

TOWN OF EAST LYME
POLICE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 10, 2019
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Price, Giancarlo D'Angelo, Joseph Perkins and Tony Buglione
EXCUSED: Mark Nickerson, Mark Powers and Lisa Pellegrini
ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Police Chief Mike Finkelstein and Administrative Sergeant Mike Macek

Mr. Price called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Delegations

Ms. Lisa Ackerman, 13 Fairhaven Road, spoke on Item #5a and stated that there are commercial vehicles often parked on the side of the road, and she feels that an accident is likely.

Mr. Ron Jarvis 13 Fairhaven Road also spoke on this matter and stated that and other neighbors, with the property owner's permission, keep that portion of the property maintained. He would like for the Police Department to enforce the no trespassing signs and stop the vehicles from parking there.

Mr. Brett Miller, 9 Fairhaven Road, stated that regarding the vehicles parking on Fairhaven Road, this is a bad spot as it is very narrow when you come over the hill and the vehicles being parked there makes it dangerous. He also stated that in the summertime when people fish off of the bridge, the cars parked along the road make it dangerous for pedestrians walking, children playing and pets, as well. He also stated that he feels that the parking of vehicles on this road is causing increased erosion.

4. Approval of Minutes

MOTION (1)

Motion by Mr. Perkins to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of August 8, 2019, as submitted.

Seconded by Mr. Buglione. Motion passed 4-0.

5a. Fairhaven Road – No Parking Signs

DISCUSSION: Chief Finkelstein stated that he agrees that no parking signs are appropriate on this road, especially in the area of the bridge. Regarding the heavy equipment area, the no parking signs only apply if the vehicles are parked in the road. It will be determined if the property owner has proper no trespassing signs in place. If not, they will direct the Public Works Director to contact the property owner to see if she is amenable to installing them. If so, he will evaluate the placement of the current signs and work with the property owner to move them if appropriate. They also discussed the possibility of installing a barrier, such as large boulders.

MOTION (2)

Mr. D'Angelo MOVED to direct the Public Works Director to install "no parking" signs on Fairhaven Road, where appropriate, and also to direct the Public Works Director to meet with the property owner of Map 10.4 lot 48 to discuss placement of "no trespassing" and also the possibility of installing barriers.

Seconded by Mr. Perkins. Motion passed 4-0

5b. Revenues

DISCUSSION: Chief Finkelstein reported that from July 1st through the end of September, they have earned \$150,000 from road construction jobs; ~\$50,000 in administrative fees alone. The admin who does all of the paperwork for the jobs received \$2/hour for her time spent on the paperwork; they would like to see at least

FILED

Oct 21 2019 AT 3:20 AM/PM
(Carmy Malm)
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Police Commission Minutes
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that money go back into a Capital Purchase for the police department instead of going into the general fund. As a whole, they are requesting that fees from things such as private duty pay, door-to-door vendor permits, pistol permits, and golf registrations are some of the items that they would like to see ultimately put back into a capital fund that they can pull from for equipment, such as radios, instead of requesting an appropriation through Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance. It was noted that the Parks and Recreation Department recently has become a self-funded department, and it is working out well. Mr. D'Angelo inquired if we should start charging for fingerprinting, and the Chief stated that he would not be opposed to that but that he would like to survey other towns and what they are charging for fees before a rate is set. Chief reported that the Director of Public Works has seen a large increase in fuel costs due to all of the road jobs that the police have been working on, and that they feel that they could also give back to the Public Works department for this cost if they were operating under a Capital Purchase Fund account.

MOTION (3)

Mr. Perkins MOVED to submit to the Board or Selectman or the Board of Finance, whichever Board is appropriate in this matter, a list of potential revenues that the Police Department could put back into a Police Department Capital Purchase Fund account.

Seconded by Mr. Buglione. Motion passed 4-0.

