

**CHESHIRE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2015 AT 7:20 P.M.  
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN ST.  
ROOM 115**

Commissioners Present:

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

Commissioners Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Lieutenant Brian Pichnarcik, Administrative Commander of the Cheshire Police Department

Others Present:

None

**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 – January 14, 2015 Regular Meeting**

Chairman Larson suggested that the January 2015 minutes be tabled until Commissioners could review them.

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

Chairman Larson distributed copies of the last 4 Status Reports to Commissioners for their review.

## **VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

Chairman Larson noted that the snow storms over the past few weeks have had a big impact on the site lines at many intersections due to the height of the snow piles. Commissioners have seen the Town Public Works crews around Cheshire in between the snow storms working to reduce the snow piles at major intersections and near schools.

Mr. Falvey commented that near the north corner of Peck Lane at Sandbank Road, a nearby resident's snow plowing of their driveway has made the site line difficult in that area. Ms. Blomstrom mentioned concerns with the intersection of Cedar Lane at Wiese Road.

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

Lieutenant Pichnarcik stated that he used to change the safety signs before Lieutenant Fasano had done them. He noted that the Police Department is short staffed at the moment with recent retirements and with the limited access to the signs due to the snow, Lieutenant Pichnarcik could not say how soon they would be changed but asked if there was specific signs / messages the Commission would like to use. Chairman Larson suggested that the signs that are currently out be rotated to other locations, if possible.

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

Lieutenant Pichnarcik stated that sidewalk clearing warnings are starting to be issued since the last snow storm. Once a warning has been issued, property owners have 24 hours to clear their sidewalks or they will be fined and have to pay to have the snow removed.

Ms. DeAngelo noted that at the corner of Oak Avenue and Cornwall Avenue near Doolittle School the sidewalk did not appear to be cleared as she saw High School kids waiting for the bus on the opposite side of the road.

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

The radar speed-monitoring units have been put away for the Winter season and will be back out when the warmer weather returns.

E) Discussion on Sidewalk Snow Removal

Chairman Larson stated that he would like to see the Town investigate its options for increasing the fees for sidewalks that are not cleared.

F) Open Issues

There was no discussion of Open Issues during this meeting of the Public Safety Commission.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

A) Treasurer's Report

The Public Safety Commission's Operating balance of \$225 has not changed since the purchase of the sign in December.

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

Lieutenant Pichnarcik reviewed the January Police Department Monthly report noting that there were a minimal number of accidents, which is consistent for this time of year. He talked about the enforcement of vehicles passing buses in Cheshire with the help of on board video cameras. There have been 2-3 tickets issued daily in the past 30 days and it was noted that the cameras have been activated for approximately 60 days. There are only 2-3 bus routes that were chosen for the video cameras after doing an evaluation in Town. It was noted that Lieutenant Fasano retired from the Cheshire Police Department on January 30<sup>th</sup>. The January Fire Department monthly report was not available.

C) Miscellaneous Unfinished Business

Lieutenant Pichnarcik and Commissioners talked about the need to slow vehicular traffic down near the crossing with the Linear Trail. Lieutenant Pichnarcik noted that Police Chief Dryfe is very aggressive with traffic calming initiatives in Cheshire and there are talks to add dividing islands at major intersections to help slow down traffic. There are also talks of adding raised crosswalk tables at the new Linear Trail crossings as the Trail is extended through Cheshire. Commissioners are hopeful that in the future similar traffic slowing techniques can be used at the existing Linear Trail intersections.

D) Projects for the Future

Commissioners mentioned the Fall Festival, which will be held in September and their interest in having some items from the State Police, such as the Enforcer, for

the public to try out. Lieutenant Pichnarcik commented that the DUI simulator station has been popular at these types of events.

E) General Discussion

Commissioners expressed concern for people that are wearing dark clothes when they are out walking or running at night, especially in the roadways.

Lieutenant Pichnarcik informed the Commissioners that the State Department of Transportation is looking at possibly re-structuring the roadway of Route 10 between Higgins Road and Kings Road, especially in the wake of the fatal pedestrian accident. Commissioners mentioned the need for crosswalks on Route 10 near bus stops with sidewalk ramps, which Lieutenant Pichnarcik stated are part of the discussions with the State DOT.

Commissioner expressed concern for fire hydrants that are being buried in all the snow we have received recently and asked Lieutenant Pichnarcik if he was aware of any efforts by the Fire Department to remove snow around the hydrants in Town? He replied that he was not aware but would contact Fire Chief Jack Casner to find out if anything has been planned.

Lieutenant Pichnarcik talked to the Commission about a solar powered, LED curve warning sign that was installed on Cheshire Street near Sindall Road about 6 months ago. It appears to be successful in warning drivers about the upcoming curve and there have been talks of installing a similar type of sign near the Linear Trail intersections.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Joseph Falvey to adjourn the February 11<sup>th</sup> Public Safety Commission meeting at 8:10 p.m.; **SECONDED** by Lisa DeAngelo.

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

The motion passed 5 - 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski  
Recording Secretary