Commissioners Present:
Chairman Steve Larson, Nancy Blomstrom, Dan Marchitello and Lori Rusnack

Commissioners Absent:
John Harris

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

Others Present:
Andy Falvey, Town Council Liaison

I. CALL TO ORDER
Chairman Larson called the meeting to order at 7:25 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 9, 2010 Regular Meeting

MOTION by Lori Rusnack to accept the minutes of the June 9, 2010 regular meeting with the correction noted below; SECONDED by Dan Marchitello.

Correction to the June 9, 2010 minutes:
Page 2, item B, first paragraph, first sentence, the correct spelling is Lock 12 not Locke 12.
VOTE: In Favor – Larson, Marchitello and Rusnack
Opposed – None
Abstained – Blomstrom

The motion passed 3 – 0 –1.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE AND PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Larson welcomed Nancy Blomstrom as the newest member of the Public Safety Commission.

Chairman Larson distributed the June 19th, 2010 edition of Status Report to Commissioners to review.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) Site Line Survey Update

Lieutenant Markella stated that he still needed to get from Mr. Harris the address for the property owner of Maplecroft Plaza so that they can be contacted with the Commission’s concerns for the stop sign visibility near Bank of America and the overgrown shrubbery in the plaza. He would also like to suggest that the word “stop” be added to the ground along with a “stop bar”, where the stop sign is.

Lieutenant Markella stated that he was unsure of the status of blocked signage at the East Johnson Avenue and Route 10 intersection, as it seemed OK the last time he was there.

Mr. Marchitello mentioned that at the intersection of South Meriden Road at Diamond Hill Road there is overgrown foliage, which blocks a drivers view as they come down Diamond Hill. A wider view for turning is needed for those vehicles that are coming down Diamond Hill, as this is a 40 mph zone.

B) Safety Sign Update

Lieutenant Markella stated that the Public Safety Signs had been changed on Saturday.

Commissioners talked about the new texting message they would like printed in reflective lettering on a sign blank, which Lieutenant Markella stated he would get a price to have done.
C) Sidewalk Survey Update

Chairman Larson noted that he still has concerns about the condition of the brick sidewalks in the center of Town. Lieutenant Markella noted that Yankee Gas is doing a lot of work in that area of Town, with their gas line expansion, and are installing a valve station in that parklet area.

Ms. Rusnack talked about www.seeclickfix.com where you can report public safety concerns and look them up by town. She noted that there are currently 20 items listed for Cheshire and, according to the web site, these items are all reported to the Public Works Department and/or Town Manager Milone.

D) Radar Speed Monitoring Unit Update

Lieutenant Markella reported that all of the radar speed monitoring units have been out on the streets.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A) Treasurer’s Report

Lieutenant Markella stated that the new Fiscal Year began July 1st so the full budgeted amount of $1,800 is available at this point for the Public Safety Commission. Chairman Larson stated that he would like to look into getting prices to replace the damaged pedestrian crossing signs that had been in place along the Linear Trail at street intersections.

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

The Commission reviewed the June 2010 Police and Fire Department monthly reports. Mr. Marchitello asked if the number of accidents per month seemed high for this month and Lieutenant Markella replied no, it was about average. Mr. Marchitello asked if the Police Department tracks the age group for the drivers involved in accidents and Lieutenant Markella replied that the current Police Department report software does not allow that type of data to be tracked but he is hopeful the new software the Police Department is looking at upgrading to will have that capability.

Ms. Blomstrom asked about the number of animal control complaints compared to the number of warnings or arrests. Lieutenant Markella stated that the warnings listed were only written warnings; they do not have records of the verbal warnings that are handed out.
C) Miscellaneous Unfinished Business

Lieutenant Markella stated 2 police officers have become certified for car seat installations and, with the help of a grant, the Police Department will be running the car seat installation program on a monthly basis. He noted that they will be handing out the W.H.A.L.E. (We Have A Little Emergency) stickers at these events.

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.

Chairman Larson brought up Mr. Marchitello idea to have the ground painted red and white or yellow with the word “stop” or “yield” written out at the pedestrian crossings of the Linear Trail at the Lock 12, North Brooksvale and Higgins Road crossings. Ms. Rusnack suggested contacting the Parks & Recreation Commission to get them interested in the project, too. Chairman Larson noted that this could be a great Boy Scout / Eagle Scout project. He stated that he would contact Parks & Recreation Director, Bob Ceccolini. Lieutenant Markella stated that he would talk to the Traffic Division to get their opinion on this project, too. Councilman Falvey commented that he would address the issue of painting a State road (Route 42) with Town Manager Milone.

Mr. Marchitello had suggested at the last meeting that the Public Safety Commission could possibly get an insurance company to co-sponsor a distribution of baseball hats to elementary school students next June. The hats could be bright yellow with a message such as “Schools out, watch out for kids!”. Commissioners agreed it was a great idea and stated that it should be brought to Town Manager Milone for discussion.

E) General Discussion

Chairman Larson asked when the next Cheshire Police Department’s Citizen Police Academy’s would be starting up? Lieutenant Markella replied that there will be 2 shorter / condensed version of the Police Academy, one will be at the Senior Center and the other will be at Elim Park.

Lieutenant Markella noted that there is another R.A.D. class being run now.

Mr. Marchitello asked if there is an easier way to have safety concerns addressed on State Roads. Lieutenant Markella noted that some things can be handled by the Cheshire Police Traffic Division. Mr. Marchitello suggested that the Public Safety
Commission contact the local Legislators for Cheshire. Councilman Falvey suggested that concerns be brought to the Town Council so they could be addressed when the two groups meet to discuss local issues.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Lori Rusnack to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m.; SECONDED by Dan Marchitello.

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

The motion passed 4 - 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary