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 – November 10, 2010 Regular Meeting
MOTION by John Harris to accept the minutes of the November 10, 2010 regular meeting as submitted; SECONDED by Dan Marchitello.
VOTE: In Favor – Blomstrom, Harris, Larson, Marchitello and Rusnack
Opposed – None

The motion passed 5 – 0.

VI. APPROVAL OF 2011 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING DATES

MOTION by Lori Rusnack to accept the 2011 meeting dates for the Public Safety Commission as presented; SECONDED by John Harris.

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

The motion passed 5 – 0.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE AND PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Larson distributed the September 28th, 2010 edition and November 3rd edition of Status Report to Commissioners to review.

Ms. Cindy Kliest of 251 Lancaster Way was present to address the Commission. She stated that she was glad to see the Commission reviews and discusses the monthly reports, but she noted that the monthly reports were not up to date online. Lieutenant Fasano replied that the November 2010 reports were posted online today for the Police Department. He added that typically the monthly reports are posted each month just prior to the monthly Town Council meetings. Lieutenant Fasano shared with Ms. Kliest his copy of the November 2010 Police Department reports, for her review.

Ms. Kliest stated that she had questions on some of the statistics and items listed on the reports such as when the officers perform a motor vehicle stop; do they find drugs or other issues on the stops? Lieutenant Fasano replied yes, it is a common occurrence. He also invited Ms. Kliest to stop by or contact him with any specific questions he may have.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) Site Line Survey Update

Chairman Larson noted that the leaves are down from the trees and he hasn’t noticed any obstructions in Town. Although he has noticed a number of “sandwich board” signs out in front of stores and businesses, Chairman Larson noted that these are a Planning and Zoning enforcement issue. Lieutenant Fasano stated that he would mention this concern to the new Zoning Enforcement Officer, Dave Kehoss.
Mr. Harris mentioned that the gas station on West Main Street, in the Strollo’s plaza, puts its price sign right up to the road, which obstructs the view when leaving that end of the parking lot.

Mr. Marchitello and Chairman Larson mentioned that the island with the drop box at Timberline Office Supplies, off South Main Street, has been trimmed back and the 2 big potholes have been repaired.

B) Safety Sign Update

Lieutenant Fasano noted that the Safety Signs were changed last month. Chairman Larson gave Lieutenant Fasano a list of potential signs to display this month on the Public Safety Sign locations throughout Town. Chairman Larson asked Lieutenant Fasano to check on the status of the new sign about texting while driving.

Lieutenant Fasano noted that there was a checkpoint done recently using 2 unmarked cars to look for cell phone, texting and seat belt violations; 15 infractions were issued as well as 30 warnings. It was noted that the police officers cannot check a cell phone if a driver is pulled over and there is a suspicion of texting while driving.

C) Sidewalk Survey Update

Chairman Larson noted that he still has concerns about the condition of the brick sidewalks in the center of Town but it has been mentioned that these sidewalks will be addressed in the Spring. There were no other sidewalk issues mentioned during this meeting.

D) Radar Speed Monitoring Unit Update

Lieutenant Fasano reported that the radar speed monitoring units have been put away for the Winter.

E) Open Issues

1) Mixville Road / Marion Road intersection

The Police Department has said that the Mixville Road / Marion Road intersection concerns are a non-issue at this time. They have surveyed the intersection and determined that the site lines are appropriate.

This topic can be removed from the next Public Safety Commission agenda.
2) Bicycle safety hat distribution to students

Chairman Larson stated that he will be contacting the Town’s insurance carrier to see if they would be interested in sponsoring bike helmet covers for elementary students in the Spring.

3) Possible merger with the Prison Advisory Committee

Chairman Larson reported that with regards to the possible merger of this Commission and the Prison Advisory Committee, it is not going to happen any time soon.

This topic can be removed from the next Public Safety Commission agenda.

4) Linear Trail Crosswalk painting project

With regards to painting the Linear Trail crosswalks it was discovered that only white paint can be used for crosswalks, per State Regulations. Sargent Pichnarcik is looking into other marking options for crosswalks. It is estimated to cost a minimum of $2500 to paint all of the Linear Trail crossing in Town.

Lieutenant Fasano commented that he uses the Trail, personally, he has found that most drivers are very courteous. There was some discussion about the use of rumble strips and stop ahead signs near the intersection with the Linear Trail. Lieutenant Fasano stated that the Police Department’s Bike Patrol and motorcycle are frequently present on the Trail during the warmer weather. In addition, traffic / radar / speed enforcement is done continually through the year near the Trail crossings and near schools.

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 reviewed the November Police Department monthly reports during tonight’s meeting.

C) Miscellaneous Unfinished Business
With regards to the Mountain Road and West Main Street intersection concerns, Sargent Pichnarcik has asked the State Department of Transportation review this area, because of the State road that is involved in this intersection.

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.

D) Projects for the Future

Lieutenant Fasano suggested putting small public safety sign messages along the Linear Trail.

Commissioners talked about having the State Police Enforcer and Roll Over Simulator at the 2011 Fall Festival.

Lieutenant Fasano mentioned the YMCA’s Health and Wellness Expo with a 10K race, which will be held on May 22nd at Bartlem Park.

E) General Discussion

Lieutenant Fasano stated that the newly selected Chief of Police will be starting on January 3, 2011. Chief Neil Dryfe comes to Cheshire from the Hartford Police Department. Commissioners would like to invite Chief Dryfe to a future Public Safety Commission meeting, once he has settled into his new job.

Mr. Harris talked about the importance of wearing reflective gear when walking or running at night. Also, bicyclists should ride with traffic and pedestrians should walk against traffic, to be more visible to motorists. Lieutenant Fasano noted that police officers wear green neon jackets now at night during enforcement.

Mr. Marchitello commented that Southington’s expansion of the Linear Trail is on the “fast track” but stops at Dickerman Road at the Cheshire town line. It was noted that the Town Council is talking about extending the Linear Trail in Town from West Main Street to Jarvis Street.

Ms. Rusnack commented that the Public Safety Commission member list online was updated and thanked Lieutenant Fasano for having that done.
Mr. Marchitello warned of fraudulent Police Department fundraisers that occur throughout the year. Lieutenant Fasano stated that residents may call to confirm if they are soliciting for a fundraiser for the Cheshire Police Department, but he noted that they never use phone solicitations for fundraising, everything is done through the mail.

Mr. Marchitello questioned if there are identification cards issued for members of the Public Safety Commission? Lieutenant Fasano replied no, adding that there are no identification cards issued for any of the Town Commissions or Council members.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by John Harris to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m.; SECONDED by Nancy Blomstrom.

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

The motion passed 5 - 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary