#### EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 17, 2025

PRESENT: Board of Selectmen Members Dan Cunningham, Ann Cicchiello, Jason Deeble and

Candice Carlson. Rose Ann Hardy arrived at 7:09 p.m.

**EXCUSED:** Cindy Collins

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Town Attorney Tracy Collins

Mr. Cunningham called the regular meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen to order at

7:04 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## 1b. Additional Agenda & Consent Items

#### MOTION (1)

Ms. Cicchiello MOVED to move agenda item 3a to be heard after Consent Calendar as agenda item 1f.

Seconded by Mr. Deeble. Motion passed 4-0.

#### 1c. Delegations

There were none.

#### 1d. Approve Minutes

#### MOTION (2)

Ms. Cicchiello MOVED to approve the Public Hearing Minutes of December 3, 2025, as submitted. Seconded by Ms. Carlson. Motion passed 4-0.

#### MOTION (3)

Ms. Cicchiello MOVED to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 3, 2025, as submitted.

Seconded by Ms. Carlson. Motion passed 4-0.

#### 1e. Consent Calendar

#### MOTION (4)

Ms. Cicchiello MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar for December 17, 2025, in the amount of \$2,938.40.

Seconded by Ms. Cicchiello. Motion passed 4-0.

#### 1f. Veterans Exemption

Tax Assessor Diane Vitagliano presented to the Board their options for Veteran's exemptions. The public can find information on this exemption and the new options by reviewing Public Act 25-168, specifically page 337 of 745. Please see her notes attached hereto as Exhibit #1; and for a full playback of this important discussion, please access the video at <a href="https://www.eltownhall.com/government/videos">www.eltownhall.com/government/videos</a>.

#### 2a. Automated Ticketing Ordinance

DISCUSSION: Mr. Cunningham explained that Mr. Deeble sent additional information to be put on the record after the public hearing on December 3, 2025, was closed. In the interest of transparency and public awareness, Mr. Cunningham decided, after conferring with Town Counsel, that since he had opened the email and read the information, that a new public hearing should be scheduled to present to the Board and the public the new information brought forth by Mr. Deeble.

#### MOTION (5)

Ms. Cicchiello MOVED the following: NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of a public hearing to be held by the East Lyme Board of Selectmen at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at the East Lyme Town Hall, 108 Pennsylvania Avenue, Niantic, Connecticut to consider the Ordinance titled "Ordinance Authorizing The Use of Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices". Copies of the full text of the proposed Ordinance are on file for public inspection at the office of the East Lyme Town Clerk, 108 Pennsylvania Avenue, Niantic, Connecticut and at www.eltownhall.com to which reference may be had. Interested persons are invited to attend and be heard. The Board of Selectmen may make changes to the language of the proposed ordinance as the result of information presented in the public hearing. Dated at East Lyme, Connecticut, on this 17th day of December, 2025.

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

#### 2b. Appointment to CIP Committee

Nomination by Ms. Carlson to appoint Oliva Fairchild as the Citizen Representative to the CIP Committee. There was no second.

#### MOTION (6)

Ms. Hardy MOVED to nominate and appoint Joe Bragaw, 19 Attawan Avenue, as the Citizen Representative to the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Committee. Seconded by Mr. Deeble. Motion passed 5-0.

#### 3b. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Ms. Cicchiello MOVED to appoint Daniel Cleary, 75 Stonehill Drive, Killingworth, CT, to serve as a Member on the Cable TV Advisory Council of Eastern Connecticut for the Town of East Lyme with a term to expire on January 3, 2028. This motion was rescinded because the Board was unclear on whether he needs to be an East Lyme resident to sit on this board.

#### MOTION (7)

Ms. Cicchiello MOVED to appoint Elizabeth Kuchta, 154 Pennsylvania Avenue, Niantic as the East Lyme Town Historian with a term to expire on January 7, 2030. Seconded by Ms. Carlson. Motion passed 5-0.

