

TOWN OF EAST LYME  
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 10, 2021

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Price, Giancarlo D'Angelo, Mark Powers, Joseph Perkins, and Stephen Rebelowski.  
EXCUSED: Tony Buglione  
ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: 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.

June 18 2021 AT 11:00 AM/PM  
Luann Thelma  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

3. Approval of Minutes  
MOTION (1)

Motion by Mr. Rebelowski to approve the regular meeting minutes of May 13, 2021, as submitted.  
Seconded by Mr. Perkins. Motion passed 5-0.

MOTION (2)

Motion by Mr. Rebelowski to approve the special meeting minutes of May 27, 2021, as submitted.  
Seconded by Mr. D'Angelo. Motion passed 5-0.

4. New Business

DISCUSSION: Chief Finkelstein stated that the first item of concern that was expressed is the item related to reckless driving on Pennsylvania Avenue/Flanders Road. He reported that they have been dedicated one officer on overtime for a four-hour shift to perform enhanced enforcement on Chesterfield Road, Flanders Road and Pennsylvania Avenue. He stated that once the NexGen system is completely up and running and training is complete, we will have the ability to produce specific reports which pinpoint the areas in which violations are occurring. He stated that they really need to assign someone full-time to traffic enforcement, but we do not yet have the staffing necessary to do that. Also a concern is the lack of attention to people crossing the road all along that stretch, but specifically on Pennsylvania Avenue. Chief Finkelstein explained that they have requested additional resources, such as the flashing lights installed by the High School, but that the DOT has denied installing these types of crosswalk lights on the crossings as you get closer to downtown and on Main Street. He noted that they have requested additional crosswalk enhancement by Dairy Queen, but DOT has denied this as well. Kudos to Mr. Bragaw who worked diligently with the DOT to get the new crosswalk signal installed at Main Street and Pennsylvania Avenue. He noted that an additional officer on each shift assigned specifically to traffic patrol is needed.

Chief Finkelstein reported that another concern that was expressed was the yield/merge in front of Illiano's restaurant. He stated that this is a roadway design issue, and the DOT is aware of the problems that we have with traffic in that area. Everyone in attendance agreed that this area of the roadway is hazardous. He stated that the commission should write a letter to the DOT requesting that they review this area of the roadway for safety enhancements.

MOTION (3)

Motion by Mr. D'Angelo to write a letter to the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation asking them to address the traffic design issues that are causing a hazardous situation in the intersection of Industrial Road and

Flanders Road for traffic traveling South on Flanders Road where two lanes merge into one in front of Illiano's restaurant.

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

Chief Finkelstein stated that the next item is regarding the seasonal parking issues on Giants Neck Road that we have addressed previously, and he reminded the Commission that he and the First Selectman met with representatives from the State of Connecticut DEEP regarding these concerns. He noted that last year the parks operated at 25% capacity, so there is a lot more beach traffic this year now that things have gone back to normal. Mr. Bragaw stated that they are going to allow the grass to grow on the right side of the road to try to deter parking along the length of the road to the beach, but that there is not much more that can or should be done by the Police Commission within their purview. Chief Finkelstein stated that if people cannot park on Giants Neck Road, that they have been going up onto the side roads and are parking there; it is not feasible to put no parking signs throughout that entire neighborhood. Mr. Bragaw stated that this should be referred to the DEEP or to the Zoning Department for further investigation as it is not a feasible request for the Town to deliver. It was decided that the Chairman would refer this back to the First Selectman to possibly go back and consult with the DOT and DEEP on this situation now that we are out of the pandemic and back to normal summer beach traffic.

The Commission discussed briefly that there are still illegal signs posted in the Crescent Beach area.

#### MOTION (4)

Motion by Mr. D'Angelo to direct the Chairman to write a letter to the Crescent Beach Association notifying them of their unauthorized signage and direct them to remove such signage.