6a. Oak Grove

Ms. Elizabeth Warena, 38 Shore Road, spoke on behalf of the Oak Grove Beach Association and stated that the area in question is traveled heavily by pedestrians and it is a blind hill and dangerous as cars are regularly driving too fast. They are requesting a stop sign in that area. Chief stated that he would like to table this item to the next meeting and meet with the Public Works Director for more information.

7. Chief's Report

Chief Finkelstein summarized the monthly report for September 2019, which includes August statistics, and is attached hereto as Exhibit 1. Regarding the Tips411 application, Sgt. Macek reported that it is up for a two-year renewal, and they do not suggest that we renew. In two years, there have only been two solid tips received; all of the rest were simply complaints about various things. Most of their valid tips come through on Facebook, which is a free service and is yielding very good and valid tips. The renewal cost for the Tips411 app is \$6,000 for two years, and it was reported that the initial two-year subscription was paid for out of the Asset Forfeiture account. The Commission agreed that the Tips411 app would not be renewed for another two years.

Chief stated that K-9 Knox's retirement is coming up at the end of the month, and he highly recommends that the Commission support a future K-9 program in town. Mr. D'Angelo inquired as to utilizing a program where free dogs are available for this purpose. Chief responded that there are opportunities here and there, but that he would rather focus on fundraising and donations to raise the money needed. The vehicles are the largest expense, and we already have the vehicles ready and waiting. Training can be scheduled either with the State Police or with Waterford who has two Master Trainers on staff; that will be determined later in the process. It was noted that the future K-9 program will be offered to all Officers and not just the two that have been handlers up to this point. Chairman Price stated that the Town has historically had two K-9's on staff, and he feels as though we should continue that going forward, and the Commission members agreed.

MOTION (4)

Mr. Price MOVED to direct the Chief of Police to look into the cost of purchasing and training two K-9 officers to replace the two that the Town has recently lost.

Seconded by Mr. D'Angelo. Motion passed 4-0.

The Chief commended his officers for a keeping everyone safe and bringing a recent tense situation to a peaceful end. Mr. Buglione asked if they had all of the resources that they needed to resolve that issue, and Chief responded that the only thing they were short on was manpower. Regarding the budget, Dispatch is currently at 54% expended in the overtime budget due primarily to the fact that they are having a hard time maintaining a part time dispatcher list. With two scheduled full-time absences coming up in the near future, he is certain that they will be going over budget. Regarding new vehicles, he confirmed that MHQ has everything that they need from us to move forward with outfitting the vehicles and that we are in queue, but the State re-prioritizes the list often and we have yet to have our vehicles completed. He stated that going to a private vendor will be slightly higher but that increase will be offset by the amount of time that we have had to wait for our vehicles to be outfitted and delivered. Construction at Exit 74 has been a challenge, and he reported that they are meeting on Friday to discuss issues and solutions. He reported that the closure at Route 1 and Lovers Lane which was scheduled for October 23rd has been delayed, and the DOT has not yet given a new date for the closure. Chief reported that Lt. Joe San Juan put in his notice and will be retiring around November 1st; he thanked Lt. San Juan for his many years of service to the Police Department and the residents of East Lyme. We all wish him well.

8. Chairman's Report

Mr. Price stated that on next month's agenda they will review the current meeting schedule and make some adjustments if necessary, but that he wanted the members to think about that for discussion. He reported that the issuance of parking tickets has been well received by the public and that it is helping the parking issues.

9. Subcommittee Reports

There were none.

10. Public Comment

There was none.

11. Commission Response

There was none.

