

**MADISON DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
5:30 PM
Via ZOOM
April 8, 2021**

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

Also Present: Chief John "Jack" Drumm; Captain Joseph Race; Peggy Lyons – First Selectwoman; Al Goldberg – Board of Selectmen liaison; John Picard – Board of Finance Liaison

CALL TO ORDER - REGULAR SESSION

Chairman Dowling called the meeting to order at 5:30 and all rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACCEPTANCE – MEETING MINUTES

MOTION by Lee, second by Rumberger to approve the minutes of the March 4 Special Meeting and March 11 Regular meeting of the Madison Board of Police Commissioners. All in favor; none opposed. So moved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman welcomed the public; there were none. Captain Race will facilitate comments.

No comments.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Budget / Financial Report: Chief Drumm provided an update on the budget. Final 2 months of fiscal year - 2021. We don't anticipate any additional shortages other than the OT lines. There are unencumbered balances that will offset some of that. We expect reimbursement for COVID expenses which will be reflected post-July 1st.

Activity / Statistics: Chief Drumm provided an update on activity. Quarterly police activity statistics. January – March: 388 alarms; majority are burglar alarms – all were false alarms. We also had 17 medical alarms. We had 54 suspicious vehicles and 33 suspicious persons. We you see something, please calls us – that is what we are here for. We had 171 criminal investigations; 48 in custody arrests. We had 18 involuntary committals. We had 13 K9 assists. We had 87 animal nuisance complaints and 2 dog bites – not serious. 10 juvenile matters with some JRB referrals. We had 105 Fingerprint requests; majority for gun permits. First responder R1 calls 337; 130 assist to person; 29 assist to other agencies. MV accident 70; 3 evading 24 without injury. MV enforcement 16 arrest, 77 speed 5 DUI's; Written Warning 90, Verbal Warnings 24. Total calls for service over three-month period: 1935 with an average of 21/day.

Monthly Traffic Report: 26 reported motor vehicle accidents; 3 with injuries. The leading cause of accidents was following too close and animal strikes. We had 5 DUI's.

Community Calendar: No change from last month. Waiting to see Governor's directives. We have the dates for 4th of July. We have dates for other events, but not quite sure at what point we can grant permission re: COVID. It will be a challenge if there are restrictions if we have some of these events. We will deal with it as it comes.

Chairman Dowling asked about the fall events. Are the tentatively postponed or still under evaluation. Drumm – Memorial Day Ceremony – no parade. Concert on the Green 7/3. Fireworks 7/2. Parade still waiting on a decision from Governor. Jaycee's triathlon is tentatively scheduled for 9/11. Trunk or Treat 10/31 and Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving, but a lot of this is still up in the air. At this point we can only deal with the info that we have.

Regional Shared Services Status Report: Chief Drumm has no new information to report on regional/shared services other than that a new bill was introduced re: shared services among municipalities, although a bill re: shared services of dispatcher centers was tabled. Not sure the current status – as of end of last week. We will probably, at some point, have a discussion with some of our neighbors about shared services. Nothing concrete at this point.

CHIEF'S CORRESPONDENCE

No Chief's correspondence.

TRAFFIC ISSUES

Chairman Dowling - we do want to touch upon our summer beach plans.

Virginia Raff was asked to address issues related to the BPAC. Wanted to talk about artistic crosswalks. Brought up the Middle Beach Road issue. It's a problem – we do not have a solution. Would like to turn it into a pedestrian priority zone. Encouraged people not to drive there as it was a recreation area – BPAC would love that. Drumm – trying to find a balance between all residents. The road will be open. We tried to maintain public safety on all the roadways along the beach, we did not try to discourage residents from using the road while maintaining safety. Raff- BPAC will make safety signs to put along roadways. Received good feedback on those.

Dowling – Key points. 1. Within the police department, we are establishing oversight of the shoreline traffic management and public safety oversight. The Chief designated certain roads to concentrated police presence during summer months. We expanded bicycle patrols in this area and placed a motorcycle officer in this area. We encouraged officers in this area to engage residents and educate them on parking situations. The First Selectwoman worked with Beach & Rec and signage and a supervisor presence. Difficult issues were resolved with a supervisor. Lastly, trying to engage the Madison state park officials re: communication about what is going on in the park re: parking and closures and that we do not get startled by a Hammonasset shutdown. We talked about publishing the 5 steps that the Madison Police will take so as not to restrict access but to reasonably manage the situation. An education process – residents and nonresidents. Hopefully we can come up with a process that does that.

Lyons – last summer was the worst-case scenario – hopefully – for traffic and demand for our beaches. Plan for rain and pray for sunshine. Assuming that we will have to take all the initiatives that we did last summer.

Hammonasset – we don't think they will have the same capacity restrictions this year. Conversation with the Deputy Commissioner upcoming. Under State of Emergency last year, we will not have that same authority this year. We implemented parking policies quickly last year – resident only policies. Communication with the town as to what parking will look like this year. Would like to do a public hearing on beach operations – April 26th. How much beach passes will cost, staffing, etc. I did one of these last year, but prior to COVID. To educate the public on beach operations, it would be great to talk about traffic mitigation strategies and have a MPD representative. We are planning, not reactionary and we are ahead of things. As long as we have an action plan and communication, we can get through this and have a successful and enjoyable summer. Additionally, the signage piece, needs to be discussed more. Some residents were not in favor.

Dowling – a public meeting to discuss the beaches whether access or parking, it would be helpful that the Chief that we could put together a summary list of the things that we are doing to expand their presence and educate people. A written summary – this is our plan.

Lyons we are planning staffing at the gates on Fri – Sun in the month of May. We anticipate a lot of demand for our parking lots in May.

NEW BUSINESS

Current Issues: Drumm on the 26th of March, Joe Race and I testified on Zoom on our 3rd recertification for CALEA – Law Enforcement and second for CALEA - Dispatch. We met with the committee, talked about the agency, the growth of the agency, and other topics, and we testified. They voted unanimously to reaccredit the Madison Police Department for our 3rd award for law enforcement and our second award of dispatch. We are good for another 4 years. Dowling – this is a terrific outcome. The first time we did it, we realized how hard it was and to recertify was a testament to the procedures and training and process that the agency follows and is exemplary. Great outcome. Congratulations. Outside professionals acknowledging the caliber of the department. Drumm – “I work with great people.” We are in a very good place. Hats off to all the members of the department.

Police Accountability and Transparency – Chief Drumm provided an update. Right now, we are dealing with the mental health component. We went ahead and jumped out on this. It may be a challenge for some agencies, but I don't think it will be a challenge for us – just how we put it together. The program will require a financial investment on the part of the Town of Madison. This is the mental health component and how police respond with an MSW or certified health care worker to some of the calls that we respond to regarding mental health. We proposed, and had our first conversation with the University of New Haven. We are trying to put together that we use those in their intern phase of their program that they do 3 semesters – 700 hours, and we work with 2-3 interns within the town environment with supervision from clinical staff through Madison Youth and Family Services. We would probably need to have some sort of financial stipend to the interns and those that provide the clinical supervision at Youth and Family Services. Some cities are looking to hire 3-5 psychologists. That would be quite an expense. The approach that we are undertaking is not only to comply with the Bill, but the next generation of officers may be MSW's. The University is interested and wants to partner with Madison and want this to be the model going forward. Dowling – this is the future. This is very promising and encouraging. The public is looking for some solution that is beyond putting people in jail and repeat. They are looking for a solution. This is something we should absolutely explore. Drumm – we will meet on a regular basis to formulate

this program. I want to come back with the financial implications as soon as I can, to the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen. We have already started the discussion with Youth and Family Services / Scott Cochran. The state is hoping some agencies start the process that could become the model for the other departments in the State. Lyons – it would be great to see the details and the budget impact. Drumm – the two agencies in the state trying this approach is Willimantic and Madison. Trying to find an affordable path, more than the minimum. As we work hard to maintain dual accreditation, we try to stay ahead of the curve.

COVID Updates: No update for COVID. One exposure in dispatch it has been mitigated. Result of a family member. No other updates. Vaccine process is going better than expected.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Lee – no comment

Cartledge – congratulations on CALEA, quite an accomplishment for the department

Rumberger – no comment

Cewe – Congratulations and I do like the internship idea.

CHAIRMAN COMMENTS

None

MOTION TO ADJOURN to EXECUTIVE SESSION by Lee; second by Cartledge. All in favor; none opposed. So moved.

Joined by First Selectwoman Lyons and Selectman Goldberg

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Personnel Matter(s) if Necessary