

TOWN OF EAST LYME
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 14, 2021

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Price, Giancarlo D'Angelo, Stephen Rebelowski, Joseph Perkins, and Regina Hitchery. Mark Powers joined the meeting by phone.

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.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION (1)

Motion by Mr. D'Angelo to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 9, 2021, as submitted.

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

ABSTAINED; Rebelowski

Oct 21 2021 AT 12:05 AM/PM
(Signature)
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

4. Old Business

a) Attawan Road signage - Mr. Price reported that the applicant was instructed to meet with their beach Board of Directors and return with their recommendations, and that we have not yet heard back from them yet.

5. New Business

b) Local Traffic Authority – Crosswalk on Hope Street

Chairman Price stated that the Engineering department has not had the proper amount of time to review this matter and asked that it be tabled until the November meeting as they would like to investigate this further.

6. Lieutenants' Reports

Lt. Mike Macek reported that MHQ is still working on one vehicle which is close to being complete; he noted that currently they are the only outfitters that are getting vehicles in-house. He reported that he has reached out to both Columbia Ford and Crest Ford with no response; however, he noted that the new owners of Crest Ford have expressed a desire to work with the police department so he will reach out to them to begin the conversation. He stated that we must stick to the current plan of getting the two vehicles outfitted by MHQ, but that they need to pursue other options for future vehicles. Mr. Nickerson stated that in this circumstance the purchasing policy prohibits us from initiating the purchase of another vehicle until it is approved in the next budget cycle, but currently we are already paying for the vehicles approved in the last budget cycle that we still do not have our hands on. Chief Finkelstein stated that we were already behind because of MHQ's overloaded schedule, and now the parts shortage caused by the pandemic has amplified the situation. Lt. Macek stated that he has begun looking at switching over to the Chevy Tahoe, which is a vehicle that is much easier to get and outfit. He reported that the price on the law enforcement ready model of the Tahoe is a little higher than the Ford, approximately \$2,000 to \$3,000, but we will see some savings in that the newly purchased in-car cameras and computers can be outfitted into any new vehicle. Lt. Macek reported that he has confirmed with a dealership in the Torrington area that we would be able to secure two 2021 Tahoes if we decide to pursue that; he noted that MHQ is not able to offer 2021 vehicles at this point, just model year 2020.

MOTION (2)

Mr. Price MOVED to direct Chief Finkelstein to pursue the purchase of two Chevy Tahoes due to the current limited availability of Ford police vehicles. The funds for this purchase have already been allocated for two police vehicles.

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

Lt. Macek reported that the annual Niantic 5K took place this past weekend with no notable issues and only intermittent road closures. He noted that there were noticeably less participants this year. He reported that Waterford has officially approved the purchase of the boat motor for the regional marine patrol vessel, and he stated that Boats Inc. has been awarded the work. It was noted that there is a chance that the boat will not be in service in time for the upcoming boating season, and in that case, they would use the skiff until the marine patrol vessel was ready to go back into service. Mr. Perkins inquired as to the amount of traffic that builds up on Chesterfield Road at the entrance to the high school and what can be done to reduce that. Chief Finkelstein stated that Chesterfield Road is a state road so under the purview of the State DOT, and that the Town has brought this concern to them, and they are aware and keeping an eye on traffic. It was discussed that this issue typically occurs only in the morning around the start of school when the kids are being dropped off, and that it does seem to be worse this year possibly due to Covid and more kids being dropped off instead of taking the bus. Chief Finkelstein stated that having appropriate staffing would allow them to put an officer at that intersection at those busy times, but that they just don't have the manpower currently.

Lt. Jezierski reported that she continues to work with the Daigle Law Firm on policies and procedures and have completed two sections out of 140, so she will continue to keep the process moving forward. She reported that the new scheduling application has gone live, and the rollout is going great. Lt. Jezierski reported that the two new recruits spent two weeks with a Field Training Officer and completed some other training while getting familiar with the department itself. She stated that this is the first class that the Police Academy has instituted the two-week, hands-on part of the program and she supports the change and believes it was a very productive two weeks. Graduation is currently scheduled for December 22nd, but that date is subject to change. Lt. Jezierski reported that the department has been receiving many Freedom of Information requests so she has been busy fulfilling those.

7. Chief's Report

Chief Finkelstein summarized his report, which is attached hereto as Exhibit 1. He reported that K-9 Dom is doing great and has participated in five tracks since coming on board. A big thank you was received from the high school and appreciation goes out to Detective Comeau and Officer Hull for their gun safety presentation to the students and staff there. The Chief reported that this year's Tip-A-Cop event was a huge success and a lot of fun for both the officers and the community; it was held at Family Pizza, and they raised \$1,600. Thank you to Officer VanOverloop for organizing this event and thank you to Family Pizza for hosting it. Chief reported that No Shave November begins on November 1st and the Department will once again be participating to raise money for cancer research. He stated that the two new recruits are doing very well in the Academy and that he supports the recent change in which they were allowed to train on site and with a Field Training Officer here within the department; it was a great opportunity for them to meet everyone and get familiar with the department and begin learning department processes. He reported that works continues at the public safety building, and they are anticipating a December 1st move-in date; the IT equipment is currently being installed, which is the final piece of the project aside from moving in. Mr. Nickerson commended the Chief on doing a stellar job of picking up where our former employees left off as far as support and management of the emergency management IT system and all its components. Chief Finkelstein stated that the IT installation should take about a month, then training will begin for the dispatchers. The Chief mentioned the great job that all the Town employees have been doing to prepare the public safety building, specifically Bill Scheer and the Public Works department, as well as the Parks and Recreation department for keeping the exterior looking great and prepared for occupancy. Chief reported that they continue to receive traffic enforcement requests, and he is consistently explaining the staffing needs and will continue to do the best that we can with the resources that we have. He noted that the public should feel free and compelled to come out at budget time to express their desire to up our staffing of police officers to an acceptable level. On that note, the Chief noted that he has already started thinking about the budget and will bring a draft copy

to the next meeting to begin the discussion; he stated that we should again be asking for two officers and must be better prepared to argue our case for both. He reported that they continue to chip away at mandatory training outlined in the new state laws for police accountability and complete such within the timelines necessary.

