Commissioners Present:
Chairman Steve Larson, John Harris, Dan Marchitello and Lori Rusnack

Commissioners Absent:
None

Staff Present:
Lieutenant Jay Markella, Administrative Commander of the Cheshire Police Department

Others Present:
None

I. CALL TO ORDER
Chairman Larson called the meeting to order at 7:18 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 – March 10, 2010 Regular Meeting

MOTION by Lori Rusnack to accept the minutes of the March 10, 2010 regular meeting as submitted; SECONDED by John Harris.

VOTE: In Favor – Harris, Larson, Marchitello and Rusnack
Opposed – None

The motion passed 4 - 0.
VI. CORRESPONDENCE AND PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Larson distributed the three editions of Status Report to Commissioners to review. He also stated that he was notified that effective March 31, 2010 Ray Sirico has resigned from the Public Safety Commission.

Chairman Larson reviewed the March 15, 2010 letter received from Mary Barber of 496 Spring Street, which was addressed to the Public Works Department, regarding a request to remove a blighted tree that is located on her property but in the Town’s right of way.

Chairman Larson reviewed the letter dated April 22, 2010 that he received regarding the Town Beautification Committee’s Adopt – a– Spot program that will be starting up again soon. Two of the “Spots” are at Public Safety Commission sign locations.

Ms. Rusnack stated that she received a phone message from Cindy Murotta of 1620 Waterbury Road on March 20, 2010 regarding her concern for speeding drivers and the non-response by the Cheshire Police Department to her calls regarding speeding drivers. Lieutenant Markella replied that he would ask to have increased radar enforcement in this area of Waterbury Road, adding that he knows there have been a lot of complaints of speeding in this area recently.

Ms. Rusnack stated that she has received 3 complaints about potholes and erosion on the Linear Trail between Cornwall Avenue and Higgins Road, which she had directed the complainants to contact the Park and Recreation Department.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) Site Line Survey Update

Chairman Larson stated that he has not noticed any site line issues, while driving around Town, adding that trees, bushes and plants are starting to grow again.

Mr. Harris again mentioned the bushes in Maplecroft Plaza that should be trimmed regularly so that they don’t block the site line of drivers traveling in that plaza. Mr. Marchitello added that the trees near the Stop & Shop traffic light should be trimmed. Mr. Harris said that he would get the name of the property owner for Maplecroft Plaza so that they can be contacted with the Commission’s concerns.

Mr. Marchitello talked about the traffic light at the intersection of Route 70 and Mountain Road, which has a longer green while traveling only one direction on Route 70. He stated that he has seen a number of near misses of accidents. Lieutenant Markella stated that he will talk to Traffic Division Lieutenant Mazzini to see what the
options are for that intersection and traffic light, especially because it is on a State road.

B) Safety Sign Update

Chairman Larson reminded members that any new slogans for a Public Safety Sign message can be brought forward at any Commission meeting. He also suggested that the Drinking and Driving warning signs should be put up in the next few weeks as well as the Click it or Ticket signs and reminders to wear reflective clothing. Lieutenant Markella stated that the signs had been changed over the past couple of months and Chairman Larson asked that the signs be updated again soon.

Commissioners talked about creating a sign reminding drivers not to text while driving, which Ms. Rusnack said she would work on some wording options.

Lieutenant Markella commented that one of the pedestrian crossing signs, found in the roadways where the Linear Trail crosses, was damaged recently and will need to be replaced.

C) Sidewalk Survey Update

Chairman Larson was not aware of any new sidewalk issues and again mentioned the brick walk that needs repairs in the center of Town. It was suggested that the property on Oak Avenue, between the two condo complexes should be trimmed back and Chairman Larson suggested that the Public Works Department be notified.

D) Radar Speed Monitoring Unit Update

The radar speed monitoring units have been put back on the streets, now that the nicer weather is upon us.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A) Treasurer’s Report

Lieutenant Markella apologized for not having the latest Treasurer’s report but stated that the Public Safety Commission is on schedule with its current budget.

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

The Commission reviewed the April 2010 Police Department monthly report.

Mr. Marchitello commented that the Volunteer Firefighters could cause accidents while responding to calls and running through the traffic lights.
C) Miscellaneous Unfinished Business

Chairman Larson mentioned that the Public Safety Commission has looked for some time now, unsuccessfully, into other locations for an additional Public Safety Sign. The location would have to be on property either in a commercial or industrial zone, in order to get all of the proper approvals. Ms. Rusnack commented that it is difficult to add more sign locations when the Commission has trouble getting the current signs changed and maintained.

D) Projects for the Future

The 2010 Fall Festival is scheduled for Saturday, September 11th. The State Police Enforcer and Roll Over Simulator are scheduled to be at the event. The Commission will also have WHALE sticker kits available.

E) General Discussion

Chairman Larson welcomed Dan Marchitello as a new member of the Public Safety Commission and asked him to introduce himself to the Commissioners. Mr. Marchitello stated that he has been a resident of Cheshire since 1980. He retired from the U.S. Secret Service in 1985. Since that time he has served as the Deputy Executive Director for the State of Connecticut’s Division of Special Revenue; served on the Connecticut Gaming Policy Board and is a member of the Board of Directors for the Connecticut Police Chief’s Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation. Commission members look forward to working with Mr. Marchitello as a member of the Public Safety Commission.

Ms. Rusnack talked about the web site www.seeclickfix.com that allows citizens to log onto this web site and make a complaint about safety concerns such as storm drains, pot holes, damaged roads, etc. in their towns as well as receive notification of issues in their area. This web site is based out of New Haven, CT and notifies the Town of the complaint, although Ms. Rusnack stated that she did not know who it is that gets notified.

Lieutenant Markella stated that the Cheshire Police Department’s Citizen Police Academy’s latest session went well. There have already been 12 – 14 people that have applied for the next session, which has not been publicized yet. The session that just finished had a participant age range of 18 years old to late 60’s.

Lieutenant Markella informed the Commissioners that the next RAD class will not be starting until after July 1st. Chairman Larson talked about the need and interest for a RAD type of class for high school aged girls at Cheshire Academy, to which the new Headmaster of the school seems open to. Commissioners agreed it would be a great idea.
Mr. Harris talked about creating a “Summer Safety Tips” section in the Cheshire Herald as either an article or letter to the Editor. He has agreed to work on getting some tips together and will then forward the information to Chairman Larson for his review.

Ms. Rusnack noted that Andy Falvey is the new Liaison for the Public Safety Commission from the Town Council. She suggested that he be included on any Commission correspondents, e-mails, etc. and perhaps extend an invitation to the next Public Safety Commission meeting. Ms. Rusnack also suggested that Fire Chief Jack Casner be copied on the Public Safety Commission minutes.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by John Harris to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m.; SECONDED by Dan Marchitello.

VOTE: In Favor – Harris, Larson, Marchitello and Rusnack
Opposed – None

The motion passed 4 - 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary