

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 8, 2022
MINUTES

PRESENT: Kevin Seery, Rose Ann Hardy, Dan Cunningham, Bill Weber, and Anne Santoro

ABSENT: Ann Cicchiello

ALSO PRESENT: Finance Director Anna Johnson, Chief of Police Mike Finkelstein, Lt. Dana Jezierski, Lt. Mike Macek, Niantic Fire Chief Jim Barone, Flanders Fire Chief Chris Taylor, Fire Marshal John Way, Deputy Director of Emergency Julie Wilson.

Also present were Dan Price and Mark Powers, members of the Board of Police Commissioners.

Mr. Seery called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and Mr. Cunningham led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Budget Discussion

214 Emergency Management

Police Chief Mike Finkelstein, Emergency Management Director, was present to speak on this budget, as well as Dispatch, Police and Animal Control. He explained that Ms. Wilson was recently made Deputy Director of Emergency Management for a number of reasons, including that she was performing tasks relative to the deputy director already, and for a number of programs administered by the federal government they require a Director or Deputy only to act on behalf of the municipality. He noted that Ms. Wilson as Deputy Director stayed in communication with Eversource throughout the entire recent storm and that if she were still classified as an administrative assistant that would have been all overtime. Chief reported that Everbridge is a new communications tool that was rolled out recently and was paid for this year by the Millstone nuclear safety grant; this program will require an annual maintenance fee that the town will be responsible for in the future. He stated that he expects a reduction in telephone expenses now that they have moved, but it will take a few months for those to be realized. AED supplies have been moved out of this budget and into the Building Maintenance budget. The transportation allowance remains at \$500 as they expect an increase in in-person training and Ms. Wilson will be attending those trainings as deputy director. Chief confirmed that line 348 radio maintenance is the fee for the contract with the vendor and not for the actual, physical radios; this line is not funded by any other departments. It was discussed that if anything can be covered under the American Rescue Plan, Chief will be sure to follow up with that.

FILED

Feb 15 2022 AT 12:00 AM/PM

Karen Hulm

EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Board of Selectmen Special Budget Meeting
February 8, 2022

1 of 3

215 Dispatch

Chief Finkelstein stated that Lt. Jezierski supervises the dispatch staff. They are requesting two additional dispatchers be hired to allow for two dispatchers to be on every shift. Mr. Seery stated that he supports hiring two dispatchers in this budget, but that he would support staggering the hiring to one in July and then the second in January 2023. All Board members support the idea of having two dispatchers on each shift.

216 Police

Chief Finkelstein presented and handed out information for the board members to review, attached hereto as Exhibit #1. Chief stated that he has been asking, with the support of both the Police Commission and the Board of Selectmen, for two officers each year and only one has been approved. He reiterated how much crime has increased and how well our officers have maintained the same level of service to the community. Not approving the hiring of two officers this year will continue to leave them just keeping their heads above water; he stated that they need to be proactive not reactive. He noted that the increase in training and equipment is based on hiring two additional police officers and has been taken into consideration in all areas of this proposed budget. Mr. Weber inquired if the town increased social workers could they decrease the police force, and Chief Finkelstein stated that most towns have a separate social service department but East Lyme does not so we should be increasing staff in both areas. He stated that Groton has recently hired a social worker who is dedicated to the police officers and other emergency personnel. Regarding fuel, it was noted that this line item is specifically for marine fuel for the shared marine patrol vessel and that the police vehicles utilize the fleet gasoline from the public works facility. Chief reported that line item 335 for prisoner expenses is just a guess as this will be the first time East Lyme has housed prisoners; it is estimated that out of 241 arrests in 2021, 20 of those cases would have involved a prisoner having to be detained in a cell. Chief reported that they do provide and receive mutual aid from surrounding towns as well as the State Police, but that everyone is short staffed. It was noted that we did not get the State DUI grant last year because we did not qualify under their calculations involving number of arrests, but that this grant money may still be available in upcoming budgets; Ms. Hardy stated that she believes that this grant is going away in general. It was noted that they plan on ordering two new vehicles again this year, to be paid for out of the vehicle acquisition account; but that due to the parts shortage which began during the pandemic, last year's two vehicles are still waiting to be fully outfitted. Regarding towing, Chief explained that depending on the circumstances, some of the towing expenses are reimbursed by insurance or the involved party; there are some circumstances where payment for towing will not be reimbursed.

226 Animal Control

Chief Finkelstein stated that they have considered that the part-time Animal Control Officer (ACO) be made full-time in order to allow for 24/7 coverage with a reduction in overtime hours. Currently, our agreement with Waterford is that they are in charge of the housing of the animals, and we provide staff and vehicles; since the Waterford facility has had to close and we are using New London's facility, maybe Waterford should be chipping in for some of the staff payroll.

217 Niantic Fire Department

Chief Jim Barone was in attendance and stated that they are asking for an additional full-time fire fighter to be added to their staff. He reported that sickness has been a significant reason for the increase in overtime pay this past year, and that adding a full-time fire fighter will assist with normal scheduling but will not have much of an impact on the overtime incurred because of sickness. Chief Barone noted that the radios will need to be replaced for both fire departments in the near future.

218 Flanders Fire Department

Chief Chris Taylor was in attendance and stated that he and Chief Barone have been working well together and hope to continue to find ways to collaborate on things between the two fire houses and the EL Ambulance Association, who pays for a great deal including fuel for all emergency vehicles. He noted that the IT line item is new, and he is not sure yet how this expense will affect the budget.

224 Fire Marshal

Fire Marshal John Way was present to speak on this budget and began by giving kudos to the emergency personnel that responded to the fire at Midway Plaza the other evening and stated that a combination of staff and the building's structure led to minimal damage and no loss of life. He stated that he continues to struggle to keep up with the number of inspections that are needed, so he is asking for an increase in staffing for this purpose; Mr. Seery stated that he supports this requested increase.

3. Adjourn

MOTION (1)

Mr. Weber MOVED to adjourn the February 8, 2022, special budget meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen at 8:52 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted By:



Sandra Anderson
Recording Secretary

Exhibit #1



**TOWN OF EAST LYME
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICES**

◆ Office of the Chief of Police ◆
278 Main Street, Niantic Connecticut 06357



Board of Selectman
Town of East Lyme
108 Pennsylvania Avenue
Niantic, CT 06357

February 8, 2022

Board of Selectman members,

Please find statistical documentation related to the East Lyme Police Departments 2022/23 budget submission attached. The overview provided in the documentation is intended to provide a statistical back up, and framework, to compliment budget deliberations.

Thank you for your time and attention to the budgetary needs of the East Lyme Police Department, East Lyme Police Dispatch Center, and the East Lyme/Waterford Animal Control Division.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Michael T Finkelstein".

Michael T Finkelstein
Chief of Police

East Lyme Police Department

Staffing Profile- 2022

The East Lyme Police Department is responsible for maintaining the safety and security of all residents and visitors to the Town of East Lyme. Currently, the resident population of East Lyme is 18,693. This does not include visitors to the Town's many beaches, shops and parks who significantly add to the Town's population and traffic.

Current Staffing – 26 Full Time Sworn Officers

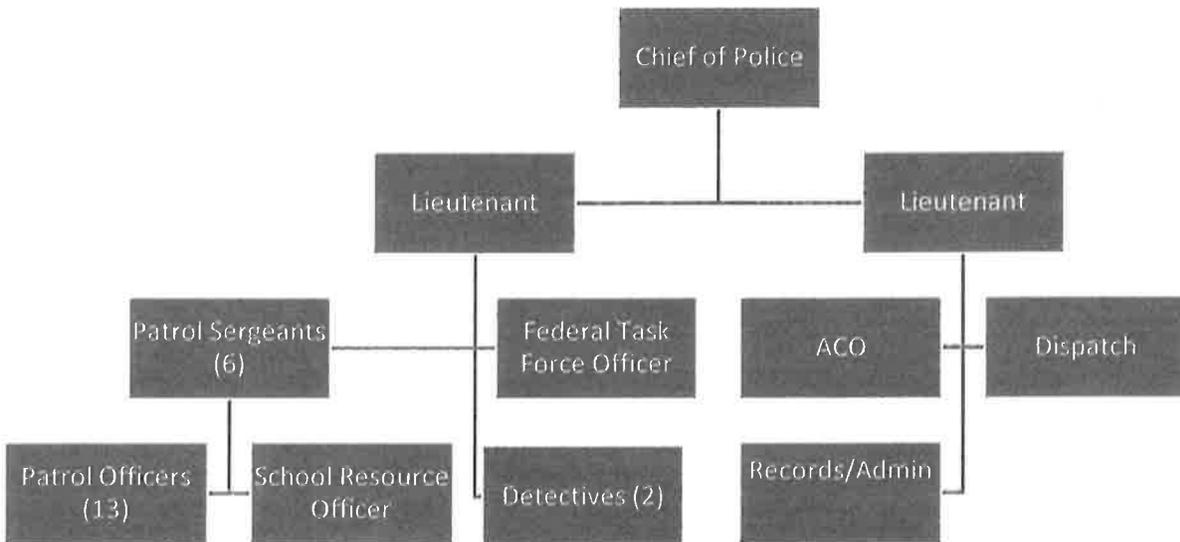
Minimum Patrol – 1 Sergeant, 2 Patrol Officers

Responsible for 34 sq land miles and miles of coastline/waterways

East Lyme Staffing – 1.85* Staff Per 1,000 population

State of CT Staffing rate – 2.58* Staff Per 1,000 population

*Includes Police, Dispatch, Support and Animal Control



East Lyme Police Department Accomplishments

2021 Statistics

16,647 Calls for Service

1,870 Motor Vehicle Stops

187 Traffic Accidents

241 Arrests – 28% Increase 2021 over 2020

34.7% Increase in criminal investigations in 2021 over 2020 (135% January 2022 over 2021)

East Lyme Police Clearance rate – 40.57 %

State of CT Clearance Rate – 16.75%

Technology Upgrades

CAD/RMS platform

Scheduling software and increased overtime efficiency

In car tablets

In car camera and body camera systems

Evidence.com cloud-based storage

Power DMS policy software

New building and JAG grant funding providing upgraded computer equipment and systems

Work with law firm on policy upgrades towards CALEA accreditation

What increase in staffing provides.

