

Oct 21 20 20 AT 9:30 AM/PM
 [Signature]

EAST LYME BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
 REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 8, 2020
 MINUTES

EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

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.

PRESENT: Daniel Price, Giancarlo D'Angelo, Mark Powers, Joseph Perkins and Stephen Rebelowski. Tony Buglione joined the meeting late.

EXCUSED: Lisa Pellegrini

ALSO PRESENT: First Selectman Mark Nickerson, Chief of Police Michael Finkelstein and Lieutenant Michael Macek

Chairman Price called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. Delegations

Mr. Neil Passman, 2 North Pine Street, Niantic, explained that he is requesting signs be installed somewhere on Oswegatchie Hills Road or Quarry Dock Road to prevent large trucks from traveling past the area of the marina and into Saunders Point. There have been numerous occasions where an 18-wheeler has ventured down into the Saunders Point area and it is very difficult to navigate them out; and he noted that the East Lyme Police Department had to come down to assist the last time it happened. He feels that signage closer to the main road and before the marina would be helpful.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION (1)

Mr. Rebelowski MOVED to approve the Regular Meeting Meetings of September 10, 2020, as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Powers. IN FAVOR; D'Angelo, Powers, Perkins and Rebelowski. ABSTAINED; Price. Motion passed 4-0-1.

4a. Old Business – Body Cameras

Chief Finkelstein reported that they have met with three vendors to consider the purchase of body cameras: Panasonic, which is our vendor for the current in car camera system that we have; Watch Guard, which is currently being used by Ledyard, Waterford and Norwich; and Axon, which is currently being used in New London and Town of Groton and soon to be launched in Groton City and Stonington. The Chief stated that they are all good products and all have their pros and cons. Although their current system, Panasonic, is a good system, he does not feel that it is as user friendly as the other two options. With the Watch Guard system at ~\$150,000 (not including redaction software), the Chief stated that he has a minor concern with the recording function on this system, but overall, he feels this is a good choice and less expensive than the last option, Axon. Chief stated that their top choice would be the Axon system, although more expensive he feels that this system will serve the department well. The Axon system goes for ~\$300,000 but includes the redaction software, automatic refresh of the software, and automatic camera upgrade replacements. This is a cloud-based server with in-house storage and security covered by Axon. Chief stated that Axon also offers many add-ons that can be explored, should we be interested, such as automatic start of the recording by opening the car door, pulling your weapon out of its holster, turning on lights, etc. These add-ons come as an additional cost, but are available with the Axon system.

He stated that the recently passed Police Accountability Act puts a deadline of July 2022 for having the in-car and body camera system in place. Currently there is a grant available that will reimburse the cost of

purchase up to 50%, but he expects that this will drop to 30% soon and there is no guarantee how long a reimbursement will be offered. Chief noted that the reimbursement will cover the cost of body cameras only and not the in-car cameras.

Mr. D'Angelo inquired if there is a payment plan available; and Chief Finkelstein stated that yes there is a payment plan available, but that we may not qualify for the reimbursement because the way it works is the municipality purchases the equipment outright and is then reimbursed.

Chief Finkelstein stated that he will continue to work with Axon on the pricing for this system, and Mr. Price stated that he would call a special meeting if needed should the information be ready to present before our next regular meeting.

5a. New Business – Signage on Quarry Dock/Oswegatchie Hills Road

Chief Finkelstein stated that this matter is not to be confused with the recent parking issues on Quarry Dock Road; he stated that since installing the signs as directed by the Police Commission, there have been no more complaints in that area. This request for signage involves large trucks travelling down Oswegatchie Hills Road too far and getting stuck in the Saunders Point neighborhood. Mr. Powers stated that he resides in that area, and he agrees that a sign could stop those large trucks from going by the marina, which is generally their destination, and into that tight neighborhood. He suggested maybe at the entrance area to Three Belles Marina or maybe closer to the main road.

It was agreed that this matter would be discussed at the next regular meeting, and that the owner of Three Belles Marina will be invited to see if we can find a solution.

6. Chief's Report

Chief Finkelstein gave a summary of his report for September, which is attached hereto as Exhibit 1. He reported that they had numerous arrests for prostitution and narcotics at the hotels located in the area of exit 74; they continue to monitor activity in these areas. Chief reported that they have made arrangements to regionalize training for a new K9 Officer and as those plans come together, he will keep the Commission informed. The Animal Control Officer replacement vehicle is on order. We have one police vehicle currently at MHQ waiting to be outfitted, and the process for ordering the 2021 vehicles is in motion and ahead of schedule. Chief stated that they are in the process of moving from CAD to NexGen, and that it will take about six to seven months for migration and training; the IMC system is obsolete.

Chief Finkelstein stated that car break-ins remain a problem in our area, and people need to be vigilant in locking their car doors and taking the keys and all valuables inside with you at night. He reported that this is happening in our entire region, not just our town.

Chief reported that all three new officers are on duty and doing well; two are on the road solo and one is still in training. He noted the typical drop-in service calls for September after the summer crowds diminish; however, he noted the increase in arrests, and stated that October has continued to be busier than usual. Mr. D'Angelo noted the spike in pistol permits issued, and Chief Finkelstein stated that is because they were not fingerprinting per the Governor's executive order, but that they have started again, by appointment only. The Chief noted that the Board of Education has recently started doing their fingerprinting in-house, so that has helped in reducing the amount of people coming in; we are still waiting for the State to regionalize this process.

7. Chairman's Report

Mr. Price invited the First Selectman to give an update, if any, on the COVID pandemic. Mr. Nickerson stated that there has been a spike in our area, and we need to stay focused on staying safe. He stated that he may consider closing Town Hall and other town buildings to the public if this continues to worsen. We will continue meeting via Zoom until further notice.

