

**MADISON DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
5:30 PM
COMMUNITY TRAINING ROOM-MADISON POLICE DEPARTMENT
May 12, 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 5:30 p.m. All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACCEPTANCE – MEETING MINUTES

MOTION by Hession, second by Lee to approve the minutes of the April 21st Special meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners. Jude Hession abstained from vote. All in favor; none opposed. So moved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

Chairman Dowling reported Chief Drumm is still recovering and doing well. He hopes to be back in a limited capacity soon.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Budget/Financial Report: Captain Douglas Harkins provided an update on the budget. We are \$140,000 under budget for Wages with absences covered by Overtime.

Chairman Dowling: We will try for next fiscal workshop to put together what the right numbers should be for Wages and Overtime. We should not be looking at an Overtime budget that we consistently exceed. We need the right sized department; we are getting there with the two positions that are coming onboard July 1 which will be an important part in mitigating the Overtime budget.

Activity / Statistics: Captain Harkins reported there were 10 arrests, 76 motor vehicle stops, and zero auto thefts. There were 11 unlocked cars that were rummaged through and all appeared to have been on the same date, April 16th. Officers were able to recover one item left at the scene that was sent to the State Laboratory. We had 1 catalytic converter theft from a Toyota Prius on Green Hill Road. Two license plates were reported stolen, with one possibly occurring out of town. We had four shoplifting incidents; Stop & Shop, CVS, Cumberland Farms and a liquor store.

Lieutenant Mulhern: On April 29th there was a MVA, the vehicle side swiped a telephone pole. Officers arrived on scene and found the passenger window smashed. Officer Dube and his K-9 Cooper were called. Cooper was

able to track and locate the operator as he was attempting to hide in the bushes. He was charged with driving under the influence and evading responsibility. Wednesday, May 18th the Madison Exchange Club will hold its Salute to Madison's Finest where Sergeant Rosati will be honored. Sergeant Rosati is one of our day shift supervisors and very well known in the community. He does what is best for this organization including when we were down supervisors volunteered to switch to the midnight shift. Captain Harkins and himself attended a briefing on last month's SWAT incident in Guilford. Officer Palmer's actions were praised as he served as the primary negotiator. They said the job he did is absolutely commendable.

Training Report: Lieutenant Yorke provided the training update. Department participated in a total of 356 training hours. Training consisted of each officer completing 6 hours of Department Annual Firearms Training for a total of 180 hours, and 1 hour of Body-Worn Cameras Annual Policy Review for a total of 30 hours. Officer Gonzalez completed 40 hours of Field Training Officer training and is able to instruct new officers of the MPD on department policies, procedures and conducts. Officer Strickland completed 24 hours of Law Enforcement De-Escalation Strategies Instructor Training and is now POSTC certified to instruct officers at the MPD. One officer completed 16 hours of Emergency Medical Responder training for State of Connecticut EMR License. One officer completed two hours of COLLECT/NCIC Recertification training. Three officers attended the two day monthly regional SWAT team training, totaling 48 hours; two officers attended one day K-9 training for a total of 16 hours.

Traffic Report: Captain Harkins reported that at the end of May staffing will change; Officer Palmer will be assigned to the day shift patrolling the shoreline and downtown areas on motorcycle. He spoke with DEEP to discuss their staffing at Hammonasset for the summer; they claim to be at full staffing with a Captain, Sergeant and four sworn officers, alternating between parks. They have park rangers to address parking issues who also have radios. We do anticipate spending time in the park until the DEEP officers get there; we work hand-in-hand. When they close the park, we help with traffic on the exterior.

Commissioner Rumberger asked for statistics on the amount of time MPD spends at Hammonasset over the summer season, recognizing that it takes time away from patrolling; Captain Harkins to provide. Lt. Mulhern and Yorke stated we also respond to the campgrounds; it is 24 hours a day.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR: Captain Harkins: May 1st we had Touch-A-Truck which was a successful event. Lieutenant Mulhern was there with his K-9 Decker. May 7th, we had Pedals for Pies; a cycling event that raises money for The Hole in the Wall Gang for seriously ill children. May 13th will be Law Day at Polson. Memorial Day parade is May 30th and will stop at the Green. Fourth of July fireworks are scheduled for July 3rd with July 8th as a rain date.

Regional Shared Services: Nothing to report.

CHIEF'S CORRESPONDENCE: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Captain Harkins discussed the May 5, 2022 article in The Source regarding a pilot program partnering Madison Youth & Family Services with the MPD integrating social services for residents to benefit those in crisis and assist officers who respond to domestic calls. Our intern Tiffany Torello-Purvis is making follow-up calls and receiving positive feedback from the community. The goal is to get the person the appropriate help they need and at the same time decrease the calls for service. She will present a report on her

activity at the end of May and is willing to speak to you. Chairman Dowling suggested she attend the next BOPC meeting.

Lieutenant Yorke: She is limited right now because she is an intern; she cannot respond to an active scene.

Captain Harkins: Our newest recruit, Mark Welz, is in the Bridgeport Police Academy and performing very well; he is at the top of the class.

Captain Harkins reported that we are still waiting for the body cameras; estimated arrival date is June 17, 2022. May 17th is the second round of interviews for the top five candidates for the Dispatcher position. Our candidate for Police Officer has withdrawn from the process. We will be assessing our options as far as new hires concern. Recruit Welz is performing well at The Academy and passed Firearms Training. The locker rooms are getting renovated in June and plan to be completed by July Fourth weekend.

Marijuana Legislation Advisory Committee: Captain Harkins noted a law student spoke at the last meeting regarding the impact on communities and law enforcement. It was a very informative discussion.

CORRESPONDENCE: The MPD received a letter from a resident complimenting Officer DePalma on his professionalism on a scene. The resident had struck a deer and DePalma displayed outstanding response and support. May 1st Lt. Mulhern volunteered along with his K-9, Decker, at the Touch-A-Truck event at the Surf Club. The Madison Exchange Club sent a letter commending Lt. Mulhern and Decker as being stars of the show and thanked him for being so generous with his time. They raised a significant amount of money for their Daniel Hand H.S. scholarship.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: Commissioner Cartledge: John Iennaco trying to stay up to date with the State as far as the bicycle and pedestrian markings on Route 1. It is estimated it will be complete by the end of the month. He asked Iennaco to put in a work order for the handicapped parking spots in town, making sure all signs and decals are visible.

MOTION TO ADJOURN to Executive Session by Lee second by Cartledge. All in favor; none opposed. So moved. Meeting adjourned by 6:09 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION adjourned at 6:30 p.m.