### MOTION (8)

Mr. Deeble MOVED to appoint Brian Burridge, 476 Boston Post Road, East Lyme, as the Veterans Representative for the Town of East Lyme with a term to expire on January 7, 2030. Seconded by Mr. Deeble. Motion passed 5-0.

#### MOTION (9)

Mr. Deeble MOVED to appoint Lucy Schuman to serve as a Member on the Board of Police Commissioners for the Town of East Lyme with a term to expire on January 7, 2030. Seconded by Ms. Carlson. Motion passed 5-0.

#### MOTION (10)

Ms. Cicchiello MOVED to appoint Resa Spaziani, 9 Cove Drive, Niantic, to serve as a Member on the Board of Police Commissioners for the Town of East Lyme with a term to expire on January 7, 2030.

Seconded by Ms. Hardy. Motion passed 5-0.

#### MOTION (11)

Ms. Cicchiello MOVED to appoint Regina Hitchery, 27 Saunders Drive, Niantic, to serve as a Member on the Board of Police Commissioners for the Town of East Lyme with a term to expire on January 7, 2030.

Seconded by Ms. Hardy. Motion passed 5-0.

#### MOTION (12)

Mr. Cunningham MOVED to appoint Don Mackenzie and Rose Ann Hardy as an ad hoc committee to review and recommend people for appointments to boards and commissions. Seconded by Ms. Carlson. Motion passed 5-0.

#### 4a. Ex-Officio Reports

Candice Carlson reported:

All her boards are working on their budgets.

#### Ann Cicchiello reported:

 Water & Sewer heard a presentation by applicant Dan Trakas for the property at 200 Pennsylvania Avenue. The Commission denied the application due to lack of available capacity.

#### 4b. First Selectman's Report

- Lt. Mike Macek was honored at the Police Commission meeting for his outstanding work while acting as the interim Police Chief.
- Board of Finance is preparing for the upcoming budget season.
- The I95/Exit 74 project is approximately 75% finished, with an anticipated finish date of November 30, 2026. They will begin blasting again beginning January 5<sup>th</sup>. To sign up for text alerts regarding the blasting schedule, please find the link on the Town of East Lyme webpage under "In The Spotlight".
- Mariah Knight has completed her courses and is now officially Deputy Fire Marshal.
- The Youth Family and Human Services is promoting their part-time wellness coordinator to a full-time position beginning January 1, 2026. This increase in hours is being funded by a grant.

#### 5. Communications

There was none.

#### 6. Public Comments

Ms. Linda Bendfeldt, 12 S. Cobblers Court, spoke about her and her husband's disappointment that the State's amendment to the Veterans Exemption left out some circumstances and she feels as though the Town should make it right and give them a retroactive exemption.

#### 7. Selectman's Response

The First Selectmen stated, in response to Ms. Bendfeldt's comments, that the Town is not legally allowed to go retroactive in this circumstance and that the Tax Assessor is following the Statute, which is the law.

#### MOTION (13)

Ms. Cicchiello MOVED to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation, and to include Town Attorney Tracy Collins, Glenn Russo and Attorney Tim Hollister.

The Board entered into executive session at 8:49 p.m. They returned at 10:22 p.m. and it was stated that no formal votes were taken.

It was confirmed by the recording secretary that the Cable TV Advisory Council is not an East Lyme Town Committee and does not require Mr. Cleary to be a town of East Lyme resident.

#### MOTION (14)

Ms. Cicchiello MOVED to appoint Daniel Cleary, 75 Stonehill Drive, Killingworth, CT, to serve as a Member on the Cable TV Advisory Council of Eastern Connecticut for the Town of East Lyme with a term to expire on January 3, 2028.

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

#### MOTION (15)

Ms. Cicchiello MOVED to adjourn the December 17, 2025, regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 10:22 p.m.