8. Public Comment

There was none.

9. Commission Response

There was none.

10. Executive Session

MOTION (1)

Mr. D'Angelo MOVED to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters, and to include Chief Mike Finkelstein, First Selectman Mark Nickerson, and Lieutenant Mike Macek.

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

The Commission entered into executive session at 6:58 p.m. They returned at 7:40 p.m. and Mr. Price stated that no formal votes had been taken.

11. Sergeant Position

MOTION (2)

Mr. Buglione MOVED to promote Jared Priest to the position of Sergeant.

Seconded by Mr. D'Angelo. Motion passed 6-0.

MOTION (3)

Mr. D'Angelo MOVED to promote James Levandoski to the position of Sergeant.

Seconded by Mr. Price. IN FAVOR; Price, Powers and D'Angelo. ABSTAINED; Buglione, Perkins and Rebelowski
Motion passed 3-0-3.

MOTION (4)

Mr. Buglione MOVED to adjourn the October 8, 2020, Regular Meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners at 7:43 p.m.

Seconded by Mr. D'Angelo. Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Sandra Anderson

Sandra Anderson
Recording Secretary

EAST LYME POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief's Monthly Report – September 2020



Section 1: Noteworthy Incidents/Information

- Multiple arrests made in prostitution/drug cases at local hotels
- Awaiting K9 training with another regional PD/Trainer
- ACO replacement vehicle is on order
- PD vehicles ordered and in que at MHQ
- Body camera vendors have provided demonstrations and will be finalizing quotes.
- New CAD.RMS system contract is in final stages of legal review and set to sign shortly.
- Chief received letter of thanks from the South Central Criminal Justice Administration for his participation in the Deputy Chief oral Board for the Guilford Police Dept.
- Note and item of thanks from family who were grateful for the assistance provided by Officers.
- Note of thanks for Officer Watsons assistance with a flat tire
- East Lyme, along with other shoreline communities, continues to experience organized criminal activity with stolen vehicles (13 YTD), cars entered and ATM/Commercial thefts. We are working closely with CTIC, NESP, and other agencies.

Section 2: Staffing

Officers Criscoulo on the road working

Officer involved in accident out with injury

ACO sustained off duty injury and was out several weeks.

Town has granted leave of absence to Officer per the Town Policy manual

Section 3: Administrative

Accident Analysis

- 26 Accidents
- 4 Crashes Boston Post Rd
- 7 Crashes on Flanders Rd
- 3 Pennsylvania Ave
- 2 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

Emergency Committals

- 3 Emergency Committals
- 4 overdoses
- 1 Narcan use

Special Response Areas

- 2 Calls for service at Rocky Neck Park (21 YTD)
- 46 Calls for service at hotels (338 YTD)

Fingerprinting

- 21 Residents (142 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
2020	1417	1286	1255	1216	1545	1630	1926	1885	1598				13,758

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	99				753
Alarms	68	51	50	32	49	44	54	79	45				462
Animal Incident	14	10	21	16	24	37	22	23	14				181
Assist Citizen	38	41	42	51	39	57	70	66	46				450
Assist Other Agency	23	18	19	12	15	23	23	15	20				168
Complaint	13	5	10	16	24	22	40	25	25				170
Disabled MV	13	9	3	4	10	6	9	10	10				74
Disturbance	13	10	7	20	13	23	21	12	16				125
Domestic Dispute	2	1	2	6	6	4	6	2	4				33
Erratic Operation	10	12	4	5	13	10	16	16	9				95
ETOH Person	4	3	2	0	4	1	4	3	0				21
Fireworks Comp	0	0	0	1	4	6	15	1	3				30
Fraud/Ident Theft	2	0	0	2	0	3	2	3	0				12
Larceny	16	7	18	10	9	12	14	9	28				123
Lockouts	8	9	6	9	8	13	15	9	10				87
MV Accidents	21	19	13	8	15	18	9	28	26				148

East Lyme Police Department Monthly Report

MV Stops	112	70	39	15	45	28	66	26	44				445
Parking Complaints	8	3	2	4	3	11	19	5	9				64
Patrol/Bank /Building Checks	315	299	354	428	500	416	527	432	367				3,638
Pistol Permit Apps	5	3	10	8	2	30	31	32	35				156
Psych/Suicidal calls	5	2	3	2	4	3	3	3	4				29
Suspicious Pers/Veh/Incident	30	20	24	26	23	16	31	25	29				224
Threatening	3	1	2	3	0	0	3	0	3				15
Trespassing	1	3	2	4	3	10	5	8	3				39
Untimely Death	1	3	3	3	3	5	2	2	3				25
Well Being Check	22	10	17	19	10	26	24	18	23				169
Vandalism	3	3	2	2	3	7	12	2	2				36

****Selected areas of CFS only****

MOTOR VEHICLE ACTIVITY

MV Accidents	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
2020	21	19	13	8	15	18	9	28	26				148

MV Stops	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
2020	112	70	39	15	45	28	66	26	44				445

Criminal Arrests by Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
All other offenses	8	11	6	3	4	3	4	6	6				45
Assault	2	1	5	1	1	4	2		6				22
Narcotics	9	2	1		2	1	3	3	3				24
Larceny	2		1	3		1	1		2				10
Weapon						2							2
Prostitution								3	4				7
DUI	1	2	3	1	3	2	1	1	1				16
Burglary	2				1				1				4
Vandalism									1				1
Totals 2020	24	16	16	8	11	13	11	13	24				123
Totals 2019	15	22	19	12	15	18	23	14	17				155

East Lyme Police Department Monthly Report