

**CHESHIRE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2015 AT 7:20 P.M.
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN ST.
ROOM 210**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Stephen Larson, Lisa DeAngelo and John Harris

Commissioners Absent:

Nancy Blomstrom

Staff Present:

Support Services Lieutenant Fred Jortner; Officer Jeff Falk; Deputy Chief Brian Pichnarcik (arrived at 8:00 p.m.) of the Cheshire Police Department

Others Present:

Nick Cifarelli of 291 Maple Avenue; Taylor Shirk of 630 Wiese Road (departed at 7:40 p.m.)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Larson called the meeting to order at 7:16 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 – June 10, 2015 Regular Meeting

MOTION by Lisa DeAngelo to accept the June 10, 2015 regular meeting minutes as submitted. **SECONDED** by John Harris.

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

The motion passed 3 – 0.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE AND PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Larson introduced Nick Cifarelli to the Public Safety Commission and noted that once he is official sworn in by the Town Clerk, he will be the newest member of the Commission.

Taylor Shirk of 630 Wiese Road was present at this meeting of the Public Safety Commission to address the members about concerns he has for year-round clearance of sidewalks from overgrowth, not just snow and ice in the Winter. Some of the areas that Mr. Shirk pointed out were Oak Avenue towards Ives Row, across from Stop & Shop on Highland Avenue where a large branch over the sidewalk has remained for some time now. He also noted that the crosswalk in that area, on the north side, has no lights that work so when you press the crosswalk button it goes to the other crosswalk at the other intersection. Mr. Shirk also pointed out that there is not a proper crosswalk at the Higgins Road / South Main Street intersection as well as further south on South Main Street.

As an avid walker herself, Ms. DeAngelo reminded Mr. Shirk that it is the pedestrian's responsibility to make eye contact with an oncoming driver before crossing a roadway to make sure the driver is paying attention. Mr. Harris suggested that walkers out in the evenings and nights should wear reflective clothes and carry a light to be more visible to drivers especially as he finds more drivers are not paying attention and are distracted.

Mr. Shirk suggested that similar to the snow removal ordinance, there should be warnings and fines for property owners that do not keep shrubbery trimmed back near sidewalks. Lieutenant Jortner stated that there is no other sidewalk clearance ordinance in Cheshire besides the one related to snow only. He also stated that he would contact the Connecticut Department of Transportation regarding the crosswalk signal on Highland Avenue and other areas of overgrowth on any of the State roads in Cheshire.

Mr. Shirk also mentioned he wished there were more sidewalks on some of the back roads like Ward Lane, Oak Avenue or Mountain Road as another means to walk to the other side of Cheshire, without using Route 10.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) Site Line Survey Update

Chairman Larson noted that the speed limit sign on Academy Road has some overgrowth blocking the sign. He also asked that the Public Works Department continue to keep up on trimming the Linear Trail back for the next couple of months. Chairman Larson noted that the stop sign on Nob Hill Road has a tree overgrowing and blocking the sign.

B) Safety Sign Update

Lieutenant Jortner stated that the Public Safety signs were just changed earlier this week. He hopes to have the signs changed out / rotated by a Traffic Officer every 2-

3 weeks, as the weather cooperates. Commissioners suggested signs relating to school is in session, school bus reminders, cell phone / distracted driving warnings, etc. be used at the next sign change.

Chairman Larson asked if the Public Works has been able to do any maintenance on the Safety Sign displays over the Summer and Lieutenant Jortner stated that he was not sure but would check with the Public Work's Department.

C) Sidewalk Survey Update

Chairman Larson noted that there were stickers placed on the pedestrian crossing sign at the South Brooksvale Linear Trail intersection, which means the sign may have to be replaced.

D) Radar Speed Monitoring Unit Update

The radar speed-monitoring units have been out and are currently located on Wood Pond Road and Stony Hill Road based on speeding complaints from the public.

E) Discussion on Sidewalk Snow Removal

Chairman Larson suggested talking to the Town Council about expanding the punishment for sidewalks that are not cleaned up based on the Snow Removal Ordinance for Cheshire. Currently there is only an infraction that can be issued to the property owner based on the town's Ordinance.

F) Open Issues

Deputy Chief Pichnarcik stated that he ordered and has already received in 500 magnets that the Commission asked to have ordered at the June meeting. The magnets are slightly larger than originally planned and have the important numbers the Commission recommended. These magnets will be available for hand out during the Fall Festival. Deputy Chief Pichnarcik also stated that he has not found the WHALE sticker kits and may be out of them. Commissioners thought that there had been a box of supplies leftover from last year's Fall Festival.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A) Treasurer's Report

A current Operating Budget for the Public Safety Commission is \$1,000 with no funds being spent since the new fiscal year began on July 1st.

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

Lieutenant Jortner distributed and reviewed the July Police Department Monthly report. The July Fire Department monthly report was also distributed for review.

C) Miscellaneous Unfinished Business

There was nothing to report for miscellaneous unfinished business at this meeting.

D) Projects for the Future

Commissioners mentioned the Fall Festival, which will be held September 12th and were told by Lieutenant Jortner that he was able to book the Seat Belt Convincer for the public to try out during the Festival. Deputy Chief Pichnarcik stated that the Police Department will be set up in front of Cheshire High School with the SRT Van and drunk goggles and pedal carts. There will also be a booth in Bartlem Park with information to be handed out. It was agreed that this would be the best location for the Public Safety Commission table.

Police Officer Jeffrey Falk was present to talk to the Commission about a Public Safety Day that is being planned for October 3rd at the Cheshire Police Department. He stated that he is working with Chesprocott on this event to make it a highlight of the Police Department's services as well as other emergency services in Cheshire such as the Cheshire Fire Department, Campion Ambulance and the Cheshire Correctional Institute. Officer Falk stated that he is looking to reserve the grounds at Highland School for staging of the different service organizations during the event and for parking for the public. Officer Falk provided Commissioners with a general outline of the Public Safety Day. He noted that the event will be promoted in area newspapers and on social media, as it gets closer. Officer Falk invited the Public Safety Commission members to participate, come shadow a group or just attend and asked for any suggestions to be sent to him via his email, jfalk@cheshirect.org.

E) General Discussion

Mr. Harris suggested a sign be added on Industrial Avenue to warn of the upcoming sharp corner on the approach to Sandbank Road.

Lieutenant Jortner stated that the street line and cross walk painting is beginning, noting that this included the Linear Trail cross walks.

Deputy Chief Pichnarcik stated that there are 2 new police officers on the road now after completing their training. He also stated that as a result of concerns raised at the last Public Safety Commission meeting, the Cheshire Correctional Institute Warden was contacted regarding speeding by Correction Officers on their way in

and out of work. The Warden has reminded Correction Officers of the speed limits around the Correctional Facilities and posted signs in common areas for the Correction Officers as reminders to be courteous of the facilities neighbors.

Mr. Harris suggested the installation of stop ahead signs on Moss Farms Road near Waterbury Road and Country Club Road near Highland Avenue as well as Tucker Road near Prospect Road because of the curves of the road and shortened space to react for drivers that are unfamiliar with a roadway.

Deputy Chief Pichnarcik stated that he will be meeting soon with Fire Chief Jack Casner to learn about expanding the use of Cheshire's Code Red system with social media notifications in the near future.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by John Harris to adjourn the August 12th Public Safety Commission meeting at 8:33 p.m.; **SECONDED** by Lisa DeAngelo.

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

The motion passed 3 – 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary