

TOWN OF EAST LYME  
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 11, 2021

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, Joseph Perkins, Giancarlo D'Angelo, and Stephen Rebelowski

EXCUSED: Mark Powers and Tony Buglione

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

Chairman Price called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

FILED

2. Delegations

There were none.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION (1)

Motion by Mr. Perkins to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 14, 2021, as submitted.

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

Feb 22 2021 AT 3:50 AM/PM  
*(Signature)*  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

4. Chief's Report

Chief Finkelstein gave his report, which is attached hereto as Exhibit 1. He reported that the work at the public safety building is going well and even a little ahead of schedule. He stated that we had applied for two separate grants but that we became ineligible for the FEMA one due to a change in criteria; the second grant is moving forward. Chief Finkelstein thanked Julie Wilson for her work on preparing these grant applications. He reported that most officers have gotten their second COVID vaccination, and that the couple remaining have theirs scheduled. He stated that they are close to awarding the RFP for the upgraded, state of the art phone system for dispatch, and that they are working with the State to integrate their system into this new system. He stated that this year's nuclear safety grant which is received through Emergency Management will be used to supply the Emergency Operations Center training room. Chief Finkelstein reported that he is looking into a community wide information notification system called Everbridge, currently being used by the State. He stated that he is considering the soft version for East Lyme, which would push out notifications such as parking bans. They will be going to select the first K-9 officer at the end of this month, and he anticipates that they will work on getting the second K-9 officer in the 2021/2022 fiscal year. Training for a K-9 officer is eight weeks to get certified. He reported that accidents were down last month with only nine occurring in town and only one on Chesterfield Road; five were at intersections, two were because of the snow and three involved injuries.

5. Lieutenants' Report

Lt. Jezierski reported that the body cameras have been received and she is working on that policy, as well as continuing to review existing policies. She stated that the Daigle Law Group is a firm that specializes in law enforcement policies, and that she may look to them for assistance on our policies; the average cost of a complete policy revamp is in the \$15,000 - \$25,000 range. Mr. D'Angelo inquired as to the timeline for the completion of the body camera policy, and Chief Finkelstein stated that the camera system cannot be installed into the vehicles until the May so there is still plenty of time left for Lt. Jezierski to finalize that policy. She stated that there are two lateral positions posted and will remain open until the end of the month, and that it is confirmed that East Lyme has a seat at the Academy for the June 4<sup>th</sup> class. Lt. Jezierski reported that we now have two officers that have received the Seizure Recognition and First Aid Training certification. She reported that the sergeants are doing well and are meeting regularly. She is working with the State to get all our officers certified in the Connecticut Information Sharing System (CISS) which is a state-wide information technology system used by Connecticut Criminal Justice

and Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) to share criminal justice information in a secure environment, thereby enhancing the safety of the public and criminal justice community through informed decision-making.

Lt. Macek stated that it is important to note that since the passing of the Police Accountability law last year, the State is now re-visiting all the policies and will make changes as they deem necessary. Lt. Macek reported that the Animal Control Officer's vehicle is just about complete with only the installation of radio left to do; he stated the build was done at Strobes N More in Westerly and we may need to consider taking the two vehicles we have at MHQ with their parts and taking them there or somewhere else. He has just been informed by MHQ that the one vehicle that was supposed to be ready in January or February of this year has now been put further back on the list; they are very busy with State vehicles which take the priority. One vehicle is back on the road, and another that hit a deer is currently waiting on back ordered parts. Lt. Macek reported that the transition over to the NexGen system is going great and Star Computers is working on it.

Chief Finkelstein stated that taking the vehicles to MHQ is not working out, and our Public Works department is just too busy to get the vehicles outfitted in a timely manner; Strobes and More is the Town's best option right now. He stated that the State Police and the DEEP are MHQ's priority and that will not change.

With respect to the Lieutenants, Chief Finkelstein stated that they are doing an outstanding job and working well together. He noted that with everything that is going on right now, having two Lieutenants has been the key to this department's success and they are doing a great job.

Lt. Macek reported that the DOT will be closing the Niantic River Bridge soon, and he is attending a meeting with them next week to get an update on the timeline, but that the bridge will be closed for at least a couple of weeks possibly beginning in mid-March.

#### 6. Chairman's Report

Chairman Price reported that it is budget time, and we are requesting two additional police officers. Mr. Rebelowski has created a slideshow and he will continue to collect everyone's feedback in finalizing this before the budget presentation.

#### 7. Public Comment

There was none.

#### 8. Commission Response

There was none.

#### 9. Executive Session

##### MOTION (2)

Motion by Mr. D'Angelo to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters, and to include First Selectman Mark Nickerson, Chief Mike Finkelstein, Lt. Mike Macek and Lt. Dana Jezierski. Seconded by Mr. Rebelowski. Motion passed 4-0.

The Commission entered into executive session at 7:00 p.m. They returned at 7:18 p.m. and Chairman Price stated that no formal votes were taken.

#### 10. Adjournment

##### MOTION (3)

Mr. D'Angelo MOVED to adjourn the February 11, 2021, regular meeting of the Police Commission at 7.18 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Anderson  
Recording Secretary

EXHIBIT 1

# EAST LYME POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief's Monthly Report – January 2021



**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

- Building renovations continue to move forward  
Police K9 Unit addition will be selected in February/March for possible March/April training start date.

## Section 2: Staffing

Open position (s) have been advertised via Police App, New London Day, the POST and LEC websites.

Dispatcher continued to be out due to long term medical procedure, returned first week of February.

## Section 3: Administrative

### Accident Analysis

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

### East Lyme Dispatch Center

- 1,565 phone call volume for the month, which does not include Police phone line.
- Busiest hours –3pm (146), 8am (113)

### Animal Control Division Activity

- 11 Animal Incident Calls in East Lyme

### Budgetary

- Total Budget – 57% Police, 65% Dispatch, 55% ACO
- Overtime – 69%
- Asset Forfeiture Balance - \$18,559

### Use of force

- No use of force

### Emergency Committals

- 2 Emergency Committals
- 1 overdoses
- 1 Narcan use

### Special Response Areas



