

**CHESHIRE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2013 AT 7:20 P.M.  
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN ST.  
ROOM 210**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Stephen Larson, Nancy Blomstrom, Lisa DeAngelo, John Harris and Lori Rusnack

Commissioners Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Lieutenant James Fasano, Administrative Commander of the Cheshire Police Department

Others Present:

Town Council Liaison Andy Falvey

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Larson called the meeting to order at 7:20 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 – April 10, 2013 Regular Meeting**

**MOTION** by Lori Rusnack to accept the minutes of the April 10, 2013 regular meeting as submitted; **SECONDED** by Lisa DeAngelo.

**VOTE:** In Favor – Blomstrom, DeAngelo, Harris, Larson and Rusnack  
Opposed – None

The motion passed 5 – 0.

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

Chairman Larson distributed the March 14<sup>th</sup> edition of Status Report from the Insurance Institute of Highway Safety for Commissioners to review.

Chairman Larson stated that he received a telephone call last night from Diane Ciparelli of 291 Maple Avenue regarding the West Main Street / Main Street / Maple Avenue intersection and her concern for her child, who is a walker from St. Bridget's School. She stated that many cars do not stop before turning right at the top of West Main Street. Commissioners suggested adding a sign to remind drivers to come to a complete stop before turning right when there is a red light. Lieutenant Fasano stated that they could petition the State to add such a sign, noting that West Main Street (Route 68 / 70) is a State road. He also stated that the Police Department could increase their presence in the area during the starting and dismissal times of St. Bridget's School, which may help.

Ms. Blomstrom noted a similar problem with cars turning right from Maple Avenue onto West Main Street. Mr. Harris suggested adding a reminder sign on Maple Avenue, since it is a Town road. Lieutenant Fasano noted that when a pedestrian pushes the crosswalk button, the "walk" sign is signaled while all 4 traffic lights are turned to red.

Mr. Harris suggested that an article could be written by the local newspapers reminding drivers that pedestrians have the right of way at crosswalks and that they should come to a complete stop at a red light before proceeding right, if they deem it to be safe to do so. Commissioners talked about working with the Cheshire Herald to start a weekly or monthly safety message / article.

## **VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

Chairman Larson stated that he is not aware of any site line issues at this time but added that trees and bushes have started to grow in and should be watched. He again mentioned that lately there seems to be a lot of sandwich board style signs outside of Cheshire businesses that may be a sight line problem. Lieutenant Fasano stated that the signs are regulated by Planning & Zoning but he would also mention the concerns to Sheldon Dill at the Cheshire Chamber of Commerce. Chairman Larson noted that he is all for promoting businesses in Cheshire but he is also concerns about the public's safety.

Chairman Larson mentioned a large tree near the intersection of Bates Drive and South Brooksvale Road, on the west side, that appears to be tagged, but he was unsure why.

Mr. Harris mentioned that there are 2 ash trees that have died off on Peck Lane, just north of where the sidewalks end, that appears to have been attached by a disease and look like they may fall down and he is afraid they may fall on something or

someone. Lieutenant Fasano stated that he would mention this concern to the Public Works Department.

B) Safety Sign Update

Lieutenant Fasano noted that the Safety Signs will be changed this weekend. He also stated that the new Safety Sign was done by Sign Pro of New Britain a cost for lettering only of \$ 135. Commissioners would like to keep the gun safety sign out, but rotated to different locations over the next few months.

Commissioners talked about a new sign message regarding pet safety in hot vehicles. Some possible sign wording could be: "Hot Cars are Known Threats to Pets"; "Leave Your Pets at Home on Warm Days"; "When it's Hot, Leave your Pets Home"; "Don't Leave Pets in Cars on Hot Days"

C) Sidewalk Survey Update

Councilman Falvey stated that the Town Council receives a list every year of the proposed sidewalks in Cheshire that will be worked on. It was noted that property owners are responsible for clearing snow from their sidewalks but the Town is responsible for maintaining them.

D) Radar Speed Monitoring Unit Update

Lieutenant Fasano reported that the 2 new battery operated radar speed-monitoring units with cameras are out on Mountain Road and Wallingford Road. The trailer radar units were out on South Brooksvale Road and in front of the Police Station.

Chairman Larson suggested putting one of the radar units near the top of West Main Street perhaps to help slow down traffic near the intersection of West Main Street and Main Street.

E) Open Issues

Lieutenant Fasano shared a sample of one of the WHALE sticker kits that were recently purchased by the Commission for hand out to the public at the Fall Festival and during car seat installations at the Police Department. Each of the 230 kits purchased is imprinted with "Courtesy of the Cheshire Public Safety Commission".

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

A) Treasurer's Report

Lieutenant Fasano stated that the Commission has approximately \$73 to spend during this fiscal year, after the latest safety sign is purchased and the WHALE sticker kits.

Commissioners suggested purchasing a Public Safety Commission shirt for Ms. DeAngelo and Councilman Falvey.

Councilman Falvey noted that the new operating budget figures could change in Cheshire after the State of Connecticut finalizes its operating budget. He added that the tax rate has already been set in Cheshire so it cannot change which means if there are adjustments to be made to the local budget, it will have to be done by cutting expenses.

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

Lieutenant Fasano reviewed the April Police Department monthly report with the Commissioners noting that Officer Durkee was recently awarded Officer of the Year designation. Motorcycle and bike patrols are out now that the warm weather is here. There will be another road race in Town on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> and the Memorial Day Parade will be held the week after.

#### C) Miscellaneous Unfinished Business

None.

#### D) Projects for the Future

The Commission is looking forward to the 2013 Fall Festival and would like to arrange for the Enforcer and / or Convincer to be at the event. Lieutenant Fasano stated that he or the Traffic Division would contact the State Police to see about making arrangements to have these items at the Festival. It was also suggested that the Police Department have gunlocks available to the public at the Festival.

Lieutenant Fasano stated that the Cheshire Police Department recently purchased 2 peddle carts that could be used with Ms. Rusnack's suggestion of having a demonstration at the Fall Festival for the public to use "Drunk Goggles" which gives a person the vision of a drunk person to realize how they can be impaired. Commissioners also agreed it would be a good idea to use these carts together with the "Drunk Goggles" at Cheshire High School to show teen drivers what it is like to drive impaired.

#### E) General Discussion

Chairman Larson talked about the speed of vehicles traveling through Bartlem Park's driveway, noting that there are no speed bumps. Commissioners talked about temporary speed bumps, an elevated sidewalk or a speed table options. Ms. Rusnack suggested painting a crosswalk between the bathrooms and the skate park / ball fields. Lieutenant Fasano stated that he would talk to George Noewatne, Director of Public Works about the suggestions.

Commissioners talked about safety concerns on the Linear Trail with the mix of pedestrians, bicyclists and roller skaters / bladers as well as dogs, both on and off a leash. They also talked about the possible need for signs reminding people of the rules of the Trail. Lieutenant Fasano stated that the Police Department has already increased its presence along the Trail with the nicer weather now here and he will talk to Parks & Recreation Director, Bob Ceccolini about what they currently have for signage and if any additional should be added.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Lori Rusnack to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.; **SECONDED** by John Harris.

**VOTE:** In Favor – Blomstrom, DeAngelo, Harris, Larson and Rusnack  
Opposed – None

The motion passed 5 - 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski  
Recording Secretary