

**MADISON DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICES  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
5:30 PM  
Via ZOOM  
May 13, 2021**

Attendees: Chairman Ed Dowling; Commissioner Thom Cartledge; Commissioner Ann Rumberger;

Also Present: Chief John “Jack” Drumm; Captain Joseph Race; 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 5:36 and all rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**ACCEPTANCE – MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION** by Cartledge, second by Rumberger to approve the minutes of the April 8<sup>th</sup> Regular meeting of the Madison Board of Police Commissioners. All in favor; none opposed. So moved.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

Maureen Lopes was present- commented on the Police Accountability and Transparency Act. Discussed the primary and secondary motor vehicle stops as being discussed in the Police Accountability subcommittee. Discussed the ability to stop for “fuzzy dice” hanging from the rear-view mirror. Laws like this are a reflection of our society and are out dated. Encouraged by these changes and Branford’s hiring of a full-time social worker. Thank you all for your service. It’s very important for the citizens to be involved in these discussions.

Chairman Dowling: Thank you. We welcome the participation.

Chief Drumm: Maureen, thank you for your participation. A lot of changes coming down the road. Discussed primary and secondary stops. Discussed the mental health component and the hybrid program with University of New Haven. 2 or 3 graduate student interns paid a stipend and their management will come from a social worker or Madison youth and Family services. We are still working out the details. This will give us social workers throughout a large part the day and evening shifts. Will respond to some calls and be involved in follow up especially with children and seniors. This is National Police Memorial Week. We have had over 100 officers killed year to date, and 3 in the last 48 hours.

**CHIEF’S REPORT**

**Budget / Financial Report:** Chief Drumm provided an update on the budget. Trying to get the budget down to zero. We did seek a few line transfers and a special appropriation of \$39,000 related to COVID expense. Made wage adjustments necessary for year end. Construction jobs is a major part of this transfer - \$36,106. They also approved the hiring of Katie Randall to replace Florence Farrelly, who, in turn will replace Valerie Soule who will be retiring. The second approval is for Holly Berke for the position of Chief’s Assistant. I anticipate 1 other line

items transfer, we will move some money from the gasoline line to cover some of the vehicle repair expenses to get us to July 1<sup>st</sup>. No other anticipated line transfers.

Chairman Dowling: Question about a communications line for \$500,000. Chief Drumm: this is the debt for the recurring payments to Motorola.

**Activity / Statistics:** Statistics will be provided at the July meeting.

**Training Report:** Chief Drumm not all training is being done remotely. Sergeant Yorke and Captain Harkins are at a Command School using COVID protocols. Firearms training is occurring on range using appropriate protocols.

Captain Race provided the training update. We are training where we can, and when we can. 181 hours of training in April. This included the standard K9 and SWT hours, CIT training, and Sergeant Yorke completed a basic detective certification course. Monthly training: entire department completed Rape Crisis/Sexual Assault training online. Everyone is on pace for recertification by June 30, 2022.

**Monthly Traffic Report:** The Chief provided the monthly traffic report. For the month of April there were 27 reported motor vehicle accidents, 5 with injuries. Leading cause: unsafe movements, animal strikes and debris in the roadway. 0 DWI and 0 fatal motor vehicle accidents. 10 private property motor vehicle accidents.

**Community Calendar:** It's similar to last meeting, accept the discussion on the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade and fireworks. Looks like they will occur, unless the governor's emergency powers are extended. We are meeting regularly on these events. The concert has already been cancelled. The parade is July 4<sup>th</sup>, the fireworks are the 2<sup>nd</sup> with the rain date of Monday the 5<sup>th</sup>. No busses this year for the fireworks. We may extend out the diversionary points to make sure that route 1 is still open for all our businesses in town. We are still working on the plan and meeting regularly with our partners and the organizers.

Commissioner Rumberger: what other towns are having fireworks? Chief Drumm: Some yes, some no. Old Saybrook – no. For the parades, some of the bands are performing due to COVID. Maybe this will be more of a community event. Chairman Dowling: who makes the decision on the parade: Chief Drumm: ultimately the signatures on the permit are from the myself and the Fire Marshal- Sam DeBurra. There is a possibility that it might get cancelled – we are not there yet.

**Regional Shared Services Status Report:** Chief Drumm spoke with Clinton's Chief to discuss sharing some of our towers as they rebuild their own radio system.

## **CHIEF'S CORRESPONDENCE**

No Chief's correspondence.

## **TRAFFIC ISSUES**

Chief Drumm: A few inquiries. Signal Hill and Route 1 and the possibility of a crosswalk. It has been studied. Due to sight lines and speed, visibility a crosswalk is not possible, but I will discuss with DOT and the residents.

Chief Drumm: Inquiries regarding speed signs at various locations/neighborhoods. I think I will ask the First Selectwoman that we should use APR funds for approximately 14 speed signs throughout town. I have purchased 2 per year out of my budget. We disused possibly budgeting for it, but that did it happen for this budget. John Picard: Those devices work. Chief: they are over \$2600 each. They are solar so somewhat self-sufficient.

Chief Drumm: I had a discussion with DOT about repaving from Guilford dinner to Route 79 in both directions. We will keep the crosswalk by the car dealerships. I also asked about West Wharf and DOT said they would put the crosswalk in there too.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**COVID Updates:** No update for COVID. We are in a good place in town. Majority of the town and state are vaccinated. We have a robust PPE supply – we planned ahead. We are in a good place.

**Task Force Updates.** Chief Drumm – Racial Profiling Prohibition Project – primary and secondary stops have been submitted to the legislature for their review. Mental Health Subcommittee – we have 4 different working models that we are pursuing. There are some outreach programs, but it is moving slow. They have slowed down the date of implementation because it needs more study and has a lot of expense. The financial impact is still being considered. I think within 18 months all of the proposed laws will be operational.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

## **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Cartledge: regarding the 14 speed signs, they would be a benefit for the town.

Rumberger: No comment.

## **CHAIRMAN COMMENTS**

Chairman Dowling: on behalf of the commission – this is law enforcement appreciation week. It is not something any of us take for granted. It is somber reminder that some people go to work every day under risk – a very important job in our community. Thank you and your officers for their service.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN to EXECUTIVE SESSION** by Cartledge; second by Rumberger. All in favor; none opposed. So moved. **Meeting adjourned by 1823.**

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- Personnel Matter(s) if Necessary