

**MADISON DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICES
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
5:30 PM
COMMUNITY TRAINING ROOM-MADISON POLICE DEPARTMENT
April 21, 2022
SUBJECT TO APPROVAL**

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

Also Present: Captain Douglas Harkins; Lieutenant Jeremy Yorke; Al Goldberg-Board of Selectman liaison.

Absent: Chief Jack Drumm; Commissioner Jude Hession; Jean Fitzgerald-Board of Finance liaison.

CALL TO ORDER - REGULAR SESSION

Chairman Dowling called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chief Drumm is still recovering from surgical issues and we wish him well. Captain Harkins, Lieutenant Yorke and other Leadership staff have been very capably filling in with Holly Berke's coordination.

ACCEPTANCE – MEETING MINUTES

MOTION by Cartledge, second by Lee to approve the minutes of the March 10 Regular meeting of the Madison Board of Police Commissioners. All in favor; 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 on target for the month of March. Chairman Dowling noted the result of Administrative Salary and Wages being underbudget has caused Overtime to be over budget.

Captain Harkins reported Sergeant Guerra has been cleared to return to work on April 25, 2022; this will reduce overtime costs. We have been hiring a Supervisor for the Midnight shift 3 days a week for almost a year. Recruit Mark Welz is scheduled to graduate from the Police Academy in July and will begin his Field Training this summer where get the opportunity to apply what he has learned as well as see how the MPD conducts its procedures.

Activity / Statistics: Captain Harkins reported for the month of March we had 9 arrests and 95 motor vehicle stops. Zero auto thefts so we made improvements in that area. There were 3 cars that were rummaged through. 1 window was smashed at Salt Meadow and a purse was stolen. 1 wallet was taken from an unlocked car at West Wharf, while another purse was taken from an unlocked car at Henny Penny and this is currently under investigation.

On April 13, 2022 a man set fire to his father's house in Guilford. Guilford Fire Department responded to a call and asked Madison to assist with mutual aid. When we arrived, the man came out and was holding a long rifle in his hand. The Fire Department backed off and called Police. The man got in his car and drove about 1.5 miles to his Aunt's house. He took his aunt hostage and barricaded himself inside. The South-Central SWAT team was activated; team consists of officers from Madison, Guilford, North Branford, North Haven and Branford. Madison has 3 officers assigned to the SWAT team and 2 officers assigned to crisis negotiation. Captain Harkins was present as well. After 15 hours the State Police replaced the South-Central SWAT team. They heard a scream, made entry for the hostage situation and found the man deceased. Captain Harkins commended the officers from Madison who were out there for a very long time. Lt. Yorke and Officer Palmer did a great job demonstrating patience during the crisis negotiation.

A stolen vehicle was recovered and resulted in an arrest with the assistance of the Guilford Police Department. A vehicle sped down Neck Road to the boat launch and the driver then went into the water to escape the police. We deployed boats from Madison and Guilford Fire Departments. The man was rescued, brought to the hospital and ultimately arrested by the MPD. The car was stolen from Wayne, NJ.

Training Report: Lieutenant Yorke provided the training update. Department participated in a total of 370 training hours. Training consisted of each officer completing 1.5 hours Tactical Communication online training; 3 hours of POCTC Mandated Use of Force Training with 3 components highlighted: Necessary, Reasonable and Proportionate; 2 hours of Introduction to Drugged Driving PowerPoint Presentation; Officer Gonzalez attended 40 hours of Handcuffing, OC Spray and Baton Instruction Training and is now certified by POSTC to instruct MPD on the same; Sergeant Lauria completed 40 hours of Crisis Intervention Training through the Connecticut Alliance to Benefit Law Enforcement; two officers completed 16 hours of Emergency Medical Responder training for their State of Connecticut EMR License; one Dispatcher completed their COLLECT/NCIC Recertification training for 2 hours; two Officers attended the two day monthly regional SWAT team training, totaling 32 hours; two officers attended one day K-9 training for a total of 16 hours.

Traffic Report: Captain Harkins provided the traffic report. The DOT has suggested two crosswalks be installed; Route 1 and Dudley Road, and Route 1 and Cottage Road. Chief Drumm recommended flashing signs that have high visibility to the public, similar to those on Bradley Road. The DOT has not given us a timeline for the installation of the crosswalks.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR: Captain Harkins reported upcoming events for May to include Touch-A-truck on May 1, Polson Law Day on May 13, and the Memorial Day Parade on May 30; the parade route has been shortened-will start at the usual location of Route 1 and Samson Rock and end at the Green.

CHIEF'S CORRESPONDENCE: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Captain Harkins reported that 4 dash cameras have been installed, 1 still needs to be installed and the additional dash and body cameras are estimated to be delivered in May. The new body cameras will have a battery life of approximately 30 hours which is important for use in overtime shifts.

The Department passed the 1-year CALEA assessment accreditation. Captain Harkins recognized the hard work and effort by Lieutenant Yorke and Katie Randall. Chairman Dowling noted this accomplishment should be publicly noted.

In response to the recent State Police Accountability Act, the Madison Police Department is partnering with Madison Youth & Family Services with a pilot program of integrating social work services. We have hired an intern for April and May, Tiffany Purvis-Torello, who is completing her Masters of Social Work at Sacred Heart University. Tiffany will be assisting officers who respond to domestic calls with follow-up outreach calls to residents that might benefit from support and connect them to human resource services. The goal is to get services in place for a particular person so they will not necessarily need to call the police the next time there is an incident, thereby reducing the calls for service and having someone better equipped to get the person the help that they need. At the conclusion of her internship we will try to have an idea of whether we should hire our own social worker or regionalize. Chairman Dowling stated it would be helpful to have a conversation with BOPC regarding the pros and cons of each alternative.

Sergeant Hoffman, who was injured during a charity boxing event, has returned to work full duty. Officer Gonzalez was recognized as Person of the Month in The Source on March 31, 2022.

Lockers rooms are getting renovated; Officers will use temporary lockers starting the end of May, with renovations expected to be completed by Fourth of July weekend.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: Commissioners Cartledge and Lee complimented Captain Harkins and the entire department for their work while running very tight in staff for a while now.

Al Goldberg mentioned there will be a vote on May 17 for the budget referendum, with a public hearing in the next week or so. Also, this summer the DEEP will continue the Madison shuttle bus, taking the public from Downtown to Hammonasset.

MOTION TO ADJOURN to Executive Session by Cartledge. All in favor; none opposed. So moved. Meeting adjourned by 6:15 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.