

TOWN OF EAST LYME
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

MINUTES

This meeting was held via Zoom online meeting services and was available for the public to view, listen and participate via videoconference and dial-in options.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mark Powers, Joseph Perkins, Tony Buglione, Giancarlo D'Angelo and Stephen Rebelowski. Dan Price arrived at 6:35 p.m.

EXCUSED: Lisa Pellegrini

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: First Selectman Mark Nickerson, Police Chief Mike Finkelstein, Administrative Sgt. Mike Macek and Public Works Director Joe Bragaw

Deputy Chairman D'Angelo called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

FILED

2. Delegations
There were none.

Sept 15, 2020 AT 2:05 AM/PM
Brooke Horan ATC
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

3. Approval of Minutes
MOTION (1)

Motion by Mr. Powers to approve the Special Meeting minutes of July 23, 2020, and the Special Meeting minutes of July 30, 2020, as submitted.

Seconded by Mr. Buglione. Motion passed 5-0.

4a. Dean Road at West Society Road

MOTION (2)

DISCUSSION: Mr. Bragaw reported that he evaluated the area and he recommends that the Town install additional stop signs to make this intersection a four-way stop. He stated that they put up the digital signs to query the traffic, and it was determined that the average speed for that area is 40 mph, well above the posted speed limit of 25 mph. He recommends that they make that intersection a four-way stop, add approach stop signs, install large temporary signs 300' or 400' back indicating "new stop signs ahead", and advertise on the webpage and social media pages. Mr. D'Angelo expressed a concern with traffic backing up and adding to the sightline issues, and Mr. Bragaw stated that the combination of the approach stop signs along with the large temporary signs should be sufficient to alert drivers of a change in traffic pattern. Mr. Perkins asked if installing traffic lights is an option, and Mr. Bragaw stated that although it is an option, he believes that installing stop signs for a four-way stop will solve the problem sufficiently. Mr. Perkins stated that he supports installing traffic lights.

Motion by Mr. Powers to accept the Public Works Director's recommendation to make the intersection of Dean Road at West Society Road a four-way stop, and to direct him to install the stop signs as well as any other signage or advertising that he deems necessary.

Seconded by Mr. Rebelowski. IN FAVOR; D'Angelo, Powers, Buglione and Rebelowski. OPPOSED; Perkins. Motion passed 4-1-0.

4b. Smith Street at Grand Street

MOTION (3)

DISCUSSION: Chief Finkelstein read an email into record from a resident, Ms. Donna Rossi, 30 Smith Avenue, who was unable to attend tonight's meeting; her email is attached hereto as Exhibit 1. He stated that he believes that her original concern was to have a four way stop at the intersection of Grand and Smith, but through his observations he has noticed that the speeding in that area is troublesome and he believes that we should be reviewing options to reduce speed in that area. Mr. Bragaw reminded the Commission that stop signs should be used for speed control and there are other traffic calming options to consider, such as reducing the width of the street by adding parking lanes; he noted that pavement markings have proven to be very effective.

Mr. Price joined the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Mr. D'Angelo MOVED to direct the Public Works Director to look into traffic calming measures for this area and pricing for such options, and report back at a future meeting.

Seconded by Mr. Perkins. IN FAVOR; D'Angelo, Powers, Buglione, Rebelowski and Perkins.
ABSTAINED; Price. Motion passed 5-0-1.

Mr. Powers inquired as to possible signage for Quarry Dock Road alerting trucks that there is no turnaround at the end of the road. It was decided to place this item on next month's agenda for discussion and possible action.

4c. Body Cameras

DISCUSSION: Chief Finkelstein reported that according to the new Police Accountability law, both body and in-vehicle cameras will be mandatory by July 2022. He is gathering updated quotes, and he requested that the Commission work on the policy. He estimates that the complete cost for the equipment, not including annual fees, is \$125,000, which the Board of Finance at their meeting suggested that the Town might use some of the FEMA money for this purchase. Chief Finkelstein stated that the sooner we purchase the equipment the better chance we will have at getting reimbursed from the State for the cost. He stated that he will put together a proposal and present it at the next meeting.

5. Chief's Report

Chief Finkelstein gave his report, which is attached hereto as Exhibit 2. He reported that there has been an uptick in crime not only in our area but statewide, especially in vehicle thefts. Calls to the hotels and for overdoses continue to be a drain on manpower as they continue to focus on the high crime areas in town. Chief Finkelstein thanked our officers for their continued dedication and hard work as they continue to do a great job despite being thinly staffed. He reported that two new officers are on staff and training, and one additional officer will be starting on Monday the 14th. The Chief reported that this year may have been the busiest year yet for boating, with 156 boater stops reported in July and August. He noted that this is just East Lyme's numbers, and does not take into consideration the number of stops that Waterford initiated.

Chief Finkelstein stated that our Animal Control Officer had an accident and will be out of work for several weeks, but that our assistant ACO is available and will be covering for him and the public should not notice any interruption in service. He reported that issues with Rocky Neck State Park slowed down as the summer progressed, primarily due to the good communication we had with the State early in the season.

