

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **BEVERLY RESIDENT ARRESTED AFTER TRYING TO STEAL LINE PAINTING TRUCK**

On Friday Morning, June 25<sup>th</sup>, at approximately 2:00 a.m., Beverly resident Edward Belanger of 68 Dane Street, tried to steal a city owed line-painting truck, while the truck was being used to paint city streets. Sgt. Joseph Shairs was working a private detail early Friday morning with the City of Beverly DPW department in the downtown area (Cabot Street near Pond Street) with Public works employee James Tognazzi and two painting contractors. While standing outside his cruiser with his blue emergency lights activated, Sgt. Shairs was directing traffic around the work area. The truck was parked on Cabot Street while Tognazzi and the crew were speaking with Sgt. Shairs. Suddenly Sgt. Shairs and Tognazzi noticed the truck moving south on Cabot. Tognazzi exclaimed "Someone just drove off in my truck". Sgt. Shairs pursued the truck south on Cabot Street, his blue emergency lights and siren activated, and followed it as it turned left onto Thorndike Street finally stopping near Brown Street. The operator, Belanger, tried to blame someone else for driving however he was the only person in the vehicle. Officers observed Belanger's eyes to be glassy and bloodshot and his speech was quite slurred. A strong odor of an alcoholic beverage was also coming from Belanger's person. Belanger was removed from the vehicle and transported to the police station where he submitted to a Breathalyzer test. The test revealed Belanger to be intoxicated, over three times the legal limit. It was also revealed that Belanger's license was suspended and there was an active warrant for his arrest. Belanger was charged with the following;

Operating Under the Influence (Liquor) – 4<sup>th</sup> Offense

Operating After Suspension of License

Use of Motor Vehicle Without Authority

Warrant out of Lawrence District Court