Commissioners Present:
Chairman Steve Larson, John Harris, Dan Marchitello and Lori Rusnack (departed at 8:45 p.m.)

Commissioners Absent:
Nancy Blomstrom

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 7:19 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 – August 11, 2010 Regular Meeting

MOTION by Lori Rusnack to accept the minutes of the July 14, 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 August 21st, 2010 edition of Status Report to Commissioners to review.

Ms. Rusnack stated that she e-mailed to Commissioners photographs of traffic calming ideas she observed during a recent trip to Cape Cod. Chairman Larson noted that Police Chief Cruess had sent him some web sites regarding traffic calming, imprinted concrete and painted markings.

Lieutenant Markella shared information with Commissioners regarding a recent traffic study that was done by the State Department of Transportation of Waterbury Road near the Interstate 84 Eastbound entrance / exit ramps. The State will be changing the marking on the roadway from this section of Waterbury Road to just past Summit Road. The Eastbound Interstate 84 exit ramp will be changed so there is only 1 right turn lane and then it will be only one lane from that point on Waterbury Road, past Summit Road.

Commissioners reviewed the letter they received from Councilwoman Giddings of the Town Council Ordinance Review Committee. Councilwoman Giddings informed the Commission that they are looking at having the Public Safety Commission assume the responsibilities of the Prison Advisory Committee. The Town Council Ordinance Review Committee is asking for input from the Public Safety Commission.

Councilman Falvey noted that the Prison Advisory Committee resolved a lot of issues over the years but the number of issues has dramatically decreased. Instead of completely disbanding the Committee, the functions of the Prison Advisory Committee may be incorporated within the Public Safety Commission because the Prison does reflect a public safety concern for Cheshire. Councilman Falvey stated that the Prison Advisory Committee only meets quarterly and have had some problems getting a quorum together when they are supposed to meet. Ms. Rusnack questioned if the combining of the 2 groups would cause problems with the Town Charter and the mission of each group? Councilman Falvey replied that these items could be addressed. Ms. Rusnack stated that she would like to go to the Ordinance Committee to hear what they have to say, to hear more about what their expectations are. Chairman Larson stated that he is not opposed to the combining of the groups but would like more information. Commissioners expressed an interest in attending an upcoming Prison Advisory Committee meeting, but the group was not sure when their next meeting is scheduled for.

Ms. Rusnack asked if the members of the Prison Advisory Committee wanted to serve on the Public Safety Commission, too? Commissioners all stated that they would like to take a good look at the Prison Advisory Committee responsibilities, first, before accepting this merger.

Councilman Falvey asked what is the next step? Ms. Rusnack and Chairman Larson both stated that they needed more information and that more discussion should occur to see if
this would make sense for the 2 groups and the Town. Ms. Rusnack asked if one of the reasons for this merger is to cut costs, with regards to staff liaison time and asked if the State has a liaison to the Prison Advisory Committee? Lieutenant Markella replied that there is staff from the Cheshire Police Department that attends the Prison Advisory Committee meetings, but he is not sure if there is a representative from the State at the meetings. It was noted that there are also recording secretary costs for the Prison Advisory Committee meetings.

Ms. Rusnack commented that she appreciated the Ordinance Committee asking the Public Safety Commission’s opinion on the potential merger but more information is needed before an opinion can be given. It was suggested that members of the Public Safety Commission could look on the Town’s web site to review the Prison Advisory Committee meeting minutes and review the section of the Charter related to the Prison Advisory Committee. Ms. Rusnack stated that she would contact Councilwoman Giddings and ask that she add an agenda item to the next Ordinance Committee meeting to discuss this idea further, asking that members of the Public Safety Commission be invited to attend that meeting as well.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) Site Line Survey Update

Mr. Harris provided Lieutenant Markella and Chairman Larson with a phone number 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 stated that he had mentioned the concerns about the stop sign, but the property owner didn’t think it was a problem.

Lieutenant Markella stated that the Public Works Department has addressed the overgrown foliage at the intersection of South Meriden Road at Diamond Hill Road, which Mr. Marchitello had brought up.

B) Safety Sign Update

Lieutenant Markella stated that the Public Safety Signs had been changed within the last few days. Chairman Larson thanked Lieutenant Markella for making sure the signs have been changed on a regular basis for the last few months. He then asked for a volunteer from the Commission to pick and chose which signs will be displayed each month at the Public Safety Sign locations throughout Town.

Chairman Larson suggested that wording be developed for a new sign regarding teenage driver limits.
C) Sidewalk Survey Update

Councilman Falvey commented that the Town Council is starting to get lists of sidewalks in Town that are being replaced or repaired, including why certain areas are being done. He will forward the lists to the Public Safety Commission for review.

Chairman Larson noted that he still has concerns about the condition of the brick sidewalks in the center of Town.

Ms. Rusnack talked about www.seeclickfix.com where you can report public safety concerns and look them up by town. She noted that, according to the web site, these items are all reported to the Public Works Department and/or Town Manager Milone. Chairman Larson stated that he would ask Arnett Talbot, of the Town Manager’s Office, to see if she knows who, if anyone, receives notifications of the issues on this web site.

D) Radar Speed Monitoring Unit Update

Lieutenant Markella reported that all of the radar speed monitoring units have been out all over Town, such as on Waterbury Road, Cook Hill Road and on Highland Avenue during the past month.

Chairman Larson stated that he received an e-mail from Matt Palmer of 396 Mountain Road regarding his concerns about speeders on Mountain Road. Mr. Palmer has asked for a radar speed monitoring unit to be placed near his home and invited any member of the Cheshire Police Department to use his driveway to monitor speed or run radar on Mountain Road.