- Currently, most shifts have 1 Sergeant and 2 Patrol Officers assigned. Call volume can quickly tie up available Officers limiting ability to quickly respond. Large scale incidents can also have significant impact. In the summer months, this occurs with greater frequency.
- Adding 2 Officers to Patrol will increase coverage by 1 Officer 10 shifts per week. This will impact 520 out of 1,095 shifts per year.
- 1 additional Officer increases the ability to respond to incidents and provide proactive visibility. In doing so responses become better, Officer/citizen safety is improved, and the Department efficiency is enhanced.
- Having an additional Officer assigned to shifts reduces incidents of overtime on the 10 shifts due to staffing above minimum patrol.



East Lyme Police Department
“In the news” 2021

East Lyme police charge man with driving at officer

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Published October 11. 2021 12:56PM | Updated October 12. 2021 4:12AM

By **Taylor Hartz** Day staff writer

New Haven teen charged in East Lyme with having credit card from stolen car

Published October 13. 2021 7:42PM | Updated October 13. 2021 8:01PM

By **Taylor Hartz** Day staff writer

East Lyme's Walk of Horror provides holiday diversion for all ages

Police: Niantic man charged after child found in street unattended

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

Man shoots himself in the foot in East Lyme

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

By **Sten Spinella** Day staff writer

East Lyme K-9 gives police and public something to talk about

Local News

Published: 08/13/21

Dom, a 1½-year-old Belgian malinois, was certified Aug. 3 by the North American Police Work Dog Association to begin patrol and narcotics detection duties with his partner, Officer Bill Langman.

Region prepares as Henri, now a hurricane, heads toward New England

Local News

Published: 08/21/21

Some towns recommend residents evacuate as storm targets Connecticut.

Teen Taken Into Custody, Police Look For Others After Stolen ...

Jul 11, 2021 — A teenager was taken into custody and **police** are on the lookout for several others after a stolen vehicle crash in **East Lyme** early Sunday .

Man Charged With Possessing Stolen Gun: Police

A man is facing gun charges after a motor vehicle stop in East Lyme.

Chris Rhatigan, Patch Staff

Posted Mon, Aug 30, 2021 at 8:48 am

East Lyme police revive two more from overdose

Published June 18. 2021 8:25PM | Updated June 18. 2021 10:21PM

Man Had 120 Bags Of Heroin In East Lyme: Police

A man was charged after police pulled his pickup truck over and found a large quantity of heroin.

Chris Rhatigan, Patch Staff

Posted Mon, Jun 7, 2021 at 1:41 pm ET

Worried East Lyme resident looking for sign to allay speeding concerns

Officer Bill Langman with the East Lyme Police Department uses a radar gun to track car speeds Tuesday, July 13, 2021, as he works a speed zone along Route 1 in East Lyme.

Published July 13, 2021 8:37PM | Updated July 14, 2021 6:02PM

By **Elizabeth Regan** Day staff writer

Driver injured in serious rollover crash in East Lyme

by: [Teresa Pellicano](#)

Posted: Jul 21, 2021 / 10:25 PM EDT / **Updated:** Jul 21, 2021 / 11:12 PM EDT

East Lyme police make arrest in sexual assault investigation

Published: 07/13/21

<https://www.theday.com/policefirecourts/20210713/east-lyme-police-make-arrest-in-sexual-assault-investigation>

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

East Lyme Swears in Four New Police Officers
BY EMILIA OTTE

Police: Physical altercation at East Lyme motel leads to arrest Elizabeth Regan, The Day, New London, Conn.
May 17, 2021

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.

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

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

Police: Officer prevented dumpster fire from spreading to gas station

Published May 28. 2021 7:48PM

East Lyme police arrest two men on drug charges

Published May 03. 2021 4:00PM

Arrest made in East Lyme High School bathroom assault

Published November 23, 2021 6:05PM | Updated November 24, 2021 2:14PM

By **Elizabeth Regan** Day staff writer

Car Stolen From East Lyme Driveway, Police Investigate

Police are investigating after a car was stolen and suspects attempted to enter several cars.

Chris Rhatigan, Patch Staff

Posted Fri, Nov 12, 2021 at 9:28 am ET

Police issue bulletin for missing East Lyme woman

Published January 02, 2022 7:56PM

East Lyme brass say body cameras ensure officers are 'acting appropriately'

Published December 24, 2021 5:26PM | Updated December 24, 2021 5:54PM

By **Elizabeth Regan** Day staff writer

Stolen car found at Powers Lake in East Lyme

- [LIBBY MCMANUS, KEVIN HOGAN](#)
- POSTED DEC 21, 2021

Juvenile charged with assault after incident at East Lyme High School

- ANDREW MASSE
- POSTED NOV 25, 2021

Amid threats on social media, schools to increase police presence

Friday

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Published December 16. 2021 7:24PM | Updated December 17. 2021 2:59PM

By **Erica Moser** Day staff writer