

TOWN OF EAST LYME
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Price, Giancarlo D'Angelo, Tony Buglione, Stephen Rebelowski, Mark Powers, and Regina Hitchery.

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Joe Perkins

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Mike Finkelstein, Lt. Mike Macek and Lt. Dana Jezierski

1. Chairman Price called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Delegations

There were none.

3. Old Business

There was none.

4. Lieutenants' Reports

Lt. Jezierski reported that today Connecticut Officers Standards and Training Council (POST-C) awarded ELPD Level 3 certification becoming the first southeast CT department to achieve ELPD Level 3 certification. Going forward, ELPD will undergo recertifications on a rolling 3-year basis (Level 1 in 2024, Level 2 in 2025 and Level 3 in 2026). The commissioners thanked Lt. Jezierski for her outstanding leadership in preparing ELPD to attain all three certification levels well ahead of deadlines.

Lieutenant Macek summarized the positive involvement of ELPD in numerous town events over the summer months including National Night Out, Tip-a-Cop for CT Special Olympics, Celebrate East Lyme and the Niantic Triathlon. He also advised the Commission that the East Lyme and Waterford Special Response Team (SRT) is off to a good start with four officers completing SWAT training and several officers scheduled for Accident Reconstruction training on 9/15/23.

5. Chief's Report

Chief Finkelstein provided highlights of the department's work over the summer months. His August monthly report will be issued in the coming week

- Consistent with recent trends, NIBRS crime increased 9.39% YTD 2023 over 2022 through August with 21 arrests in July and 29 in August.
- The Celebrate East Lyme event went well from a policing perspective despite the influx of visitors and the high volume of exiting traffic at the end of the fireworks.
- Officers Xu and Kelly graduated from the Police Academy in July and are currently completing field training.
- Officers Hanna and Turcotte are receiving MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) Awards this week in recognition of their support of the organization's work.

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TOWN CLERK

- Because new vehicle availability continues to be a challenge, Chief Finkelstein reassigned the three current administrative vehicles (in use by the Chief and the Lieutenants) for department use requiring only modest outfitting that can be completed by East Lyme personnel. Three Tahoe vehicles were located to replace the administrative vehicles.
- The Exit 74 project continues to go well with payments by Manafort Construction in the range of \$100, 000 per month for August and September. These payments include officer pay and about \$22,000 per month for ELPD vehicles.

6. **MOTION (1)** At 6:32 pm G. D'Angelo moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of conducting a job interview. Seconded by T. Buglione. Motion passed 6-0. The Executive session that included the Chief and Lieutenants, closed at 6:50 pm with no formal votes taken.

MOTION (2) Upon re-entering the regular session S. Rebelowski moved to approve the hiring of the candidate interviewed by the Commissioners. T. Buglione seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

7. New Business

There was none.

8. Chairman's Report

S. Rebelowski reviewed the report titled East Lyme Police Department Awards and Recognition, a summary of existing officer awards. He also recommended that an awards committee be created comprised of the Chief, two police commissioners and two ELPD officers. Following discussion with the commissioners, Chief Finkelstein committed to come back to the commission with more detail on how officers are nominated for awards and a proposal about how an awards committee would function.

9. Public Comment

There was none.

10. Commission Response

There was none.

11. Adjournment

MOTION (3) G. D'Angelo moved to adjourn the September 14, 2023, regular meeting of the East Lyme Board of Police Commissioners, at 6:54 p.m. Seconded by S. Rebelowski. Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Regina Hitchery
 Police Commissioner

Attachment #1: East Lyme Police Department Awards and Recognition

EAST LYME POLICE DEPARTMNT AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

Awarded to any person who renders service with high degree of alertness, perseverance and superior judgment, a difficult task resulting in the protection of life, recovery of property, and the prevention of, or solving of, a major crime or the apprehension of an armed or dangerous person.

LIFESAVING AWARD

Awarded to any person who saves a human life or makes a valiant attempt to save a life.

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Awarded to any person who successfully performs an extreme, complex or difficult investigation. The person may also demonstrate exceptional skill or ingenuity in the apprehension of a wanted person, provide outstanding service to the public and/or continuously achieves excellence in performance of his/her duties over an extended period of time.

UNIT CITATION AWARD

Awarded to members of the department, a command group or group who combines their resources to achieve success in an investigation or event. The citation recognizes exceptional collective effort.

MILITARY SERVICE RECOGNITION

Any member of the department who has served in the U.S. Armed Forces, a regular or reserved status, is entitled to display on his/her uniform an approved USA style pin.

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL

Any officer who has attended, served in a position for the NLEOM and/or in uniform on May 13th in Washington, D.C. of any year for the NLEOM Candle Light Service is entitled to wear such pin.

ANY OTHER SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Any other award, citation, or recognition awarded by another agency to a member(s) of the East Lyme Police Department can be displayed on uniform as approved by the Awards Committee.

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Unless otherwise determined by the Police Commission, the Awards Committee will consist of the following;

1. Chief of Police
2. At least two (2) members of the Police Commission
3. Two (2) officers of the ELPD