E) Fall Festival

The 2010 Fall Festival is scheduled for this Saturday, September 11th. The Seat Belt Enforcer and Roll Over Simulator are scheduled to be at the event. The Commission will also have WHALE sticker kits available. Chairman Larson invited any available Commission member to stop by the Police Department / Public Safety Commission booth to help out.

F) Bicycle safety hat distribution to students

Chairman Larson stated that in discussing the idea of distributing bright colored baseball hats to elementary students at the end of the school to promote bicycle safety with Chief of Police Cruess, he thought it was a great idea. Chairman Larson stated that the Public Safety Commission would like to find a sponsor, possibly an insurance company, to help with this project. He then asked Councilman Falvey who the Town’s insurer was, suggesting that they could possibly be a sponsor.
Councilman Falvey stated that he didn't know who the insurer was but he will get the information for the Commission.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

A) Treasurer’s Report

Lieutenant Markella stated that he did not have an updated Treasurer’s Report.

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

The Commission reviewed the August 2010 Police Department monthly reports.

C) Miscellaneous Unfinished Business

When asked, Lieutenant Markella stated that he has no heard anything from Cheshire Academy yet regarding the R.A.D. class.

D) Projects for the Future

Commissioners talked about their idea to paint the roadways at the Linear Trail crossings. They reviewed photographs that Ms. Rusnack had shared with the Commission of similar trail / street intersections and suggested that the word “yield” be added on the roadway of these intersections.

Chairman Larson suggested that this project could be a good civic project for an organization in Town.

Lieutenant Markella noted that the crosswalk painting may come out of the Police Department’s line painting budget; he will have to check to see what funds are available. Lieutenant Markella added that Chief Cruess thinks that this is a great idea.

Councilman Falvey suggested that speed-tables could be installed to help slow down traffic at the Linear Trail crossings or having grooves cut into the roadway, like a toll booth approach. Chairman Larson replied that that may be a good idea for the next phase, but for now he would like to see the colored paint get put down first for the crosswalk. Mr. Marchitello suggested that the Public Safety Commission hold a special meeting to discuss this project.

Lieutenant Markella noted that the street line painting is being done now; he does not believe that funds will be available for the crosswalk painting until next year. He also noted that the crosswalk painting needs to be done by professionals, the Town cannot have the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts painting in the middle of the road.
Mr. Marchitello suggested that the Public Safety Commission send a letter now and ask for the crosswalk painting to be done by a certain time frame. Chairman Larson proposed that a Special Meeting of the Public Safety Commission be held at 7:20 p.m. on Wednesday, September 22, 2010 to discuss this topic and compose a letter. He stated that he would speak to Arnett Talbot of the Town Manager’s Office to post the special meeting and reserve a room at Town Hall.

Mr. Marchitello suggested that the photos that Ms. Rusnack shared this evening of actual crosswalks be available for the special meeting. Chairman Larson stated that he would like to have a letter drafted requesting that the crosswalk painting be done before the first frost. Ms. Rusnack suggested that the special meeting agenda be limited to formulating a recommendation letter for the crosswalk painting.

E) General Discussion

Councilman Falvey informed the Commission that he received an e-mail from Consolidated Industries, located on Mixville Road, regarding the intersection of Mixville Road and Marion Road. This is a 3-way intersection with only 1 stop sign in addition to a private driveway for Consolidated Industries. Lieutenant Markella drew a picture of the area in question for the Commissioners to review. Councilman Falvey stated that Consolidated Industries is asking that a stop sign be installed in each direction of that intersection.

Lieutenant Markella stated that he did take a look at the accident history for that intersection, noting that over the last 5 years there has not been an accident, but that does not mean there haven’t been near misses of accidents.

Councilman Falvey commented that there may not have been a lot of accidents but similar to the intersection of Marion Road and Hutchins Road, there are safety concerns with site lines and visibility and a stop sign was added there, is that showing a precedent?

It was noted that some drivers leaving Consolidated Industries are guilty of not stopping as they exit the private driveway, into the roadway, and perhaps a stop sign on their gate reminding the drivers to stop as they leave Consolidated Industries is a good idea, too.

Lieutenant Markella stated that traffic counts can be done to further evaluate the intersection. Mr. Marchitello asked what type of timeline there was for a decision about installing additional stop sign(s) or a resolution to the situation? Councilman Falvey stated that he shared the information quickly when he received it from Consolidated Industries; it is now up to the Police Department to evaluate.

Ms. Rusnack suggested that the agenda item “Open Issues” under Unfinished Business be added to future agendas to track items like this.

Lieutenant Markella commented that it could be between 1 and 6 months before members of the Police Department can gather the information and make a recommendation regarding additional stop signs. If during their investigation they
see a lot of near misses, that’s reality, and then something could be done. Mr. Harris pointed out that it could be a time of day sensitive problem due to when shift employees are released from Consolidated Industries. Commissioners talked about conducting their own study of this intersection and asked who the findings should be presented to? Lieutenant Markella replied that a formal letter to the Chief of Police should be issued, while copying Councilman Falvey and Town Manager Milone. After this, a response from the Chief of Police would be next with a recommendation or resolution.

Lieutenant Markella commented that in the September Senior Center Newsletter they have asked to see who’s interested in the Citizen Police Academy and have received 15 – 20 sign ups, so far. A separate Citizen Police Academy will likely be held at Elim Park for its residents.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by John Harris to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.; SECONDED by Dan Marchitello.

VOTE: In Favor – Harris, Larson and Marchitello

Opposed – None

The motion passed 3 - 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary