

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

PRESENT: Board of Selectmen Members Dan Cunningham, Ann Cicchiello, Rose Ann Hardy, Candice Carlson, Jason Deeble and Don MacKenzie
Also in attendance: Town Engineer Alex Klose

Mr. Cunningham called the regular meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen to order at 7:02 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1b. Additional Agenda & Consent Items
There were none.

1c. Delegations

Mr. Eric Bauman, Chairman of the Board of Education, appealed to the Board of Selectman to get the Police Department to do the following things: 1) appoint a uniformed officer as soon as possible, tomorrow if possible, as the interim SRO; and 2) bring on board a second SRO. He stated that the former SRO, Don Hull, left that position to take the role of Director of Security for the schools.

Mr. Don Hull, Director of Security for the East Lyme School System, stated that he enjoyed his role as SRO, but could not pass up the opportunity to oversee security for the schools. Being an SRO, it is difficult to build trusting relationships with the students, parents and staff, and the longer the position remains open the more difficult it will be for someone to settle in and build relationships. He admitted that a second SRO is definitely needed; it is full time job and difficult for only one person to manage and make effective changes. He noted that our surrounding towns have multiple SROs, including Waterford who have three. He supports replacing the SRO position ASAP and then adding a second SRO position.

Mr. Jeff Newton, Superintendent of East Lyme Schools, stated that he has already made contact with Chief Glenn, and communicated their desire for immediate replacement of the open position, and then to appoint another officer as a second SRO. He looks forward to further building the partnership between the schools and the police department.

Ms. Jaime Barr Shelburn, 31 McElaney Drive, Niantic, and Board of Education member, stated that she is in support of everything that both Mr. Hull and Mr. Newton said, and she supports the immediate replacement of the former SRO and the addition of a new one. She noted that the SRO also runs the Challenge Program and builds irreplaceable relationships with students and parents.

Mr. Paul Spakowski, 37 Mill Road, East Lyme, stated that he is extremely disappointed that the tipping fees went back to being one rate for all for leaf disposal; noting that the Board of Selectman had previously agreed to offer a lower rate to the local contractors.

1d. Approve Minutes

MOTION (1)

Ms. Cicchiello MOVED to approve the Public Hearing Minutes of September 3, 2025, as submitted. Seconded by Ms. Carlson. ABSTAINED; Ms. Cicchiello. Motion passed 5-0-1.

MOTION (2)

Mr. Deeble MOVED to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 3, 2025, as submitted. Seconded by Ms. Carlson. ABSTAINED; Ms. Cicchiello. Motion passed 5-0-1.

TOWN OF EAST LYME
CLERK
19-11-2025 11:51
19-11-2025 11:51

1e. Consent Calendar

MOTION (3)

Ms. Cicchiello MOVED to approve the consent calendar for September 17, 2025, in the amount of \$3,355.16.

Seconded by Ms. Cicchiello. Motion passed 6-0.

2a. East Pattagansett Sidewalk Project Update

Town Engineer Alex Klose presented the final update to the plans for the sidewalk project on East Pattagansett, which will now go to the District 2 DOT office for review of the proposed signal work at the intersection with Route 161. He reported that he has addressed very few comments and concerns from the affected property owners, and that overall, very few properties need an easement. Once the Town receives approval from the DOT, the project will then go out to bid. He stated that he has received positive feedback from the public overall, and that completion of this project will satisfy the POCD as presented by the Planning Commission in 2020.

2b. Building Fees Ordinance

MOTION (4)

Ms. Cicchiello MOVED that the Board of Selectmen approve and enact the Amendments to the Town of East Lyme § 150.015 FEES FOR BUILDING AND DEMOLITION PERMITS, Subsection (A), of the Town of East Lyme Building Ordinances, as presented at the public hearings before the Board of Selectmen on September 17, 2025, and that the effective date of the Ordinance shall be ten (10) days after newspaper publication of the notice of its adoption as provided by the Town's Charter.

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

3a. Appointment to Pension Board

DISCUSSION: Mr. Cunningham stated that there is an open seat on the Pension Board due to the resignation of Peter Levanti. He stated that they are working to fill that position and will table this matter for tonight.

3b. Presentation Re Brookside Farm Museum

This matter is tabled.

3c. Poet Laureate for East Lyme

DISCUSSION: Mr. Deeble stated that he would like the Board to consider appointing an official Poet Laureate for the Town, noting that our community is very literary, making good use of not only our library but the three bookstores in town. There is no cost to the Town for this appointment, and it can be considered an investment in our literary community. Mr. Deeble stated that he will do some additional research on when the town previously had a Poet Laureate and what the procedure should be. Ms. Cicchiello stated that since she is the Ex-Officio for the Library, she will also speak with the Library Board and report back.

4a. Ex-Officio Reports

There were no ex-officio reports.

4b. First Selectman's Report

Mr. Cunningham reported:

- Police Chief Kevin Glenn was sworn in on Monday, September 8th; welcome Chief Glenn!
- First Selectman will work with the Chief to fill the vacant SRO for the BOE as soon as possible. He will call a special meeting to appointment someone should that arise before the next meeting.
- Annual Miracle League Oysterfest is scheduled for Saturday, September 20th from 12pm until 6pm on Saint John's green.

- The Exit 74/I95 project is moving along with the current exit 74 getting ready to close permanently. It will take them about two weeks to construct the new exit ramp. The decking on the southbound side is almost complete, which at that point they will divert traffic to the new highway and begin deconstructing the old portion.
- Regarding the new radios that we have not taken ownership of since the purchase, Chief Glenn believes that we can use them and has ordered them delivered. Chief Glenn has recommended that the town hire a consultant to facilitate the project and get the radios on line and working with the State system. He reported that Waterford recently connected to the State system at a cost of \$6M. A committee will be established to oversee the best process to take with this project.
- The new engine is on the Fire Department's Boston Whaler and was in the water today for a test run when a water emergency occurred. Hats off to the fire fighters who quickly sprung into action to rescue the windsurfer and bring her to shore.

5. Communications
There was none.

6. Public Comments
There was none.

7. Selectman's Response

MOTION (5)

Ms. Cicchiello MOVED to adjourn the September 17, 2025, regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 8:14 p.m.

Seconded by Ms. Carlson. Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sandra Anderson
Recording Secretary