Commissioners Present:
Chairman Steve Larson, Nancy Blomstrom, John Harris and Lori Rusnack

Commissioners Absent:
Dan Marchitello

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

Others Present:
Andy Falvey, Town Council Liaison (arrived at 7:35 p.m. and departed at 8:10 p.m.)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Larson called the meeting to order at 7:20 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 – July 14 2010 Regular Meeting

MOTION by Lori Rusnack to accept the minutes of the July 14, 2010 regular meeting as submitted; SECONDED by Nancy Blomstrom.

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

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

Chairman Larson distributed the August 3rd, 2010 edition of Status Report to Commissioners to review.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) Site Line Survey Update

Mr. Harris stated that he forgot to bring 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 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 will address the overgrown foliage at the intersection of South Meriden Road at Diamond Hill Road, which Mr. Marchitello brought up last month.

Mr. Harris noted that the blocked turning signage at the East Johnson Avenue and Route 10 intersection is a problem when you are driving west on East Johnson Avenue.

B) Safety Sign Update

Lieutenant Markella stated that the Public Safety Signs had been changed on July 31st. He also informed the Commission that the cost for the new texting message sign is for $110.

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

With regards to having a Boy Scout troop change the Public Safety Signs in Town, Chief Cruess has said that there is no money in the budget for this service, at this time. It was also noted that the Traffic Division has limited staffing right now.

C) Sidewalk Survey Update

Lieutenant Markella commented that Chief Cruess is onboard with the idea to paint the roadways at the Linear Trail crossings. He has stated that yellow paint should be used because the red paint will not stand out. Lieutenant Markella noted that the crossing painting will come out of the Police Department’s line painting budget. Chairman Larson suggested that this project could be a good civic project for an organization in Town. He did express concern for whoever was painting the crossings, as the road way would need to be shut down for a little while.
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. Blomstrom stated that there was an area on Country Club Road that she was going to suggested needed to be trimmed back, but when she went by again today, it had already been done. It was noted that if an overgrown area is in front of private property, it is the property owner’s responsibility but complaints can be sent to the Police Department so that it can be brought to a property owner’s attention. Lieutenant Markella noted that the responsibility to keep sidewalks accessible and not overgrown is part of the snow removal ordinance.

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 asked Lieutenant Markella to see if he could find out 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 on Peck Lane, Jarvis Street, Willow Street, Spring Street and on Highland Avenue in front of the Police Department over the past month.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A) Treasurer’s Report

Lieutenant Markella noted that after the recording secretary and Staff liaison figures are removed from the Public Safety Commission’s budget there is a little over $950 available for this Fiscal year.

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. Lieutenant Markella stated that there was a couple of extra pedestrian crossing signs in storage and some have been repaired.

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

The Commission reviewed the July 2010 Police and Fire Department monthly reports. Lieutenant Markella noted that burglaries and larcenies are up, which is a sign of the difficult economic times.
C) Miscellaneous Unfinished Business

Chairman Larson stated that a representative from Cheshire Academy will be contacting the Police Department about holding a R.A.D. class at their school.

Lieutenant Markella stated that Chief Cruess informed him that the “Public Safety Commission should run with the idea” for distributing bright colored hats to elementary students in June as a bicycle safety project. Chairman Larson stated that he would like to talk more about this project next month.

D) Projects for the Future

Councilman Falvey informed the Commission that at Monday’s Town Council Ordinance Review Committee meeting there was some discussion of combining the Prison Advisory Committee into the Public Safety Commission. He stated that the Prison Advisory Committee only meets quarterly and have had some problems getting a quorum together when they are supposed to meet. Councilman Falvey noted that this is just a discussion right now and no action has been taken yet. He stated 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.

The 2010 Fall Festival is scheduled for 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 asked if anything else is needed for the Festival? A few of the newer Commissioners have asked to get a Public Safety Commission polo shirt; Lieutenant Markella commented that he still had a shirt that was leftover from last year but there was enough time to place an order before the Fall Festival for the additional shirts that are needed.

MOTION by Lori Rusnack that the Public Safety Commission purchase polo shirts with “Public Safety Commission” on them for the new members of the Commission.
SECONDED by Stephen Larson.

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

The motion passed 4 - 0.
E) General Discussion

Lieutenant Markella stated that a local business has made a $2,500 donation to the Police Department so that the R.A.D. classes can continue to be offered in Town.

Lieutenant Markella commented that in the September Senior Center Newsletter they will be asking to see who’s interested in the Citizen Police Academy; 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 8:21 p.m.; SECONDED by Lori Rusnack.

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

The motion passed 4 - 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary