I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Larson called the meeting to order at 7:15 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 8, 2010 Regular Meeting

September 22, 2010 Special Meeting

No vote was taken because the minutes had not been distributed to the Commission members.
VI. CORRESPONDENCE AND PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Larson distributed the September 8th, 2010 edition of Status Report to Commissioners to review.

Chairman Larson reviewed the e-mail he received on October 1st from Sandy Morris regarding intersection concerns relating to West Main Street, Main Street and Maple Avenue. Ms. Blomstrom added that drivers taking a left out of the Post Office onto Maple Avenue are also a concern. Sargent Pichnarcik commented that it is posted “No Left Turn” at the Post Office exit, but it is not enforceable by the Police Department because it is on private property.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) Site Line Survey Update

Mr. Marchitello commented that the island with the drop box at Timberline Office Supplies, off South Main Street, is overgrown and the bushes need to be trimmed back; they have not been trimmed in 3 years. He added that there are 2 big potholes there, too. When Mr. Marchitello asked at Timberline about this he was told it is a private road and the owner is having a consultant look at it. Mr. Marchitello commented that it might be a private road but there is a contract for the public to do business on it; there should be a maintenance stipulation in the agreement. Mr. Marchitello suggested sending Timberline Office Supplies a letter, as well as the Cheshire Postmaster and the owner of the private road regarding the potholes, site line restrictions, the overgrown bushes at the drop box and that the drop box is too high. Chairman Larson stated that he would work on a letter from the Public Building Commission.

Chairman Larson noted that he leaves are starting to fall from the trees.

Mr. Marchitello talked about his concerns for the intersection of Route 68 and Mountain Road, with the longer green traffic light on one side of the intersection, which seems to create some confusion with drivers. Mr. Harris suggested contacting State Representative Vicki Nardello to get the State involved, since it is a State road intersection. Councilman Falvey stated that he would contact Ms. Nardello.

Ms. Blomstrom talked about the intersection of Route 10, Maple Avenue and Pleasant Drive and the near misses she has seen. She noted that Pleasant Drive has the right of way to Maple Avenue.

Sargent Pichnarcik informed the Commission that the State will be installing a new traffic light on South Meriden Road at the Country Club Road intersection as a result of the number of serious accidents in that area.
B) Safety Sign Update

Chairman Larson gave Sargent Pichnarcik a list of potential signs to display this month on the Public Safety Sign locations throughout Town. Sargent Pichnarcik commented that the signs had just been changed today. Chairman Larson added that the new sign about texting while driving should be done and he hopes to see it out soon.

Chairman Larson suggested that wording be developed for a new sign regarding teenage driver limits.

C) Sidewalk Survey Update

Chairman Larson noted that he still has concerns about the condition of the brick sidewalks in the center of Town. Commissioner talked about their concerns for this area, also. Councilman Falvey stated that the Town is looking at this section of sidewalk as part of the overall sidewalk maintenance plan for the Town. When it is replaced, the sidewalk will likely be stamped concrete or concrete pavers. Councilman Falvey noted that the Town follows a 20-30 year cycle for road re-paving and 20-40 years for sidewalk replacement, with the worst sidewalks and road being repaired first. He added that heaving sidewalks needed to be replaced first, before sidewalks that look bad. It was noted that Yankee Gas has agreed to contributing funding towards fixing up the parklet and sidewalk at the Route 10 / Main Street intersection, as a result of all their construction in the area.

D) Radar Speed Monitoring Unit Update

Sargent Pichnarcik reported that the radar speed monitoring units have been out all over Town, such as on Spring Street, Creamery Road and Maple Avenue during the past month. Commissioners asked if any of the units are equipped for data collection? Sargent Pichnarcik replied that they are not equipped for camera enforcement but the mini units can collect data.

E) Open Issues

1) Mixville Road / Marion Road intersection

Councilman Falvey reported that he received an update on the concerns received from Consolidated Industries regarding the Mixville Road / Marion Road intersection. Chief Cruess recommended that Consolidated Industries contact the Traffic Division to ask for a warning sign to be installed in the area that “oncoming traffic does not stop”. Councilman Falvey stated that he does believe it is a dangerous intersection. Sargent Pichnarcik stated that he would be working with Consolidated Industries on this issue. Councilman
Falvey suggested that a “hidden driveway” sign could be added on Mixville Road.

2) Bicycle safety hat distribution to students

Councilman Falvey stated that he will find out who the Town’s insurance carrier is and will forward the information to the Commission for this project. Sargent Pichnarcik expressed some concern with distributing baseball hats to the kids instead of bike helmets, which should be worn when on their bicycle. He suggested that the Commission could look into bike helmet covers for this project.

3) Possible merger with the Prison Advisory Committee

Commissioners reviewed the e-mail received from Ms. Rusnack regarding the possible merger of this Commission and the Prison Advisory Committee. Councilman Falvey explained that there is a State Statute that says if there is a State prison in a town by State law a Prison Safety Commission must be created. This law went into effect a year or two after Cheshire’s Prison Advisory Committee was created. Cheshire’s Prison Advisory Committee was formed after a number of problems in the 1980’s and 1990’s at the prison; now there are very few problems affecting the Town.

In conversations between these two groups and the Town Council’s Ordinance Committee, the Prison Advisory Committee has said they would like to remain independent. The Ordinance Committee has asked the Town Attorney to look to see if the Prison Advisory Committee, the way it currently exists, meets the State’s requirements for a Prison Safety Commission or if the State needs to create this group to meet the State law. It has been agreed that it may not make sense to combine the Public Safety Commission and Prison Advisory Committee, noting that it is not going to happen any time soon.

4) Linear Trail Crosswalk painting project

Councilman Falvey stated that the Town Council received the Public Safety Commission letter regarding painting of the crosswalks at their meeting last night and there was some discussion. The proposal has been referred to the Town Manager’s office for further action, noting that the Town Council endorses the idea. The Town Manager will look to see if there is any money available in the budget and will assess if this could be done before the season is over.

Sargent Pichnarcik informed the Commission that the crosswalk cannot be painted using yellow; there is a State law that says all crosswalks have to be painted using white, reflective paint. Mr. Marchitello suggested that stop signs could be painted on the roadways, too. Sargent Pichnarcik stated that
Chief Cruess has asked him to look into other traffic calming options and ideas. Chairman Larson commented that the color of the crosswalks is immaterial; whatever color it has to be is fine if it can be done.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A) Treasurer’s Report

An updated Treasurer’s Report for the Public Safety Commission was not available at this meeting.

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

The Commission did not have Police Department or Fire Department monthly reports to review at this meeting.

C) Miscellaneous Unfinished Business

Chairman Larson commented that the Fall Festival had great weather and seemed to be a good turn out from the Community. WHALE stickers were handed out at the Festival and will be distributed during infant car seat installations by the Police Department. Chairman Larson asked Sargent Pichnarcik to check to see how many WHALE stickers are left and determine if more should be ordered.

Sargent Pichnarcik stated the he would work on lining up the State Police Enforcer and rollover simulator for next year’s Festival. It was agreed that the Enforcer was not placed in a good location this year; Sargent Pichnarcik added that he was not sure why the rollover simulator was not there this year.

D) Projects for the Future

There were no future projects discussed at this meeting.

E) General Discussion

Mr. Harris asked, when paving streets in Town does the Town have to do asphalt curbing, too? He suggested that the roads be left alone with no curb so the water could dissipate into the dirt and grass by the edge. Councilman Falvey replied that it depends on the topography of the street. If there were curbs on the street before, they will be replaced. If there were no curbs before then they look at the topography and try to determine if the street can handle the flow of water as well as how high the grass is compared to the street.
IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by John Harris to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.; SECONDED by Nancy Blomstrom.

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

The motion passed 4 - 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary