

Police Commission
Jan 14, 2021
Agenda Item
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TOWN OF EAST LYME
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 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: Dan Price, Mark Powers, Joseph Perkins, Giancarlo D'Angelo and Stephen Rebelowski.

EXCUSED: Lisa Pellegrini and Tony Buglione

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: First Selectman Mark Nickerson, Police Chief Mike Finkelstein, Lieutenant Mike Macek and Lieutenant Dana Jezierski

FILED

Chairman Price called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. Delegations
There were none.

December 21, 20 20 AT 8 (AM/PM)
Breckenridge ATC
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION (1)

Motion by Mr. Powers to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 8, 2020, as submitted.

Seconded by Mr. D'Angelo. Motion passed 5-0.

MOTION (2)

Motion by Mr. Powers to approve the special meeting minutes of November 3, 2020, as submitted.

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

4a. Signage Oswegatchie Hills Road

MOTION (3)

DISCUSSION: Chief Finkelstein reported that after speaking with the owner of Three Belles Marina, he indicated that the GPS system consistently tells drivers to continue past the entrance to the marina, which appears to be what is causing all of the problems. Fixing how GPS instructs these drivers to get to the marina would solve the problem, but that signage would certainly help. In addition to a sign located at the entrance to Oswegatchie Hills Road indicating narrow roads ahead, he suggests that an additional sign be installed just before the entrance to the marina signaling truck deliveries to enter there.

Mr. Powers MOVED to approve a "narrow roads ahead" sign as recommended by the Public Works Director, to be installed by the entrance of Oswegatchie Hills Road, and to install an additional sign prior to the entrance of Three Belles Marina which directs delivery trucks to turn right into the driveway of the marina.

Seconded by Mr. D'Angelo. Motion passed 5-0.

5a. Traffic Authority Matter – Plants Dam Road

MOTION (4)

DISCUSSION: Chief Finkelstein stated that we have received a request from a resident asking for signage on Plants Dam Road to try to slow down the trucks that travel that route. He reported that especially during

the summer or if there is an accident and traffic gets backed up on the highway, cars and trucks typically do use these back roads to try to bypass the congestion. Chief Finkelstein explained that “through truck prohibitions” in Connecticut can only be granted by the Office of the State Traffic Authority (OSTA), and that this Commission’s only authority in this type of matter is to send a recommendation to OSTA. Mr. D’Angelo stated that this commission should not

Mr. Perkins MOVED to direct the Chief to send a letter to OSTA advising them of the traffic concern that has been received regarding the truck traffic on Plants Dam Road.
Seconded by Mr. Powers. IN FAVOR; Price, Powers, Rebelowski and Perkins. OPPOSED; D’Angelo.
Motion passed 4-1-0.

5b. Budget Review

MOTION (5)

DISCUSSION: Chief Finkelstein reviewed the FY21/22 proposed budget and outlined all of the increases and new line items due to the recently passed Police Accountability Law. It was explained that the implementation of the Police Accountability Bill included mandates to provide Psychological testing and drug testing for Officers, as well as mandating that each department acquire CALEA accreditation; the CALEA initial cost to enroll is \$11,450. There is a slight increase in the uniform line item which is related to the contractual uniform allowance increase. Chief stated that regarding the facility rental line item, the agreement with the Town of Waterford was renegotiated and we are budgeting for an estimated two months of service. Once the new Public Safety Facility is occupied, this contractual service will be discontinued, as well as the need for alarm monitoring. Chief reported that they continue to struggle with covering dispatch shifts 24/7, and he reports that this is consistent with what other towns are experiencing. The overtime line item for Dispatch is being increased to reflect this past year’s overtime numbers, and he reported that they will cut back on the use of part time dispatchers and rely more on our full-time personnel. He reported that the new body cameras and in-car cameras and equipment have been ordered. The Chief reported that overall there is a \$51,000 increase, as well as the contractual salary increases.

Chief Finkelstein reported that the Office of Legislative Research published a report on December 8th of this year entitled “Police Officers in Connecticut Statistics”, and that report shows that East Lyme is the 5th lowest staffed police department in Connecticut. It was discussed that this commission will re-convene the subcommittee to review the staffing plan after the holidays.

