

**CHESHIRE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2014 AT 7:20 P.M.
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN ST.
ROOM 210**

Commissioners Present:

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

Commissioners Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Lieutenant James Fasano, Patrol Division of the Cheshire Police Department

Others Present:

Cindy Kleist of 251 Lancaster Way (departed at 8:00 p.m.)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Larson called the meeting to order at 7:17 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 – September 10, 2014 Regular Meeting

MOTION by Lisa DeAngelo to accept the September 10, 2014 regular meeting minutes as submitted. **SECONDED** by John Harris.

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

The motion passed 5 – 0.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE AND PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Blomstrom noted that she was contacted about the stump on Cedar Lane and was told it was removed and the neighbor was happy with the completed project.

Ms. Kleist addressed the Commissioner and stated that there is a leaning tree on the corner of Stony Hill Road as you turn left onto Country Club Road.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) Site Line Survey Update

Chairman Larson noted that trees are starting to loose their leaves and drivers should be caution in wet weather with leaves on the ground. He also noted that the Public Works Department had addressed the concerns about the Kings Road intersection quickly. It was noted that the brush at the Oak Avenue / Higgins Road intersection should be trimmed back.

Mr. Falvey noted that the corner of Maple Avenue and West Main Street should be trimmed back. Ms. DeAngelo added that the sea grass at the Station 3 Firehouse on South Main Street should be trimmed back near the safety sign.

B) Safety Sign Update

Lieutenant Fasano stated that the Safety Signs were changed recently to seasonably appropriate messages about DUI and school safety reminders. He will try to get signs related to Breast Cancer Awareness out, too. At the next sign change, Commissioners suggested posting signs related to candle safety, furnace cleaning, change smoke detector batteries, etc.

Commissioners were thankful for the work that was done a few months ago on the safety signs but it was noted a little more attention might be need to help with stabilizing the signs in their holder.

Chairman Larson noted that the new topper had been installed on the Safety Sign at Country Club Road. Lieutenant Fasano will check with the Finance Department as to what additional maintenance funds are available to get topper replacement for other locations. He noted that the topper was done locally for under \$300.

C) Sidewalk Survey Update

Commissioners reviewed the list of sidewalks that were addressed over the last few months in Cheshire.

D) Radar Speed Monitoring Unit Update

Lieutenant Fasano reported that the smaller, pole mounted radar speed-monitoring units are out now on Birch Drive collecting data, not showing speed. Once the data is analyzed, officers will have a better idea as to when to focus their monitoring of the area, which has received complaints.

Ms. Kleist noted that she has been told that trucks travel very fast in the area of Marion Road, Knotter Drive and West Johnson Avenue at night.

E) Open Issues

Chairman Larson continued the discussion about adding raised sidewalks at intersections near the Linear Trail as a means to slowing vehicular traffic. Lieutenant Fasano noted that the Town Council is working with the State regarding the HAWK crossing system on West Main Street for the Linear Trail. Chairman Larson stated that he has seen a raised sidewalk in New Haven that seems to work to slow down traffic. Lieutenant Fasano mentioned a brick raised section in Plantsville that also seems to be effective.

Lieutenant Fasano noted that the Commission can suggest to the Town Council that funds be allocated for raised crosswalks. Commissioners talked about wanting to gather some more information before making the suggestions to the Town Council. Ms. DeAngelo asked Chairman Larson if he could take a picture of the crosswalk in New Haven to bring as an example to the next meeting.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A) Treasurer's Report

Lieutenant Fasano stated that there has been no change in the Treasurer's Report since last report.

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

Lieutenant Fasano noted that the September Police Department Monthly report was not completed yet but added that it was a fairly average month. He reviewed the September Fire Department Monthly report and talked about the accident in Stop and Shop parking lot, which is pictured on the Fire Department's report. Lieutenant Fasano noted that there were no injuries.

Lieutenant Fasano mentioned that there have been some personnel shifts at the Police Department recently; Officer Durkee has moved to the Detective Bureau and Officer Morales has moved from the Detective Bureau to the Traffic Division.

C) Miscellaneous Unfinished Business

There was nothing additional discussed during this meeting of the Public Safety Commission.

D) Projects for the Future

There were no additional projects for the future discussed during this meeting of the Public Safety Commission.

E) General Discussion

Lieutenant Fasano informed the Commission that the State has allocated \$8,000 for sign upgrades / improvements on the Linear Trail.

Ms. Blomstrom talked about landscape trailers that are parked on the side of roads, sometimes in dangerous locations, such as Pleasant Drive or Cornwall Avenue. Lieutenant Fasano noted that if anyone sees what they feel is a vehicle of any type parked in an unsafe location, they can call the Police Department and an Officer will address it.

Mr. Falvey noted that at the corner of Academy Road and Yalesville Road there is a wasp nest blocking half of the light, when you are taking a right onto Yalesville Road.

F) Discussion on Sidewalk Snow Removal

Ms. Kleist commented that there were a lot of people on Guinevere Ridge that didn't shovel their sidewalks last Winter, especially the corner of Guinevere Ridge and Dundee Road.

Chairman Larson mentioned that Councilman Sima was at last month's meeting of the Commission and there was discussion regarding the Town of Cheshire's Sidewalk Ordinance and enforcement options available now and possible in the future. Lieutenant Fasano distributed a copy of the existing Sidewalk Ordinance to members.

Lieutenant Fasano noted that the Police Department will be more pro-active enforcing and checking sidewalks, especially around the schools. He noted that it is now a misdemeanor offense if you receive a ticket for not clearing your sidewalks in a timely fashion but the courts do not have time for these extra cases. Commissioners and

Lieutenant Fasano talked about setting a fine instead, which would be paid to the Town instead of the court system. In order to initiate a change in the Town Ordinance, the Public Safety Commission can ask the Town Council Ordinance Review Committee to review information to implement the change. Commissioners agreed that they would like to gather data for further discussion at next month's meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Lisa DeAngelo to adjourn the October 8th Public Safety Commission meeting at 8:25p.m.; **SECONDED** by John Harris.

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

The motion passed 5 - 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary