all the time but can we produce actual financials as to what it costs. Chief said yes. Commissioner Lee asked if we have a spread sheet to show this call, we sent these two officers, this is how long they spent? Chief said we broke it down to a 10-slide presentation; same responses year after year. Hopefully, our state senator, who chairs that

environment committee and our state rep can get them to understand that the State needs to do an appropriation to cover this expense to Madison because we are creating a burden on them.

Commissioner Rumberger asked if we have bundled this request with the other towns with state park issues and joined forces or is that not doable because we are in different parts of the State? Chief said we're in different parts of the state and he is not aware that has been done unless they had a discussion with the council of small towns, maybe the New Haven office because Milford is New Haven, Fairfield county for Westport. Wherever there is an organized community, not a resident trooper town, this has a big impact and when you have Route 1 it makes it even worse.

Chairman Dowling added the relative size of the park dwarfs every other state park. Some of the other small parks in other towns may have 200 people in a weekend so they say it's not a big deal and we want a piece of that pie. He thinks Commissioner Lee makes the point – how do we continue to use the data we have. Both Peggy Lyons and Tom Banisch have addressed this and Mr. Goldberg too has probably made a few trips to Hartford in this regard. He thinks we should continue to pursue this, particularly if there are some dollars related to COVID. This past summer you could not help but notice the extraordinary spike in park traffic which spilled over to Madison. Chairman Dowling asked Mr. Picard and Mr. Goldberg if the boards of Selectmen and Finance can have a task force we can put together. Commissioner Lee asked, if it would make sense to talk to the other impacted towns in the State to get a group together and go to Hartford, meet with people and get some press. She doesn't think anybody has any idea this is going on. Chief said we need to sit with the governor. Mr. Picard agreed. The First Selectwoman did a great job and she had all the facts and figures we provided. When Hammonasset is full, all the side roads get filled, the Surf Club is filled to capacity and the Madison beaches are inundated. We opened up Salt Meadow to facilitate the overflow but in agreement with the State, we can't charge for beach parking to offset some of the costs. There are huge mounds of trash the town has to clean up; people are walking ½ mile along Route 1 to the beach. Chairman Dowling thinks maybe we should give the thought to the delegation of our representatives that we are going to publicize this and make a request to the governor/legislative leader to say this cannot continue. A crisis will be a significant event in Madison at the same time there is one in Hammonasset State Park and state police will be 25 minutes away. Commissioner Cewe asked if we can do a social media campaign? This is serious public health risk. Commissioner Lee thinks it will upset Hartford if we don't go to them first. Commissioner Cewe continued, go to the State first and team up with other towns; if there is no response there is no point in waiting. How many times do we have to ask.

Chairman Dowling continued, maybe First Selectwoman Lyons, Mr. Goldberg and Mr. Picard can give this some force, the Chief has some data, and by the April meeting come up with a plan and show what is the material we are going to present to someone who will be most receptive. Mr. Goldberg said he likes the Chairman's passion but he doesn't think this is an issue the Police Commission should advocate for it – he thinks it should be the Town of Madison as the advocate and he and John (Picard) should take up the cause with the municipal government, state rep and senator. Chairman Dowling absolutely agreed and feels elected officials will have the biggest influence. We will provide support and relevant data. Chief Drumm said to Mr. Goldberg and Mr. Picard there is a COVID/summer time meeting coming up which would be a good opportunity to have State Rep Parker and Senator Cohen; she could reach out to her contemporaries in the next district (Milford) to meet with us. Mr. Picard said if you give us data what the pilot money was and how it's decreased over the years he will talk to the state reps and have the governor and Lt. governor come here on a busy day. If we get this right we'll get money to offset the expenses. He would be happy to take this cause to them. Chairman Dowling asked if Mr. Goldberg and Mr. Picard would see what the key pieces might be; we will provide any and all

data from the police, EMS, Fire, and see where we are. He will put this out as a future agenda item. The connection with our elected officials is critical.

Cewe leaves at 6:00

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

**TRAINING:** Capt. Race reported we have been doing our best to leverage training online and in person. The entire department went through law juvenile training with video and in-house policy review; we continue to send officers to crisis intervention training and continue to train new instructors – Gonzales (Taser) and Strickland (baton, OC and handcuffing). Four officers completed their COLLECT/NCIC Recertification to access databases. SWAT and K-9 teams continued their annual monthly training. Chairman Dowling asked if we are still totally training on Zoom? Capt. Race noted some are socially distant but for recertification throughout the region we are doing it through video or Zoom training. In answer to Chairman Dowling, Capt. Race responded they have started some in-person classes and have started recertification through the region.