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

#### 5. Chief's Report

Chief Finkelstein's report is attached hereto as Exhibit 1. He reported that the Nexgen system has gone live and is going well. They are experiencing some installation issues with the Axon body cameras and are working with the vendor on that. Chief Finkelstein reported that the building construction is coming along nicely, and completion is estimated at early August; he would like to organize an open house for the public before they move in, and the building is occupied. He reported that the two new officers were sworn in and have started the academy and are doing well; the two new lateral officers that recently started are both doing great and are already on the road. In reviewing the numbers, he reported that accidents are significantly lower, and that arrests are up 41% from 2020; he noted that the numbers may have been askew last year because of the pandemic. The total budget expended to date is on target at 87%. Chief Finkelstein stated that to communicate better with the public about what our officers are accomplishing in the community, he has started including links to newspaper articles related to our police department and our officers' accomplishments. He reported that staffing is still a major concern and that they should have an extra patrol on for the summer when it gets very busy; he mentioned a recent arrest in which the out-of-control subject took six officers to get under control and in custody. He reported that over the past weekend there were 108 calls for service; and he hopes that this helps to demonstrate why we need the staffing that we have been asking for. They have been considering all the available options to get positive news out to the public and will be looking into possibly utilizing social media more, utilizing the town's webpage and maybe a citizens police academy. Commissioner Rebelowski noted that he has prior experience and would be willing to assist with instituting a citizens police academy. Chief Finkelstein reported that he has been in contact with member of the SCORE organization and that these conversations have been very productive and informative.

#### 6. Lieutenants' Report

Lt. Mike Macek reported that the standard beach patrol for the summer is an officer dedicated for a four-hour shift on the weekends throughout the season; however, this past weekend it was very busy, and the dedicated beach patrol officer had to be pulled to work an accident and it took his entire shift. A Commissioner inquired about utilizing the Police Cadets during the summer, and it was discussed that they are all very young and are only called upon for special

events such as Celebrate East Lyme. Lt. Macek reported that all four new officers are fitting in nicely and working together well right from the beginning; the two that are at the academy together are doing great. He stated that they are working with Axon to fix some minor issues that they are experiencing with the pre-sent triggers in some of the older vehicles; and he noted that Axon promises a resolution to the issues and will be providing some additional training at no charge as a thank you for our patience while they work this out. Lt. Macek reported that their policy now is to replace all the equipment when a new vehicle is purchased so we will not run into this problem again. He noted that the process to purchase this year's vehicles has been started. He reported that the Nexgen system went live on May 24<sup>th</sup> and is going well, and training continues. Chief Finkelstein noted that the dispatchers were trained to be the trainers have been doing a great job and are the reason this process is going smooth. This year's Memorial Day parade went well, and they saw a decrease in attendance this year although the weather was nice. He reported that the Draeger in being built to specifications and should be in service within the month.

Lt. Jezierski reported that she and Lt. Macek have attended accreditation training at POST, which was very informative. She reported that they have been working on instituting a Police Chaplin program and has been looking into the model that both Norwich and Waterford follow. She stated that it has been decided that they will follow the accreditation standards set forth by CALEA versus the State because CALEA has fourteen additional standards that need to be met and that is a higher standard than what the State is requiring; she noted that the State standard is very Connecticut-specific and the CALEA standards are more general to police enforcement. Lt. Jezierski stated that Attorney Daigle is ready to start the review process to accreditation whenever we are.

7. Chairman's Report

Chairman Price reported that the Board of Selectmen took a tour of the public safety building last week, and that there is great progress being made and that Mr. Cornelius is doing a great job as Clerk of the Works. He stated that unless something comes up to warrant a special meeting, the next regular meeting will be in September.

8. Public Comment

There was none.

9. Commission Response

There was none.

10. Adjournment

MOTION (5)

Mr. Rebelowski MOVED to adjourn the June 10, 2021, regular meeting of the Police Commission at 7:11 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Anderson  
Recording Secretary

# EAST LYME POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief's Monthly Report – May 2021



**CONTENTS**

**Section 1 : Noteworthy incidents/information**

**Section 2 : Staffing**

**Section 3 : Administrative**

**Section 4 : Statistical Activity Summary**

## Section 1: Noteworthy Incidents/Information

- Nexgen has gone live.
- Some Axon installation issues experienced, being worked on by vendor(s).
- Public Safety building work continues

## Section 2: Staffing

Probationary Officers Desjardins and Gries sworn in and began Academy June 4, 2021

## Section 3: Administrative

### Accident Analysis

- 17 Accidents
- 5 Flanders Rd
- 1 Main/West Main St
- 2 Chesterfield Rd

### Animal Control Division Activity

- 17 Animal Incident Calls in East Lyme

### Budgetary

- Total Budget – 87% Police, 94% Dispatch, 81% ACO (94% benchmark)
- Overtime – 92% PD 90% Dispatch
- Asset Forfeiture Balance - \$19,974