Mr. Powers MOVED to endorse the budget as presented by Chief Finkelstein.
Seconded by Mr. Perkins. Motion passed 5-0.

5c. 2021 Meeting Schedule

MOTION (6)

Mr. Perkins MOVED to approve the 2021 meeting schedule of the Board of Police Commissioners as submitted.

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

6. Lieutenants’ Report

Lt. Macek reported that he and Lt. Jezierski have been working well together and he reviewed how responsibilities have been divided between them and how they have modified how they conduct some of the day-to-date activities. He reported that they received the new motor, which was paid for by a grant, for the skiff and that it has been winterized and stored for the season. The regional boat needs some work after being damaged by hot metal coming from the work being done on the bridge, and this is currently out to bid. He reported that the AFIS fingerprinting system will be discontinued once the new equipment is received; they expect a February 2021 launch of this new equipment.

Lt. Jezierski reported that they have been working on updating and maintaining training files and reported that the next group due to expire is in June 2021. She stated that they are currently working on policies, and specifically the body camera policy. The new officers are all doing well and just about finished with their training periods.

7. Chief's Report

Chief Finkelstein gave his report, which is attached hereto as Exhibit 1. He reported that vehicle break ins continue to be a problem all over the state and advised the public to please lock your vehicles and remove the keys and all valuables. He reported that all local and State Police are working together on this problem. The body cameras have been ordered and they are working closely with AXON to prepare for their arrival. He reported that election day went smoothly with no notable incidents to report. A new pedestrian walk signal has been installed at the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and Main Street.

The Chief reported that the communications tower on Mostow Road is complete and ready for our equipment to be moved into place from the temporary tower; not only will this improve emergency communication in the north end of town, it will also provide better service to the Giants Neck Heights neighborhood.

Chief Finkelstein congratulated Commission Member Rebelowski on his retirement from the Law Enforcement Council of Connecticut and thanked him for his many years of support to law enforcement.

8. Chairman's Report

Chairman Price thanked everyone for their reports tonight and stated that he had nothing additional to add.

9. Public Comment

Mr. Joe Mingo, Boston Post Road, East Lyme, requested that the Police Commission consider that a dedicated right lane be installed on Boston Post Road turning into the shopping plaza.

10. Commission Response

Chief Finkelstein responded to Mr. Mingo and stated that Boston Post Road is a state road and that the DOT is aware and has received complaints but does not feel that a dedicated lane is necessary.

11. Adjournment

MOTION (7)

Mr. Perkins MOVED to adjourn the December 10, 2020, regular meeting of the Police Commission at 7:27 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Anderson
Recording Secretary

Police Commission
Jan 14, 2021
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EAST LYME POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief's Monthly Report – December 2020



Section 1: Noteworthy Incidents/Information

- Officers Langman and Hull received letter of thanks from family of male who suffered heart attack and was saved, assisting family members
- Owner of local lodging facility called to compliment Officer Turcotte for his very professional assistance with an unruly tenant and family.
- Letter of thanks received for assistance provided by Officer Santello at a motor vehicle accident.
- Received a letter from an Old Lyme resident praising Officer VanOverloop for providing assistance above and beyond. Officer VanOverloop assisted the woman whose vehicle broke down, transporting her home. During the transport she indicated she had been traveling to Scotts to purchase apples. A short time later Officer VanOverloop went back to her residence to deliver apples to her.
- Officer Turcotte was recognized by the Administration for his efforts to assist a young female who was unemployed, hungry and residing at a local hotel. He provided her with food and secured her an interview with a local business to try and obtain employment for her.
- Letter of thanks for the East Lyme Police Department for its contribution to the Connecticut Cancer Foundation. Through our efforts we raised \$1,200
- Body/In car camera implementation underway camera contract signed with Axon.
- New CAD.RMS system transition is in process