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR:** Memorial Day will not be a parade but there will be a ceremony on the Green; fireworks 7/2; concert 7/3; parade 7/4 are all tentatively on the agenda. We have started discussions about the Triathlon in September and Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving Day. Some of our events are coming back.

**REGIONAL SHARED SERVICES:** Chief Drumm met with Chief DeMaio of Clinton and consultant Mr. Paul Zedo for their radio systems and infrastructure. They will seek to go on the State's backbone. It was suggested they merge some equipment with Madison. He anticipates at some point Clinton will initiate discussions for us to host some of their equipment like we did at the Ridge Road facility and have a mutual agreement with them on the fiber optic that goes through there on the microwave on that site which we now use so we're just going to get additional towers. Undertaking a full radio project for them is \$7-9MM– they are trying to look to share resources with their neighbors.

Sam DeBurra, our Fire Marshal, organizes a regional weekly meeting which we're probably now going to do monthly with our regional partners from Branford, Guilford, Madison and Clinton. It's for sharing information between police, fire services, fire marshals, OEMS directors and ambulances – it's been great. One thing that came out of COVID is communications services has about 100% cooperation.

**CHIEF'S CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**TRAFFIC:** Commissioner Cartledge noted there is just one item on the log for Middle Beach Road to change from pending to complete. Chief Drumm added the Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Committee (Ginny Rath) made a request through Dave Anderson to have our participation in a study to enhance the trails. Based on CT studies we are doing the best we can right now. He expects we will hear from them to have a meeting to participate. Chairman Dowling said they should solicit input from the Legal Traffic Authority (LTA); we can provide information and opinions that have been provided in earlier studies. We would participate if they are going forward with another study.

**CURRENT ISSUES:** Chief Drumm provided updates:

The Police Accountability Transparency Task Force meets generally bi-monthly with a minimum of monthly meetings. He sits on a sub-committee for mental health which seems to be making great headway and in conjunction with seeing where this is going to go he reached out to the University of

New Haven and would like to reach out to Yale's psychology department because Yale is also doing the analysis on the studies conducted in some of the communities in January. All police agencies were required to submit a self-study on protocol addressing mental health issues and police calls for service. Madison was one of the 50 agencies that did respond; 40 did not. Of the 50 that responded, 10 stood out, of the top 2 Madison stood out. Hats off to Sgt. Yorke, Lt. Perron and Capt. Race for helping put that together.

He would like to embed MSW students within the Department on different shifts with a stipend. This is just suggesting some ideas as to how we could accomplish having social workers or licensed clinical personnel within the Department. He spoke with Dr. Gabry from UNH who asked how they would be evaluated and managed. He reached out to Scott Cochran (Youth & Family Services); they have the credentials to do that but may need an expansion to his budget. He thinks we bring something together that would be acceptable to the community and comply with statutes. We have time to train all the officers which will take 12-18 months; it will be a big undertaking. That's on the Police Accountability Act (PAA) front burner besides the use of force which has been put off to accommodate different training techniques. That's the latest news on HB 6008.

Chairman Dowling noted, based on the feedback from the Chief and reading components of this Act, the introduction of some support resources on mental health liaises with the police department. The idea that we have the ability to access and participate in their education and get the benefit of their skills is a positive impact. There are qualified interns making contributions; we could access these individuals on various shifts. We would have some information, techniques and approaches while they are learning reality outside a classroom. If there is an opportunity we should raise our hand – we have had very good success with summer interns. Why not be in a position where we can help design the plan and get the benefit. They are not intruders. Chief agreed; there are 41 points of the PAA to affect our training, hiring, call responses; it is transitional law enforcement. It will change how we operate but there will be a cost to it. Madison will be able to accomplish this but the large cities will have a struggle.

#### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Lee: None  
Cartledge: None  
Rumberger: None  
Chairman Dowling: None

**MOTION** by Lee, second by Cartledge to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:19 PM to Executive Session. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Present: Dowling, Cartledge, Lee, Rumberger  
Also present: Chief Drumm

#### **DISCUSSION**

- Personnel Matter – Discussion of Revised Organizational Structure

Return to Open Session at 7:15 PM

**MOTION** by Cartledge, second by Rumberger to adjourn at 7:15 PM. All in favor. None opposed. So moved.

Minutes Accepted: April 8, 2021