6. Chairman's Report

Chairman Price stated that regarding body cameras, he feels as though we should move toward procuring these sooner than later; not only will we be required to have body cameras in place to be accredited, we will also need to be in a proper facility, so we need to keep moving forward and make sure that we get all of this done. Chief Finkelstein made it clear that our Police Department will not be able to achieve accreditation in the current building. The Honeywell building, as it is currently proposed with the sally port and cells, will allow for accreditation. It was discussed that the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee will be the appropriate committee to work on the accreditation checklist.

7. Public Comment

There was none.

8. Commission Response

There was none.

9. Executive Session

MOTION (4)

Mr. Buglione MOVED to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matter. Seconded by Mr. D'Angelo. Motion passed 6-0.

The Commission entered into executive session at 7:17 p.m. and included Chief Mike Finkelstein and First Selectman Mark Nickerson. They returned at 8:00 p.m. and Mr. Price stated that no formal votes were taken.

10. Adjournment

MOTION (5)

Mr. D'Angelo MOVED to adjourn the September 10, 2020, regular meeting of the Police Commission at 8:02 p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Buglione. Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Anderson
Recording Secretary

Donna Rossi
30 Smith Avenue
Niantic

From: "rossi.donna@gmail.com" <rossi.donna@gmail.com>
Date: September 10, 2020 at 4:44:15 PM EDT
To: Michael Finkelstein <mfinkelstein@eastlymepolice.org>
Subject: Re: Speeding

Wish I could attend but I have a school meeting. Thanks for reading in my place.

My concerns as a smith ave resident are the following:

- increased traffic flow on smith ave
- increased pedestrian traffic (perhaps from boardwalk?)
- businesses on the street which attract people and cars-JB tackle, dad's, niantic dock, and the dock on grand street
- seems as if people are utilizing smith ave as a short cut to bypass lights and traffic, from all directions
- often indecision and lack of clarity from drivers at the 2-way stop
- from my vantage point there is high speed traffic going past my house
- more cars and boats with trailers are parked on street which make it more dangerous for pedestrians and drivers. (Grand and smith ave)
- drivers often run the smith ave/smith street stop sign and accumulate speed from smith street down smith ave to 161 (Main Street)
- more children are visible in the area and it would be a safety measure to assist busses and safe walking and playing and biking

I hope you consider these observations and investigate an alternate way to handle the grand/smith ave intersection to Improve safety for our residents.

Thanks for listening and apologies for not being able to attend!

EAST LYME POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief's Monthly Report – August 2020



CONTENTS

Section 1 : Noteworthy incidents/information

Section 2 : Community Outreach and Correspondence

Section 3 : Administrative

Section 4 : Statistical Activity Summary

Section 1: Noteworthy Incidents/Information

- Significant focus on higher crime areas
- Extremely busy boating season
- Work with EL Public Schools on back to school plans

Section 2: Staffing

Officers VanOverloop and Turcotte are hired and working

Section 3: Administrative

Accident Analysis

- 9 Accidents
- 1 Crashes Boston Post Rd
- 0 Crashes on Flanders Rd
- 3 Crashes on Main St/W. Main St

East Lyme Dispatch Center

- 1,299 phone call volume for the month, which does not include Police phone line.
- Busiest hours –12 pm (90), 4pm (89), 2pm (86)

Animal Control Division Activity

- 23 Animal Incident Calls in East Lyme

Budgetary

Emergency Committals

- 1 Emergency Committals
- 5 overdoses
- 3 Narcan use

Special Response Areas

- 10 Calls for service at Rocky Neck Park (19 YTD)
- 45 Calls for service at hotels (292 YTD)

Fingerprinting

- 32 Residents (121 YTD)

Marine Patrol

- July & August – 156 Boating stops/incidents

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
2020	1417	1286	1255	1216	1545	1630	1926	1885					12,160

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	46	51	49	49	82	114	131	132					654
Alarms	68	51	50	32	49	44	54	79					427
Animal Incident	14	10	21	16	24	37	22	23					167
Assist Citizen	38	41	42	51	39	57	70	66					404
Assist Other Agency	23	18	19	12	15	23	23	15					148
Complaint	13	5	10	16	24	22	40	25					145
Disabled MV	13	9	3	4	10	6	9	10					64
Disturbance	13	10	7	20	13	23	21	12					109
Domestic Dispute	2	1	2	6	6	4	6	2					29
Erratic Operation	10	12	4	5	13	10	16	16					86
ETOH Person	4	3	2	0	4	1	4	3					21
Fireworks Comp	0	0	0	1	4	6	15	1					27
Fraud/Ident Theft	2	0	0	2	0	3	2	3					12
Larceny	16	7	18	10	9	12	14	9					95
Lockouts	8	9	6	9	8	13	15	9					77
MV Accidents	21	19	13	8	15	18	9	28					122
MV Stops	112	70	39	15	45	28	66	26					401
Parking Complaints	8	3	2	4	3	11	19	5					55
Patrol/Bank /Building Checks	315	299	354	428	500	416	527	432					3271
Pistol Permit Apps	5	3	10	8	2	30	31	32					121
Psych/Suicidal calls	5	2	3	2	4	3	3	3					25
Suspicious Pers/Veh/Incident	30	20	24	26	23	16	31	25					195
Threatening	3	1	2	3	0	0	3	0					12
Trespassing	1	3	2	4	3	10	5	8					36
Untimely Death	1	3	3	3	3	5	2	2					22