13. Adjournment

MOTION (5)

Mr. Perkins MOVED to adjourn the October 10, 2019, regular meeting of the Police Commission at 7:17 p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Buglione. Motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Anderson
Recording Secretary

EAST LYME POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief's Monthly Report –September 2019



CONTENTS

Section 1 : Noteworthy incidents/information

Section 2 : Staffing

Section 3 : Administrative

Section 4 : Statistical Activity Summary

Section 1: Noteworthy Incidents/Information

- Letter of thanks Putnam Police Department
- Call of thanks for the service provided by Officer Favalora
- Letter of thanks for assistance with CT Maritime Heritage Festival
- Vehicle order in process
- 74 ramp detours – One completed one upcoming
- RT 1 @ Lovers Lane and Niantic River Bridge in progress

Section 2: Staffing

Sgt Joseph San Juan retires November 1st. Thank you, Sgt San Juan for your dedicated service to the Town of East Lyme

Section 3: Administrative

Accident Analysis

- 20 Accidents
- 8 Flanders Rd
- 4 Boston Post Rd
- 10 Main/West Main

East Lyme Dispatch Center

- 1,616 phone call volume for the month, which does not include Police phone line.
- Busiest hours –2pm (124), 12pm (119), 3pm (111)

Animal Control Division Activity

- 22 Animal Incident Calls in East Lyme

Budgetary

Asset Forfeiture Balance - \$13,545

Use of force

- No use of force

Emergency Committals

- 1 Emergency Committals
- 3 overdoses
- 1 Narcan use

East Lyme Police Department Monthly Report

Special Response Areas

- 13 Calls for service at Rocky Neck Park
- 26 Calls for service at hotels (239 YTD)

Fingerprinting

- 34 Residents (242 YTD)

Section 4: Statistical Activity

Summary

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE- ELPD Dispatch

Calls for Service	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
2019	1284	1171	1224	1222	1450	1623	1751	1785	1525				13,035

Note: Includes miscellaneous calls that may not be listed under the call analysis section

CALLS FOR SERVICE—DETAILED

Calls for Service - Type	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
911 Abandon/Hang Up	39	37	45	42	42	71	128	105	66				575
Alarms	61	67	44	56	67	60	61	72	56				544
Animal Incident	20	14	21	15	14	26	27	22	20				179
Assist Citizen	54	51	56	42	37	51	74	64	48				477
Assist Other Agency	20	17	27	24	27	23	32	22	18				200
Complaint	18	25	20	32	13	12	18	17	11				166
Disabled MV	9	13	10	12	10	15	25	14	10				118
Disturbance	17	6	9	6	12	18	13	7	15				103
Domestic Dispute	10	4	5	5	4	3	3	1	3				38
Erratic Operation	7	7	9	11	13	17	14	16	9				103
ETOH Person	1	4	2	3	5	2	7	4	7				35
Fireworks Comp	0	0	0	0	1	2	8	7	0				18
Fraud/Ident Theft	5	5	2	3	3	1	1	2	2				24
Larceny	17	12	7	12	8	10	15	14	16				111
Lockouts	9	5	7	13	12	13	16	6	10				91
MV Accidents	11	16	16	16	17	24	39	30	20				189
MV Stops	142	143	147	133	241	326	151	239	108				1630
Parking Complaints	3	6	10	6	7	12	16	15	11				77
Patrol/Bank /Building Checks	110	87	64	79	101	126	249	276	221				1303
Pistol Permit Apps	13	2	15	14	8	5	3	2	1				63

East Lyme Police Department Monthly Report

Psych/Suicidal calls	3	2	1	1	4	1	5	4	2					23
Suspicious Pers/Veh/Incident	37	30	26	30	30	26	19	24	32					254
Threatening	0	4	2	2	4	2	1	1	3					19
Trespassing	0	0	1	2	3	2	6	3	0					17
Untimely Death	1	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	1					15
Well Being Check	17	15	16	23	21	16	13	12	23					156
Vandalism	3	1	2	1	1	4	3	3	6					24

Selected areas of CFS only

MOTOR VEHICLE ACTIVITY

MV Accidents	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
2019	11	16	16	16	17	24	39	30	20				189

MV Stops	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
2019	142	143	147	133	241	326	151	239	108				1630

