

**CHESHIRE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2012 AT 7:20 P.M.  
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN ST.  
ROOM 210**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Steve Larson, Nancy Blomstrom, John Harris and Dan Marchitello

Commissioners Absent:

Lori Rusnack

Staff Present:

Lieutenant James Fasano, Administrative Commander of the Cheshire Police Department

Others Present:

Andrew Falvey, Town Council Liaison; Cindy and Derf Kleist of 251 Lancaster Way  
(arrived at 7:25)

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Larson called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

The recording secretary took the roll for the meeting.

**III. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

It was determined that a quorum was present.

**IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 14, 2011 Regular Meeting**

**MOTION** by John Harris to accept the minutes of the December 14, 2011 regular meeting as submitted; **SECONDED** by Dan Marchitello.

VOTE: In Favor – Blomstrom, Harris, Larson and Marchitello  
Opposed – None

The motion passed 4 – 0.

## **VI. CORRESPONDENCE AND PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

Chairman Larson distributed the December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011 edition of Status Report to Commissioners to review regarding safety ratings for vehicles.

## **VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A) Site Line Survey Update**

Chairman Larson mentioned that Ms. Rusnack told him about a call she received concerning a low hanging branch on South Brooksvale Road, near Bates Drive, that needs attention. Because there has been no snow yet this Winter, there are no other site line issues to be addressed in Town.

### **B) Safety Sign Update**

Lieutenant Fasano noted that the Safety Signs were changed to seasonally appropriate signs on Saturday.

### **C) Sidewalk Survey Update**

Chairman Larson noted that the brick sidewalks in the center of Town, near the Main Street / Highland Avenue intersection have been replaced and look great.

### **D) Radar Speed Monitoring Unit Update**

Lieutenant Fasano reported that the radar speed monitoring units have been put away for the Winter.

### **E) Open Issues**

#### **1) Bicycle safety hat distribution to students**

Lieutenant Fasano stated that he still has not had the chance this month to contact a representative from H. D. Segur Insurance to see if they would be interested in co-sponsoring florescent yellow "painters cap style" hats for distribution at the end of the school year to elementary students. Lieutenant Fasano stated that he would look into the approximately costs for the hats before calling so he had approximate donation value. Mr. Marchitello suggested contacting Darter Specialty on Cornwall Avenue for pricing estimates. Lieutenant Fasano suggested that perhaps the YMCA Spring Expo may be a good place to distribute the hats.

## 2) Linear Trail Crosswalk painting project

Lieutenant Fasano reported that the Traffic Division will re-evaluate the Linear Trail and South Brooksvale intersection in the Spring to see if the roadway markings are still effective with slowing down traffic but it still seems to be having a good response.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

## A) Treasurer's Report

An updated Treasurer's Report for the Public Safety Commission was not available at this meeting. Lieutenant Fasano stated that there have been no other expenses for the Commission other than the monthly staff incumbrances.

## B) Review of Police and Fire Department's Monthly Reports

The Commission reviewed the December Police Department monthly report during tonight's meeting. Lieutenant Fasano stated that there were a lot of break-ins of cars recently at the 2 gyms in Town and at the Linear Trail parking lot at Lock 12. Cheshire Police worked with some other local towns and a few arrests have been made in the cases and there are more arrests pending. Lieutenant Fasano also stated that during the month of December there were 2 burglaries in Cheshire, making a total of 52 burglaries for 2011. In December there were 8 D. U. I. arrests, overall D. U. I. arrests were down 18% compared to the year end of 2010.

Councilman Falvey asked if there were any check points over the December holidays in Cheshire? Lieutenant Fasano replied no but there was an extra police officer on duty for New Year's Eve, who had a D. U. I. arrest during that shift.

Councilman Falvey asked about how a driver could be detained for distracted driving? Lieutenant Fasano explained the process adding that the officers are doing more enforcement for cell phone, texting and distracted driving.

Mr. Kleist commented that having the extra officer on patrol New Year's Eve was just as effective as the check point that was held the day before Thanksgiving. Lieutenant Fasano replied, yes they were both effective in making a D. U. I. arrest but with check points it is not just about drunk drivers there are also minor violations that can be addressed by issuing warnings.

Ms. Kleist commented that she has not been able to find the Police Department monthly reports on the web site anymore. Lieutenant Fasano replied that the reports are sent to Town Hall each month and it is up to them to post them online so he will check on the status.

Lieutenant Fasano commented that they are finalizing the computer system upgrade / CAD system for the Police Department, noting that the company has been great to work with.

C) Adjustment of Public Safety Commission's Regular Meeting Schedule

With regards to adjusting the Public Safety Commission's regular meeting schedule, Councilman Falvey stated that he would check the Commission's Ordinance to see if amending the schedule would be appropriate. Chairman Larson stated that perhaps an every other month schedule or abbreviated schedule could be used going forward.

D) Miscellaneous Unfinished Business

With regards to the "blinding" light that is a hazard to drivers at Senior Poncho's restaurant in Prospect, on the Cheshire town line Lieutenant Fasano stated that he drove past there one evening and didn't see it. Ms. Kleist agreed that the light is a problem that should be addressed. Lieutenant Fasano stated that he would contact the State Police because it is on Prospect property.

E) Projects for the Future

Mr. Harris talked about safety tips for the month of January regarding walking and/or bike riding. Lieutenant Fasano stated that he would send the tips to the Cheshire Herald.

F) General Discussion

Lieutenant Fasano informed the Commissioners that the traffic light on South Meriden Road at the Country Club Road intersection is now active and operational 24 hours a day.

Ms. Blomstrom mentioned that on the Linear Trail, where it intersects with Higgins Road, the street sign on the Trail is missing; the other intersections are marked.

Mr. Kleist complained about residents using the roadway when there is a sidewalk, especially at night. Lieutenant Fasano stated that the law is if there is a sidewalk, you have to use it instead of the road way. Mr. Kleist also talked about the problem of jaywalking near Cheshire High School and the Dunkin Donuts near the High School.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by John Harris to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.; **SECONDED** by Dan Marchitello.

VOTE: In Favor – Blomstrom, Harris, Larson and Marchitello  
Opposed – None

The motion passed 4 - 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski  
Recording Secretary