Seconded by Ms. Carlson. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Anderson Recording Secretary Exhibit#(

# New Changes to §12-81 (19), (20), (21), (22), (25), (26) and (83) Veterans Exemptions

Condensed Highlights for Permanently and Totally Disabled Veterans with 100% Service-Connected rating.

- Extends the exemption to a fractional share of a dwelling (i.e. such as Condominiums, trailer homes in a park or unit in a common interest community) precluding any commercial use or rental income.
- Extends the exemption to properties held in trust for Veteran previously limited to properties held in trust for a spouse.
- Extends the exemption to widow, widower or minor children who
  were domiciled with the deceased Vet as tenants for life or
  tenants for a term liable for property tax if they remain a widow,
  widower or minor.
- Extends the exemption to veteran owned residential dwelling on leased land for dwelling.
- cRequires an application to be submitted by the Veteran or their surviving spouse verifying their status prior to January 1 annually in order to qualify for the exemption.

Public Act No. 25-168 excerpt location pg. 337 of 745. Attached

# New local options to consider by vote of its Board of Selectman

- (E) Allows, by local option, a town to exempt the house <u>and</u> up to 2 acres of land.
- (F) Allows, by local option, a town to provide the surviving spouse of a Permanently and Totally Disabled Veteran with 100% Service-Connected rating who died <u>prior to</u> October 1, 2024, <u>but after</u> a date to be determined by such legislative body shall be eligible if such spouse remains a widow or widower.

• (G) Allows, by local option, a town to limit the exemption to an amount equal to the median assessed valuation of residential real property in such municipality.

## New local options available by vote of the Legislative Body

- Public Act 25-168 allows, by Local Option, a town, by vote of its legislative body, to extend the APA exemption (Permanently and Totally Disabled Veterans with 100% Service-Connected rating) to Veterans who have a service-connected total disability based on individual unemployability (TDIU). These Veterans already receive benefits based on their degree of disability; this benefit amount is increased after the individual attains age 65 to the same amount as those at the 100% level. This local option would extend the exemption of APA Veterans to those considered unemployable including any local options adopted.
- Section 241 (Gold Star) of this bill, by vote of its legislative body, would extend the APA exemption to the surviving spouse of a Veteran who was killed in action while performing active military duty, if they remain a widow or widower. We did not adopt the previous Gold Star local option.

## **Current Veteran Exemptions**

- We currently have 1629 Military with Exemptions totaling \$16,483,610 assessed.
- 62 APA Veterans or 4% make up 55% of the exemptions totaling \$9,075,570 assessed.
- In 2024, there were 41 Veterans who received the APA exemption totaling \$4,982,590 assessed in the Town of East Lyme.

	Bos Approval and								
	ASSESSED	MILL RATE		AX LOSS		MEDIAN	٦	TAX LOSS	
CURRENT APA EXEMPTION 56 VETERANS(7 PENDING)	\$ 9,075,570	0.02801	\$	254,207	\$	8,021,370	\$	224,679	
ADDING BLDG LOT	\$ 5,448,730		\$	152,619	\$	2,212,490	\$	61,972	
TOTAL	\$ 14,524,300		\$	406,826	\$	10,233,860	\$	286,650	
EXCESS AC UP TO 2	\$ 60,424		\$	1,692	\$	7,560	\$	212	
TOTAL GRAND LIST LOSS	\$ 14,584,724		\$	408,518	\$	10,241,420	\$	286,862	
TOTAL DIS UNEMPLOYED	<b>CROS</b>	100	7	TO SIN	3	BOS A	PP	noval	
TDIU (9 VETS) ARC	\$ 898,170		\$	25,158	\$	898,170	\$	25,158	
ADDING BLDG LOT	\$ 655,760		\$	18,368					
TOTAL	\$ 1,553,930		\$	43,526	\$	1,373,050	\$	38,459	
ADDING EXCESS ACREAGE *NOT INC PEND (9)	\$ 7,840		\$	220					
TOTAL	\$ 1,561,770		\$	43,745	\$	1,301,790	\$	36,463	
Running Total			-	<b>+</b>					
TOTAL GRAND LIST LOSS	\$ 16,146,494		\$ -5	408,518	\$	11,543,210	\$	323,325	

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	TOTAL					TOTAL	MEDIAN ASSD	If/Then (Just	IF/Then (Dwel	(dwelling up to
APA	ACREAGE	DWELLING	HOUSE LOT	RES EXCESS LAND	OUTBUILDING	ASSESSED	VALUE	Dwelling)	+Res Land)	2 ac)
APA	1.918274	\$119,210	\$158,830	\$7,210	\$0	\$285,250	\$186,340	\$ 119,210		
APA	0.45	\$112,980	\$55,860	\$0	\$630	\$169,470		\$ 112,980		
APA	0.309568	\$145,180	\$76,790	\$350	\$980	\$223,300		\$ 145,180		
APA	0.480005	\$113,330	\$86,730	\$0	\$350	\$200,410		\$ 113,330		\$ 186,340
APA	0.460009	\$140,770	\$86,240	\$0	\$2,030	\$229,040		\$ 140,770	\$ 186,340	\$ 186,340
APA	1.778274	\$95,970	\$85,470	\$3,150	\$630	\$185,220		\$ 95,970	\$ 181,440	\$ 184,590
APA	0.460009	\$104,440	\$86,240	\$0	\$7,280	\$197,960		\$ 104,440	\$ 186,340	\$ 186,340
APA	0.516437	\$132,020	\$87,430	\$0	\$0	\$219,450		\$ 132,020	\$ 186,340	\$ 186,340
APA	0.490596	\$146,370	\$91,350	\$0	\$350	\$238,070		\$ 146,370	\$ 186,340	\$ 186,340
APA	0.519995	\$147,140	\$92,120	- \$0	\$770	\$240,030		\$ 147,140	\$ 186,340	\$ 186,340
APA	0.389991	\$92,820	\$54,740	\$0	\$2,310	\$149,870		\$ 92,820	\$ 147,560	\$ 147.560
APA	0.968274	\$362,040	\$145,740	\$350	\$0	\$508,130		\$ 186,340		
APA	2.318274	\$101,010	\$85,470	\$4,102	\$0	\$190,582		\$ 101,010		
APA	1.108274	\$211,750	\$158,830	\$1,400	\$0	\$371,980		\$ 186,340		
APA	0.110009	\$117,390	\$243,880	\$0	\$0	\$361,270		\$ 117,390		
APA	0.680005	\$145,110	\$91,560	\$0	\$0	\$236,670		\$ 145,110		
APA	0.660005	\$145,110 \$184,170	\$85,960	\$0	\$1,330	\$230,670		\$ 143,110 \$ 184,170		
						\$206,710			\$ 186,340	
APA	0.25	\$96,040	\$109,830	\$0	\$840			\$ 96,040 \$ 127,820		
APA	0.560009	\$127,820	\$93,100	\$0	\$0	\$220,920				\$ 186,340
APA	0.739991	\$191,310	\$93,520	\$0	\$0	\$284,830		\$ 186,340		
APA	0.918274	\$135,940	\$62,090	\$0	\$420	\$198,450		\$ 135,940		
APA	1.408274	\$349,090	\$135,730	\$3.010	\$0	\$487,830		\$ 186,340		
APA	0.339568	\$90,930	\$79,170	\$490	\$16,450	\$187,040		\$ 90,930		
APA	1.155482	\$177,450	\$84,770	\$3,360	\$0	\$265,580		\$ 177,450		\$ 186,340
APA	0.831107	\$285,110	\$92,330	\$0	\$0	\$377,440		\$ 186,340		
APA	0.439991	\$111,860	\$89,950	\$0	\$1,120	\$202,930		\$ 111,860		
APA	0.110009	\$138,810	\$73,710	\$0	\$0	\$212,520		\$ 138,810		\$ 1.86,340
