

**MADISON DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
5:30 PM
COMMUNITY TRAINING ROOM-MADISON POLICE DEPARTMENT
September 14, 2023
SUBJECT TO APPROVAL**

Attendees: Chairman Ed Dowling; Commissioner Ann Rumberger; Commissioner Michael Carrano.

Also Present: Chief John “Jack” Drumm; Al Goldberg-Board of Selectmen liaison.

Absent: Commissioner Marietta Lee; Commissioner Ann Rumberger; 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 Cartledge to accept the minutes of the July 13, 2023 Regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners. All in favor; none opposed. So moved.

MOTION to amend the minutes of the August 10, 2023 Regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners. Chairman Dowling asked that under Traffic Issues, Al Goldberg’s statement should read, update street lighting and road furniture (rather than furniture). All in favor to accept as modified; none opposed. So moved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Karen Lennon, 34 Waterbury Avenue. Thank you Chief for your quick response to the problematic speeding in our neighborhood. We now have Stop signs and cross-walks in. We would like to remind everyone there are three problems annually: speeding, beach trespassers and break-ins at night. We would like a proactive stance in the late spring with increase in surveillance.

Chairman Dowling: This is evidence of the Chief’s desire, which we as a Commission have supported, to engage with the Community. Public safety is a serious issue. Thank you for demonstrating your seriousness and the positive relationship you have with the Police Department.

Commissioner Cartledge: Thank you as a group for coming tonight. Normally when this many people from a neighborhood show up it is a negative review. This is appreciated by the whole Department.

Chief Drumm: I try to be responsive. Thank you for the encouragement. Speed signs and traffic calming lines should be going in soon; the lines are continuing on Seaview Association. There is possibly a second speed device going in on Liberty. There is signage going up on Liberty for a concern from neighbors closer to Route 1. I like having contact with the neighborhood.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Budget/Financial Report: Chief Drumm provided an update on the budget. We pay a lot of up-front costs for contracts and service agreements July 1st. The Capital Improvement funds for Vehicle Replacement are encumbered on July 1st as well. Most of the general lines are where they should be at. Lt. Jeremy Yorke was able to sell a number of our older cars through Municibid for approximately \$25,000. We were offered \$5,000 for all as a trade in. Hats off to Jeremy for his perseverance with that. That money went back into the replacement fund.

Chairman Dowling noted the three vacancies are reflected in the underage in Wages and overage in Overtime. Going forward with budget planning, October's meeting is paramount for identifying specific priorities and getting a general sense of costs. In November the Chief will give his final numbers he is recommending the BOPC endorse for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year. Having the budget workshops in stages allows the Commissioners time to digest and understand the needs of the Department.

Chief stated he attended a Strategic Planning retreat the previous weekend with other Town Managers. An outside company was hired and have been in Town approximately nine months. They have talked to people within the Community, Town Leaders and Officers and did a needs assessment. One common theme is Public Safety-streets, sidewalks, bike paths, feeling safe, auto thefts, technology, speed signs and cameras.

Al Goldberg-Board of Selectmen Liaison stated that when Madison residents were asked what they would like to see in Madison' future one of the top items was that people want to feel safe.

Chief Drumm noted we have not kept up with the all of the technology tools in trying to be cost conscious and identified those items as a wish and not predicated those as a need. The time is now to give the tools to law enforcement so the Department can do what it needs to do. Our commitment from the Town is 32 Officers. If we do more development in the Town as has been discussed, it will change the dynamic of Policing in Town. Hammonasset in the summer months on any given day brings in approximately 20,000 people a day and 6,000 cars in our Town. Traffic studies have shown that we get 13,000-14,000 cars a day on the Connector. This year's budget he would like to show the tools that are needed, based on the input from the Community. We will request a budget increase to accommodate that. The Town will need to make an investment in technology. Also mentioned was the need to figure out a way to retain our seven new Officers because we do not have a pension system.

Commissioner Cartledge asked Al Goldberg if he feels the BOS are in a position to listen to the needs of the Community better than they have in the past. Al Goldberg stated all five BOS are committed to using the Strategic Planning Document for resource allocation/budgetary decisions. Goldberg will urge the BOPC to come forward in the budgeting process with their best recommendations in terms of what needs to be done. His challenge to the Commission and Chief is to help the Community understand what resources are needed in terms of staffing, and technology to make them feel safe.

Training Report: Chief Drumm provided the training update. The Department participated in a total of 197 training hours. Training consisted of Domestic Violence, Handcuffing, Baton, OC Instructor Certification, Hostage Negotiator Team Training, CT SWAT Challenge, COLLECT/NCIC Recertification and SCCTU (SWAT) training. The training we do is mandated by Post Council. Commissioner Carrano questioned is there is a way to track the

online training for Domestic Violence. Chief stated an Officer has to pass the exam to proceed to the next phase of training.

Traffic Report: Chief Drumm provided the traffic update. There were 26 MVA with three involving injuries. The leading cause of the MVA involved following too closely and unsafe movements. There were zero DUI and zero fatal accidents. There were seven reported private property accidents and two assists to the Connecticut State Police with MVA on I-95.

Community Calendar: Chief Drumm provided the calendar update. CT Cycling Advancement is having their ride on 9/16 and WALK for Vista on 9/29. Trunk or Treat will take place as usual on Halloween.

Regional Shared Services: Chief Drumm noted the Regional Traffic Enforcement Unit will be back in Madison on October 18th.

Chief's Correspondence:

Last month the Chief misstated that Matthew Bennett who submitted a petition to reduce the speed limit on Route 1 is a resident of the General's Residence. He lives on Route 1, but across the street from the General's Residence. The request for a traffic study has been filed with the State of Connecticut. We were notified that there will not be any traffic studies available until late fall or early spring. In the meantime, he will try and put some traffic calming in that area. The Chief has heard from families by West Wharf and in the eastern side of town regarding the cross-walks. We are ready. We need the State of Connecticut to approve the encroachment permits for cross-walks. The vendor will put up the signs stating Pedestrian Zones to get people ready for the cross-walks. Senator Cohen, the Chairperson of Transportation, will look into the permits. We had a request today by The Country School for stop signs. The State does not want you to use stop signs to slow traffic down. Received a phone call regarding Ridge Road again. The speed sign there was vandalized, it was beyond warranty and it costs \$5,000 to replace. We will add signage there to try the best we can to control it.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Drumm reported that the new Officers are doing great. They all graduated from the Academy at the top of their class. Should have two more officers added this spring. In the middle of October, the Chief will be going to the West Coast to attend the International Chiefs of Police conference. He has also been asked to speak at the National Association of Chiefs of Police on Equity in Policing at a later date.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: None.

MOTION TO ADJOURN to Executive Session by Cartledge, second by Carrano. All in favor; none opposed. So moved. Meeting adjourned by 6:37 p.m.

Executive Session adjourned at 7:03 pm.