

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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PRESS CONFERENCE: East Lyme Town Hall 11/13/18, 1:00PM

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EAST LYME, CONNECTICUT — Mark C. Nickerson, First Selectman of the Town of East Lyme is finalizing a deal to purchase the Honeywell property at 277 West Main Street (Route 156) for the purposes of establishing a Public Safety Building. The transaction is subject to the approval of several boards and commission and an eventual town-wide referendum. The agreement stipulates that the approval process will be complete within 120 days.

Currently the East Lyme Police Department, newly reorganized as an independent police force in July 2016, is housed in a temporary facility on Main Street. The building is owned by Dominion Energy and was leased by the town 13 years ago until the town could develop a more permanent solution. During the past 14 years, two prior attempts to create a public safety complex failed to gain support. In 2004, a \$6.5 million proposal to partner with state and federal organizations to build a multi-purpose facility on the grounds of Camp Niantic did not receive approval from the town's Board of Finance. Four years later, a \$14 million complex was rejected by voters at referendum.

The new project will utilize the existing 30,000 square foot office/warehouse building. The purchase price for the facility is \$2.775 million. Nickerson has received preliminary estimates of up to \$3.2 million to update and renovate the building to current public safety building standards. The building would encompass the entire police operation (including jails and evidence lockers that are currently rented from Waterford PD), 911 dispatch center, Fire Marshall's office, and the Emergency Operations Center. The departments will also gain a shared training center and secure storage for records, evidence, weapons and equipment. "The synergy of having all our public safety departments under the same roof will be a real advantage. This building will serve our town for 50 years or more. It has an ideal layout and features that we need in a public safety facility and the proposal is a significant cost savings to our town. The total cost of \$6 million is about half the cost of police stations in some other local municipalities.", Nickerson said.

Additionally he said: "We needed to find a permanent solution for our police force and a more professional environment for our other public safety services. This building solves all these issues. The building will give us the ability to meet the standards of modern day policing and give us room to grow. This is a problem that has lingered far too long. Our public safety personnel deserve better from our town. This is the last missing piece in our community".

"This proposed facility delivers the needs of our town, anticipates future growth, and does it at a significantly lower price than going out and building this building from the ground up. I am extremely proud of this plan."

Mark C. Nickerson  
First Selectman  
Town of East Lyme, CT