Section 2: Staffing

A dispatcher is returning from being out extended period for medical procedure

One Officer has resigned full time position, replacement process underway

One Officer was out for Military leadership training

Section 3: Administrative

Accident Analysis

- 12 Accidents
- 3 Crashes Boston Post Rd
- 4 Crashes on Flanders Rd
- 1 Crashes on Main St/W. Main St

Animal Control Division Activity

- 14 Animal Incident Calls in East Lyme

Emergency Committals

- 3 Emergency Committals
- 4 overdoses
- 2 Narcan use

Special Response Areas

- 1 Calls for service at Rocky Neck Park (24 YTD)
- 72 Calls for service at hotels (509 YTD)

Fingerprinting

- 12 Residents (176 YTD)

Crimes Analysis Summary

- NIBRS Group A crimes against persons – 56% increase over 2019
- NIBRS Group A crimes against property – 11% increase over 2019
- NIBRS Group A crimes against society – 71% increase over 2019
- NIBRS Group B crimes – 11% decrease over 2019
- Motor Vehicle Accidents – 20% decrease over 2019
- Hotel calls for service increased 46% over 2019

**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	YT
2020	1417	1286	1255	1216	1545	1630	1926	1885	1598	1665	1313	1489	18,225

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	69	49	66	937
Alarms	68	51	50	32	49	44	54	79	45	50	51	61	624
Animal Incident	14	10	21	16	24	37	22	23	14	14	14	14	223
Assist Citizen	38	41	42	51	39	57	70	66	46	72	46	46	614
Assist Other Agency	23	18	19	12	15	23	23	15	20	26	18	14	226
Complaint	13	5	10	16	24	22	40	25	25	16	20	30	236
Disabled MV	13	9	3	4	10	6	9	10	10	6	10	18	108
Disturbance	13	10	7	20	13	23	21	12	16	11	8	21	165
Domestic Dispute	2	1	2	6	6	4	6	2	4	2	6	8	49
Erratic Operation	10	12	4	5	13	10	16	16	9	12	10	10	127
ETOH Person	4	3	2	0	4	1	4	3	0	0	0	2	23
Fireworks Comp	0	0	0	1	4	6	15	1	3	1	0	1	32
Fraud/Ident Theft	2	0	0	2	0	3	2	3	0	9	0	2	23
Larceny	16	7	18	10	9	12	14	9	28	27	13	11	174
Lockouts	8	9	6	9	8	13	15	9	10	14	6	3	110
MV Accidents	21	19	13	8	15	18	9	28	26	24	14	12	198
MV Stops	112	70	39	15	45	28	66	26	44	77	63	103	688
Parking Complaints	8	3	2	4	3	11	19	5	9	0	5	28	97
Patrol/Bank /Building Checks	315	299	354	428	500	416	527	432	367	457	297	354	4,746
Pistol Permit Apps	5	3	10	8	2	30	31	32	35	29	21	24	230
Psych/Suicidal calls	5	2	3	2	4	3	3	3	4	1	6	3	39
Suspicious Pers/Veh/Incident	30	20	24	26	23	16	31	25	29	29	27	32	312
Threatening	3	1	2	3	0	0	3	0	3	2	1	0	18
Trespassing	1	3	2	4	3	10	5	8	3	1	3	2	45
Untimely Death	1	3	3	3	3	5	2	2	3	2	1	3	31
Well Being Check	22	10	17	19	10	26	24	18	23	17	22	12	220
Vandalism	3	3	2	2	3	7	12	2	2	5	2	0	43

Selected areas of CFS only

East Lyme Police Department Monthly Report

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	24	14	12	198

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	77	63	103	688

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	2	4	2	53
Assault	2	1	5	1	1	4	2		6		4	5	35
Narcotics	9	2	1		2	1	3	3	3	7	1	2	34
Larceny	2		1	3		1	1		2	1	2	3	16
Weapon						2				2			4
Prostitution								3	4				7
DUI	1	2	3	1	3	2	1	1	1			1	17
Burglary	2				1				1	1		1	6
Vandalism									1			1	2
Robbery											3		3
Totals 2020	24	16	16	8	11	13	11	13	24	13	14	15	165
Totals 2019	15	15	16	12	15	18	22	14	17	11	10	14	179