### Emergency Committals

- 4 overdoses
- 2 Narcan use

### Crime Analysis

- Arrests up 41% over 2020
- NIBRS – 40.5% increase 2021 over 2020
- NIBRS – 73% increase May over April
- Calls for service 6.5% increase over 2020

### Special Response Areas

- 16 Calls for service at Rocky Neck Park (19YTD)

### Traffic Authority

- Letter from Geraldine Barrett regarding traffic on Pennsylvania Avenue

- Email from Patricia Dawes regarding crosswalks on Pennsylvania Avenue
- Giants Neck Heights Association regarding signage
- Terri Brodeur walk October 2, 2021

## **East Lyme Police Department in the news**

### **Vehicle Stolen From East Lyme Home**

Police are investigating an auto theft case.

- **Chris Rhatigan, Patch Staff**
- Posted Wed, May 12, 2021 at 6:00 am ET

<https://patch.com/connecticut/thelymes/vehicle-stolen-east-lyme-home>

### **East Lyme Swears in Four New Police Officers** BY EMILIA OTTE

JUNE 3, 2021

<https://ctexaminer.com/2021/06/03/east-lyme-swears-in-four-new-police-officers/>

### **Police: Physical altercation at East Lyme motel leads to arrest Elizabeth Regan, The Day, New London, Conn.**

May 17, 2021

<https://news.yahoo.com/police-physical-altercation-east-lyme-003300828.html>

### **East Lyme student charged with a hate crime**

Police say the 16-year-old student wrote a racial slur in the pollen on the victim's car.

<https://www.fox61.com/article/news/crime/east-lyme-student-charged-with-a-hate-crime/520-922c6425-cd21-48b2-b4be-7128f0859cee>

## **One person brought to hospital after car crashes into garage on Flanders Road in East Lyme**

<https://www.wtnh.com/news/connecticut/new-london/one-person-brought-to-hospital-after-car-crashes-into-garage-on-flanders-road-in-east-lyme/>

## **DUI stop yields 120 bags of suspected heroin**

Published June 07. 2021 11:59AM

<https://www.theday.com/article/20210607/NWS01/210609528>

## **Police: Man damaged property at multiple homes, garden center in East Lyme**

<https://www.theday.com/policefirecourts/20210601/police-man-damaged-property-at-multiple-homes-garden-center-in-east-lyme>

## **East Lyme responders revive fourth overdose victim this year**

Published May 20. 2021 5:20PM

<https://www.theday.com/article/20210520/NWS01/210529936>

## **Police: Officer prevented dumpster fire from spreading to gas station**

Published May 28. 2021 7:48PM

<https://www.theday.com/policefirecourts/20210528/police-officer-prevented-dumpster-fire-from-spreading-to-gas-station>

## **East Lyme police arrest two men on drug charges**

Published May 03. 2021 4:00PM

<https://www.theday.com/article/20210503/NWS04/210509838>

**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
2021	1383	1169	1522	1549	1539						

*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	82	58	62	66	83								351
Alarms	55	38	51	41	49								234
Animal Incident	11	15	9	11	17								63
Assaults	0	0	0	2	1								3
Assist Other Agency	9	11	20	24	22								86
Assist Citizen/ Complaint	66	40	63	90	130								389
Disabled MV	13	18	11	9	7								58
Disturbance	18	13	18	14	21								84
Erratic Operation	7	9	4	14	7								41
ETOH Person	1	2	1	3	1								8
Fireworks Comp	0	0	0	0	0								0
Fraud/Ident Theft	3	1	5	0	0								9
Larceny	8	10	15	8	8								49
Lockouts	11	6	10	7	6								40
MV Accidents	9	15	17	15	17								72
MV Stops	108	84	179	152	168								591
Parking Complaints	2	11	0	5	13								31
Patrol/Bank /Building Checks	320	247	392	458	364								1,781
Pistol Permit Apps	24	14	16	15	-								69
Psych/Suicidal calls	2	4	6	5	9								26
Suspicious Pers/Veh/Incident	24	24	18	12	20								98
Threatening	0	0	2	0	0								2
Trespassing	1	6	0	2	0								9
Untimely Death	2	2	0	2	1								7
Well Being Check	14	10	11	14	4								53
Vandalism	3	3	2	8	5								21

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

