

**MADISON DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
5:30 PM
In-Person
June 10, 2021**

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

Also Present: Chief John “Jack” Drumm; Captain Joseph Race; Captain Douglas Harkins; Al Goldberg – Board of Selectmen liaison.

Absent: Commissioner Christina Cewe

CALL TO ORDER - REGULAR SESSION

Chairman Dowling called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. and all rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACCEPTANCE – MEETING MINUTES

MOTION by Dowling, second by Cartledge to approve the minutes of the May 13th Regular meeting of the Madison Board of Police Commissioners. All in favor; none opposed. So moved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Edward Baroncini: 81 Colonial Road, representing the neighborhood on Colonial Road. He commented on the recent increase of speeders. He called two days and someone came out and was in front of his house slowing people down. He asked for police presence; the possibility of putting up speed limit signs at the end of the road, and/or a flashing speed sign.

Chairman Dowling: Will get logged into the traffic log. This will get looked at by Officers from the Madison Police Department and possibly reviewed with the Town Engineers. We will get back to you with an assessment. We appreciate you taking the time to share your insight with us.

Chief Drumm: asked Captain Harkins to rotate the rotating units to this general area soon. We have been rotating around town because of increase in traffic, not just on your road, but other roads as well. I’m happy to do this. There are stipulations regarding signage and where they can be placed. We will take a look at this for you.

CHIEF DRUMM: COMMENTS

The Chief introduced his new Executive Assistant, Holly Berke, and provided a summary of her background.

The Chief honored the recent passing of Robert Massey, Sr. He served the Town of Branford for sixty plus years. The Chief offered his sincere condolences to his family. He was a driving force of public safety within the area.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Budget / Financial Report: Chief Drumm provided an update on the budget. We made some line transfers. There is approximately \$80,000 left in all of the accounts. We have one more pay period left. There have been changes to our staffing levels. We have two officers out who were injured in the last ten days. One from a serious accident when he was broadsided at an intersection in town and the other was injured when he responded to a domestic incident. They will be out for a period of time, possibly up to three more weeks. Two officers retired, one in January and one April 1, 2021. In addition, a Sergeant is going on light duty, effective the beginning of next week. Currently, we are about \$14,000 over budget, even with the line transfers. We will be closer to \$30,000 over when we get to the second pay period in July. Finance is aware and meeting with Board of Finance and Board of Selectman for another appropriation to cover that. Also, we had more construction and the filming of a movie downtown, which incurred overtime special duty. The account is \$10,000 short. Those bills have been sent out.

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

Training Report: Captain Race provided the training update. Training report shows 270 hours; amend to 450 hours. All officers went to the range for approximately 6 hours as we transitioned to new firearms. Lt. Mulhern, Captain Harkins and Sergeant Yorke attended management level training. Our School Resource Officer who is at Daniel Hand High School/Polson Middle School campus finished online resource officer training. SWAT/ K9 did standard monthly training. Also, each officer completed 2 hours online community and police relations training.

Monthly Traffic Report: Captain Race provided the monthly traffic report. For the month of May there were 28 reported motor vehicle accidents, 7 with injuries. Leading cause: failing to obey traffic control signals, travelling too closely and unsafe movements. 3 DWI with arrests and 0 fatal motor vehicle accidents. 6 private property motor vehicle accidents.

Community Calendar: Chief Drumm reported Nite In Hand received permit for small scale fireworks at 9:00 p.m.

Captain Race: Fireworks on July 2nd and parade on July 4th. The concert has been cancelled. No one will be allowed south of the Boston Post Road after 6:30 p.m. No busses this year for the fireworks. Fireworks start at 9:30 p.m. The parade will commence at 10:00 a.m., which is a change from previous years at 11:00 a.m.

Triathlon and Closer to Free Ride are scheduled.

There will be a Summer Breeze Ride for Autism on Sunday, 7/11/21 to benefit Sarah, Inc. The ride will start and end at Daniel Hand High School. No road closures are expected.

Chief Drumm: The overall cost for the July 4th weekend on average, including police and fire services, is approximately \$32,000. The Selectmen are going to take it up with the Board of Financing for additional funding.

I am going to add a patrol function to the end of the community calendar.

Captain Harkins: 2 officers out injured, Sergeant Guerra and Officer Foito. Supervisor assigned to light duty who sustained an injury. Overtime has been required to fill some of these positions. 1 patrol vehicle was heavily damaged and will be replaced by insurance carrier.

Captain Harkins assigned 1 sector officer specifically to conduct MV enforcement due to the increase in speeders and car accidents. May 55 citations, 13 arrests. June 1-10 34 citations, 3 arrests. Effort to reduce speeders.

3 officers assigned on the Green for Daniel Hand Graduation on Friday, June 11, 2021. We are working on fireworks and parade details.

Cartledge: asked Captain Harkins if cell phone usage or speeders were the cause of the citations.

Captain Harkins: predominantly speeders.

Dowling: addressed the 3 officers out due to injury. Need to build in elasticity to cover for people who are out in next year's budget process. We will revisit.

Chief Drumm: we predicate the budget on need. We need a more robust approach. Difficult with 1 Sgt. and 2 officers to respond to request for service around town. The First Selectwoman is sympathetic and understands.

CHIEF'S CORRESPONDENCE

No Chief's correspondence.

TRAFFIC ISSUES

Dowling: we received an inquiry regarding Island Avenue.

Chief Drumm: One of our officers was involved in a MVA post 10:00 p.m. The light at Green Hill Road and Rt. 79 turns to blinking light at 10:00 p.m. via DOT. He spoke with DOT electrical and requested when they replace the cameras and light grid, they leave those lights on 24/7 automatic and not blinking. These lights are scheduled within the next three months to be replaced. Intersection will be marked and advance notice will be given meeting requirements of municipalities.

We received a letter regarding speed enforcement and people walking to beach on Island Avenue. We had set up to work on Island Avenue and Neck Road last year and were asked to hold off on Island Avenue. Neck Road was completed with enhancements including 3-way intersection behind School House Deli, share the road with pedestrians/cyclists, and speed limit has been reduced. We are going to do the same with Island Avenue and also add a strobe sign. We have two to work with. Their cost is a few thousand dollars. I have asked for special appropriations for 14 strobe signs for various locations within town. This was discussed with the First Selectwoman and will move forward. Not appropriate to put speed bumps on public roads where the speed limit is 25 mph. We don't want injury reports from seniors riding over them. We met with the author of the letter today and he is very happy we responded so quickly. First Selectman is requesting Public Works to get this done quickly.

Chief Drumm: two golf carts were removed from beach roads as they are not allowed on public roadways.

Motorcycle patrol will be in effect daily starting Monday, June 14, 2021 on beach roads.

Hammonasset-Shuttle bus running from Hammonasset to downtown Madison area with 3 stops. Governor met with officials from the Town last Friday and he was very much behind this. They hired approximately 15 unarmed park rangers. They also dedicated additional law enforcement personnel.

Cartledge: asked Holly Berke to provide articles to The Shore Line Times including important dates for summer activities, summer traffic, and speed limits to reach a larger audience than public television.

Chief Drumm: discussions with DOT regarding Green Hill Road to Killingworth on Rt. 1, Route 79 North and Route 1. Find areas they believe we should enhance and what they will pay for.

Intersection of Vista/Hearth, we made a three-way stop. That device cost \$25,000.

I requested they place them where they are repaving Rt. 1.; downtown to Guilford. They redid all the drains and that area will be widened. Possibly, they are dedicating a bath for cyclists/pedestrians.

Crosswalk by car dealership will be reestablished. Crosswalk will be added by West Wharf and Route 1.

Greenway Trail- Once we get the signs will add 2 more speed signs. Other speeds signs for Killingworth, Madison line on Greenhill; Rt. 1 coming into the town, East and West. and the beach roads.

