

**CHESHIRE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2014 AT 7:20 P.M.
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN ST.
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Stephen Larson, Lisa DeAngelo, Joseph Falvey
and John Harris

Commissioners Absent:

Nancy Blomstrom

Staff Present:

Lieutenant James Fasano, Patrol Division of the Cheshire Police Department

Others Present:

Councilman James Sima

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 – May 14, 2014 Regular Meeting

MOTION by Lisa Deangelo the May 14, 2014 regular meeting minutes as submitted.
SECONDED by John Harris

VOTE: In Favor – Deangelo, Harris, Falvey Larson
Opposed – None
Abstained - None

The motion passed 4 – 0 – 0.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE AND PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Larson distributed the July 30th 2014 edition of Status Report for Commissioners to review.

There was no other public communication.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) Site Line Survey Update

Chairman Larson noted that trees and plants can block signs and intersections. Chairman Larson stated he believes the weeds growing at King Rd. at North Brooksvale are getting high and may present a sight line issue. Commissioner Harris noted there is brush on Oak at the intersection of Higgins that could be trimmed. Commissioner Falvey noted there is also the same condition on Academy at South Meriden. LT Fasano stated he will advise Public Works to take a look at the situation.

B) Safety Sign Update

Lieutenant Fasano stated that the Safety Signs will be changed within the next week to reflect signs that are seasonally appropriate such as school is in session and passing a school bus will cost you \$450.00 Lt Fasano added that the Police Department will be increasing cell phone/ texting enforcement as we enter the fall season. He will place the anti-Texting signs out as well.

Lieutenant Fasano noted that all the Safety Sign frames have been re-built and stained by the Public Works Department and look good. The sign rocker at the intersection of Country Club at Highland Ave was repaired last fiscal year by a local sign company. LT Fasano advised that there are \$500.00 in program funds that could be used to repair additional signs. Chairman Larson suggested members take a look at the signs and decide at the next meeting if they want to have additional signs repaired.

C) Sidewalk Survey Update

Chairman Larson asked if there are any issues with the local sidewalks. LT Fasano stated he was advised by Mr. Noewatne of the Public Works Department that numerous sidewalks are being repaired throughout town. The repairs are based on surveys done by PW as well as citizens calling in unsafe sidewalks. Mr. Sima noted that the sidewalks on Long Hill Rd are in poor condition and was hopeful that they would be repaired soon. LT Fasano stated he will pass the information on to Public Works.

D) Radar Speed Monitoring Unit Update

Lieutenant Fasano reported that the smaller, pole mounted radar speed-monitoring units are out Mountain Rd and Peck Lane. They had been located in school zones prior to the opening of school. Lt Fasano added that officers are coming in for additional shifts using give back days to run RADAR in school zones as well as look for school bus violations.

E) Open Issues

Chairman Larson brought up to Mr. Sima the fact that he would like to see raised sidewalks at the linear crossings. This idea was discussed and there are pro's and con's to such an idea. LT Fasano stated that speed tables are usually used in more urban areas and there is concern with speed tables on rural roads that if a motorist was travelling too fast they could lose control after hitting a speed table. Mr. Sima also added that in addition to the cost, snowplows could cause damage to the raised tables. Mr. Sima added that \$8,000.00 has been earmarked for sign upgrade and replacement on the existing linear trail. He also spoke to members about the new Hawk system that will be installed on RT70 at the linear crossing. The Hawk system is new to the east coast but has been very successful out west. The system slows and then stops traffic using a lighting system at the crossing allowing pedestrians to cross safely.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A) Treasurer's Report

Lieutenant Fasano stated that the budget for 2014-15 fiscal years is \$500.00 for program materials. The account for Police and secretarial services has not yet been touched as there were no meetings in July or August.

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

Commissioners reviewed the Police and Fire monthly reports. LT Fasano stated the department will do a cell phone/ texting campaign in October and this will Segway into the state of CT DOT holiday enforcement

Chairman Larson noted that there were stop signs installed in the plaza next to Pier One and he was glad to see that the property owner recognized the potential for a collision there.

C) Miscellaneous Unfinished Business-None

D) Projects for the Future

Mr. Sima explained to the commission that they should look to advise the town Council on matters regarding public safety. He explained the process and offered numerous suggestions to make the commission more active and effective. The subject of snow removal from sidewalks came up. LT Fasano explained that Police Officers will patrol for un-cleared sidewalks and perform follow up with the property owners, Reflecting back on the 2013-14 season, there were cases where residents were away or the property owner lives far away making it necessary to have town crews remove the snow from residential sidewalks. Chairman Larson suggested the commission look to refine the way the reporting process for un-cleared sidewalks is done in order to get the sidewalks cleared sooner. Lt Fasano explained that currently, when a complaint is received, officers respond and give a warning notice for the sidewalks to be cleared within 24 hours. After that the resident can be ticketed and town crews could be summoned to clear the walks. Mr. Sima suggested the commission form a committee and discusses the matter and come up with recommendations to be presented the the council.

E) General Discussion

Ms. DeAngelo mentioned that the dog that was causing some problems in the spring no longer has been appearing at the dog park. She states that at times, there are children in the park taunting the dogs. Additionally, there are very young dogs that appear to be too young to be vaccinated playing at the park. LT Fasano suggested that Commissioner Deangelo report the issues as they are occurring and Animal control will be sent out to investigate. He added that with the addition of the second Animal Control officer there should be an increased presence at the parks.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Lisa Deangelo to adjourn the September 10, 2014 Public Safety Commission meeting at 8:30p.m.; **SECONDED** by John Harris.

VOTE: In Favor – DeAngelo, Falvey, Harris and Larson
Opposed – None

The motion passed 4 - 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Lt. James Fasano
Recording Secretary