Criminal Arrests by Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
All other offenses	6	6	3	3	3	4	8	3	7				43
Assault	3	3	2	2	3	4	3		2				22
Robbery				1									1
Narcotics	4	4	3	1		1	1	2					16
Larceny		1	3	2			3	3	4				16
Weapon		1											1
Prostitution													
DUI	1		4	2	8	6	7	6	4				38
Burglary	1				1	2							4
Vandalism			1			1							2
Totals 2019	15	15	16	12	15	18	22	14	17				118
Totals 2018	15	22	18	18	28	19	12	26	14	14	12	23	221



PUTNAM POLICE DEPARTMENT
189 Church Street
Putnam, Connecticut 06260



CHRISTOPHER D. FERACE
Chief of Police
Christopher.Ferace@putnampolice.com



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putnampolice.com

September 12, 2019

Chief Michael Finkelstein
East Lyme Police Department
278 Main Street
Niantic CT 06357

Dear Chief Finkelstein:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for the assistance provided by Officer Paul Holmes who provided traffic control and your cooperation for the Mutual Aid on Sunday, August 18, 2019 for our Annual Car Cruise. I am proud to say that the day was a complete success and more than 2,500 vintage cars and many, many more citizens enjoyed the day without incident.

We could not have had the success without the cooperation of you and your department. Again, please acknowledge to Officer Holmes my gratitude for all his hard work in Putnam. "Thank You" is not a big enough word for your contribution to our department.

Sincerely,

Christopher Ferace

CF:cp

Email Report Printed: 09/20/2019 @ 1223

Sent : 07/19/2019 @ 2207 By: Dispatcher JASON A FINNIGAN
Subject: OFFICER FAVALORA 19-9071

Around 1700 hrs. tonight Officer Favalora was in route to a residential burglar alarm when he found a woman on the side of the road with her car stopped in a hazardous location on Boston post road. (19-9071) Officer Favalora stopped to assist the female when he found that her vehicle appeared to have over heated and that the women had been having difficulty reaching AAA for assistance. Officer Favalora followed the normal procedures of Contacting East Lyme Communications and reporting what he found. Officer Favalora requested a AAA wrecker for Ms. Fink and remained on scene, at this point the call seemed like a normal call for a disabled. At 2040 hrs. I received a call from a woman who reported that she was the woman that Officer Favalora was out with. She was extremely appreciative of not only the assistance Ofc. Favalora that he sat with her for 45 minutes waiting for the wrecker but that his interaction and concern also made her feel more at ease with the difficult situation that the events of the evening.

Miss Fink wanted this to be conveyed to Officer Favalora's supervisors and to express how grateful she is and how proud we all should be of the professionalism of our department.

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CAPT Todd D. Moore, USN
CO, New London Submarine Base
Honorary Chair

September 28, 2019

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Chief Michael Finkelstein
East Lyme Police Department
278 Main Street
Niantic, CT 06357

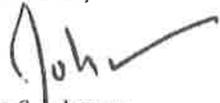
Dear Chief Finkelstein:

On behalf of the Board of OPSAIL CONNECTICUT and the Connecticut Maritime Heritage Festival, we would like to thank you and your department in assisting with our festival on the waterfront this year in New London. We realize a lot of work goes into coordinating safety on our waterways and surrounding areas. We greatly appreciate the safe and secure environment provided for our many visitors and the local community.

We put together a very respectable maritime event with visitors and the community at large having the opportunity to avail themselves of the many educational and maritime exhibits, along with ship visitations, and our newly developed Kid's Zone which included not only games, but the chance for youngsters to meet a Coast Guard author, and take part in a "Reel Time with Kids" event that involved the sailors from the ships.

Again, many thanks to your department.

All the best,


John S. Johnson
Chairman, OpSail CT
Cc: CAPT Scot Graham, USCG (Ret.)

Kevin J. Cavanagh
Vice-Chairman