Goldberg: Chief has been very modest in describing working with State on Hammonasset; this commission has been dealing with this issue for several decades; current administration able to get the attention of DEEP, Department of Energy & Environmental Protection. State has made a commitment to understanding the problems towns like Madison have when there is a large state facility in the town. The shuttle bus and appointment of 15 special conservation officers speaks to the frictions we have had dealing with the park over the years.

Captain Race: Fireworks-roads closed to beach by 6:30 p.m. Anyone south of Rt. 1 needs to be aware of this. Surf Club Road likely closed much earlier. Expect masses of people walking since there are no busses.

Chief Drumm: Expecting a large turnout. Some towns are restricting fireworks. CT State Troopers will be posted at exit ramps and the first access into town. They will be diverting cars coming external to the Hammonasset connector into Hammonasset to watch from there.

NEW BUSINESS

Bicycle: Chief Drumm reported nothing active right now; hoping for best access for safe biking downtown.

COVID Updates: Chief Drumm thanked all service chiefs and associated departments within the town publicly and our own officers. Most of Town has been vaccinated. Some funding will be returned to certain areas within the Town for Public Safety. Control and storage of additional PPE and devices to be proactive.

LIASON WITH STATE AGENCIES

Chief Drumm: Legislation somewhat finished; some pushed off to summer session. Police accountability, transparency, racial profiling. A lot of the 41 components have been placed on hold with additional time needed for studies. One of them is mental health.

Mental health component of the Accountability Task Force-Zoom live at Madison Police Department dispatch center, Tuesday 6/15/21 at 11:00 a.m. Using Madison as a model. They want to go to the dispatch center and see how we respond to people in crisis. One of the services we subscribe to is Rapid 911, which gives us a very quick location of where a subject is on the cell phone.

Meeting 6/15/21 at 1:30 pm with Accountability Task Force where we will be voting on a couple of the bills going forward. A lot of the enforcements that were done in the past 20-30 years in law enforcement will become secondary. For example, equipment violation was discovered during the stop for speeding; the secondary being administrative. Hopefully, enhance the interpersonal between officer and people getting stopped.

Captains Race and Harkins: Displayed CALEA certificates for accreditation. This is our third reaccreditation for Town of Madison Department of Police Services compliance and second reaccreditation for dispatch center for Town of Madison Emergency Communications compliance. This is a milestone for us. We have 1 of 32 dual accreditations in the country, 1 of 161 departments in CT. The State Legislature takes notice of what we do in Madison.

Dowling: Extraordinary accomplishment.

Maureen Lopes was present and asked the Chief about updates regarding the hybrid program we have with University of New Haven (UNH) and Yale social work.

Chief Drumm: Aiming to have in affect by January. One of the 41 components of the Accountability Task Force bill we, when feasible and not putting a social worker in harm's way, have them work and do the follow up, which is a huge component, with the general public in a crisis. This would be a very expensive proposition if we were to hire a MSW or someone with a masters in Psychology or certified to work with them. Idea is to go first to a semester prior to their sixth year. They would work with Madison Police Department and respond with a police officer to a mental and/or physical crisis. We would provide a stipend per semester and provide an office for them within the police department. Supervision would come threefold. Working with clinicians at the schools, Madison Youth and Family Services, and also provide a stipend to MYFS for their supervision, and the school would get compensated for assuming direct supervision. This would cost less than \$200,000 overall. This is one of the models the State is encouraging Madison to put together. There is a similar program in Willimantic with Eastern Connecticut State University. They would like to establish one in New London County with Western Connecticut State University.

Dowling: This as a new dimension of law enforcement; dedicate piece of future meeting.

Chief Drumm: We will have another sit down with the officials at UNH to focus on structure.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

None.

CHAIRMAN COMMENTS

Chairman Dowling: On behalf of the commission, certifications warrant broader publicity.

Chief Drumm: Aiming to celebrate awards and certifications in August.

MOTION TO ADJOURN to EXECUTIVE SESSION by Dowling; second by Cartledge. All in favor; none opposed. So moved. Meeting adjourned by 6:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Personnel Matter(s) if Necessary