Chief Finkelstein reported that the next phase in uniform updates will be to replace the hats, which is very outdated, and some officers do not have one. The new style hat is more municipal instead of the Stetson style; he noted that they updated their uniforms a couple of years ago and that they all received new badges recently. The final item to complete the new uniforms is the badges for the hats, which will be the next step.

The Chief reported that from last time this year, crime is up 52% and there have been 93 more criminal investigations to-date. He noted a couple of recent news articles on the positive work of our officers in the community, and those articles are noted in his report which is attached hereto as exhibit 1. He noted that the new system is generating information a little different on his report, and he will bring more detailed information on criminal arrests to the next meeting. It was discussed that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 11th, which is Veterans Day, so it was agreed to cancel that meeting and reschedule it for November 18th at 6pm at Town Hall.

MOTION (3)

Mr. D'Angelo moved to cancel the regular meeting of November 11, 2021, due to it being Veterans Day, and to schedule a special meeting in its place for Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in Town Hall.

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

Chief Finkelstein reported that they continue to work with FEMA to attempt to get them to issue a disaster declaration to assist homeowners with their residential damage caused by Storm Henri; he noted that anyone who experienced a financial loss due to the storm should contact his office to see if they are eligible to be added to the list. Regarding the Everbridge system, it has all been approved and the grant money received; this system will allow the Town to get community information out to residents who opt-in to the program. He stated that they are working on marketing materials, such as posters and mailers, to inform residents on how they can opt-in to this great communication tool.

8. Chairman's Report

There was none.

9. Public Comment

There was none.

10. Commission Response

There was none.

11. Adjournment

MOTION (4)

Mr. Rebelowski MOVED to adjourn the October 14, 2021, regular meeting of the Police Commission at 7:02 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Anderson
Recording Secretary

EAST LYME POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief's Monthly Report – June, July,
August 2021



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Section 1: Noteworthy Incidents/Information

- Thank you card for Det Comeau & Ofc Hull participating in gun safety presentation at East Lyme High School.
- The East Lyme Police Department held a “Tip A Cop” event at Family Pizza on 09/23/2021. This event, with multiple Police Department representatives participating, raised over \$1,600 for the Special Olympics. A special thanks for Officer Ryan VanOverloop for his efforts to organize the event.
- Public Safety building work continues

Section 2: Staffing

Probationary Officers Desjardins and Gries are attending the POST academy and doing very well. This has included two weeks back in East Lyme doing field training

One Officer has been on FMLA

Section 3: Administrative

Accident Analysis

- 13 September
- 5 Flanders Rd
- 3 Boston Post Rd

Animal Control Division Activity

- 21 Animal Incident Calls in East Lyme

Budgetary

- PD Budget – 30% (34% target) OT – 29%
- Dispatch – 29% OT – 32% PT – 49%
- ACO – 29%

Emergency Committals

- 2 overdoses
- 2 Narcan use

Crime Analysis

- NIBRS – 52.8% increase 2021 over 2020 YTD (93 more criminal invest)

East Lyme Police Department in the news

Police: Five youth arrested in thwarted vehicle theft in East Lyme

13

Published September 08, 2021 3:00PM | Updated September 08, 2021
10:53PM

By **Elizabeth Regan** Day staff writer

Police: Niantic man charged after child found in street unattended

1

Published September 28, 2021 12:44PM | Updated September 28, 2021 10:23PM

Man shoots himself in the foot in East Lyme

1

Published September 15, 2021 9:31PM | Updated September 15, 2021
9:40PM

By **Sten Spinella** Day staff writer

Section 4: Statistical Activity Summary

Calls for Service	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
	1383	1169	1522	1549	1539	1278	1433	1243	1442				12,558

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	143	134	136	101				865
Alarms	55	38	51	41	49	62	56	62	55				469
Animal Incident	11	15	9	11	17	20	19	26	21				149
Assaults	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	0				5
Assist Other Agency	9	11	20	24	22	16	15	14	17				148
Assist Citizen/ Complaint	66	40	63	90	130	125	118	91	90				813
Disabled MV	13	18	11	9	7	11	21	19	9				118
Disturbance	18	13	18	14	21	19	8	17	18				146
Erratic Operation	7	9	4	14	7	12	15	7	14				89
ETOH Person	1	2	1	3	1	1	3	1	1				14
Larceny	8	10	15	8	8	14	15	16	18				112
Lockouts	11	6	10	7	6	10	13	6	12				81
MV Accidents	9	15	17	15	17	12	22	19	13				138
MV Stops	108	84	179	152	168	214	310	240	122				1477
Parking Complaints	2	11	0	5	13	20	23	14	11				99
Patrol/Bank /Building Checks	320	247	392	458	364	235	318	259	208				2,801
Psych/Suicidal calls	2	4	6	5	9	3	3	4	8				44
Suspicious Pers/Veh/Incident	24	24	18	12	20	22	23	18	30				191
Untimely Death	2	2	0	2	1	0	2	1	3				13
Well Being Check	14	10	11	14	4	29	22	18	20				142
Vandalism	3	3	2	8	5	6	5	6	3				41

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

MOTOR VEHICLE ACTIVITY

MV Accidents	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
2021	9	15	17	15	17	12	22	19	13				138

MV Stops	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
2021	108	84	179	152	168	214	310	240	122				1,477