APA	0.958274	\$183,470	\$105,560	\$140	\$0	\$289,170		\$ 183,470	\$ 186,340	\$ 186,340
APA	1.908274	\$165,200	\$100,520	\$3,570	\$560	\$269,850		\$ 165,200	\$ 186,340	\$ 186,340
APA	0.2	\$133,770	\$49,910	\$0	\$1,260	\$184,940		\$ 133,770	\$ 183,680	\$ 183,680
APA	2.708274	\$209,510	\$100,520	\$4.181	\$15,470	\$329,681		\$ 186,340	\$ 186,340	
APA	1.288274	\$180,320	\$105,560	\$1,400	\$0	\$287,280		\$ 180,320		
APA	0.948274	\$100,450	\$100.520	\$140	\$5,390	\$206,500		\$ 100,450		
APA	0.689991	\$133,560	\$91,840	\$0	\$4,410	\$229,810		\$ 133,560		
APA	2.228274	\$187,880	\$105,560	\$4,879	\$0	\$298,319	t:	\$ 186,340		
APA	0.385482	\$147,700	\$88,830	\$560	\$0	\$237,090		\$ 147,700		
APA	0.479568	\$83,020	\$79,170	\$1,120	\$10,220	\$173,530		\$ 83,020		
APA	0.189991	\$149,240	\$102,480	\$0	\$1,330	\$253,050		\$ 149,240		
APA	2.258274	\$162,820		\$4,196	\$1,530	\$249,756		\$ 162,820		
_			\$81,200					\$ 142,940		
APA	0 460000	\$142,940	\$0	\$0 en	\$0	\$142,940				
APA	0.460009	\$178,920	\$90,580	\$0	\$0	\$269,500				
APA	0.260009	\$105,700	\$84,210	\$0	\$490	\$190,400		\$ 105,700		
APA	10.998274	\$339,990	\$105,560	\$4,766	\$0	\$450,316		\$ 186,340		
APA	0.45	\$79,730	\$79,170	\$980	\$1,960	\$161,840		\$ 79,730		
APA	0.819995	\$137,900	\$101,640	\$0	\$630	\$240,170		\$ 137,900		
APA	0.110009	\$146,930	\$221,690	\$0	\$1,820	\$370,440		\$ 146,930		
APA	0.72	\$212,310	\$97,580	\$0	\$1,190	\$311,080		\$ 186,340		
APA	1.358274	\$277,620	\$105,560	\$2,100	\$7,910	\$393,190		\$ 186,340		
APA	1.558274	\$106,960	\$62,090	\$1,820	\$0	\$170,870		\$ 106,960		
APA	0.4	\$256,550	\$130,620	\$1,260	\$4,830	\$393,260		\$ 186,340	\$ 186,340	\$ 186,340
APA	0.469995	\$128,380	\$86,310	\$0	\$700	\$215,390		\$ 128,380	\$ 186,340	\$ 1.86,340
APA	0.884114	\$113,050	\$64,470	\$6	\$14,280	\$191,800		\$ 113,050	\$ 177,520	\$ 177,520
APA	0.735	\$407,120	\$126,280	\$0	\$1,260	\$534,660		\$ 186,340		
APA	5.998	\$155,820	\$100,240	\$2,543	\$5,110			\$ 155,820		
APA	2.228274	\$147,910	\$85,470	\$3,347	\$280	\$237,007		\$ 147,910		
APA	0.469995	\$124,740	\$108,150	\$0	\$3,010	\$235,900		\$ 124,740		
APA	56	7.2.,,,,,,	TOTAL STATE		70,020				-	
. 11 /1	- 50	\$9,075,570	\$5,448,730	\$60,424	\$119,140		Dwelling	\$ 8,021,370	\$ 10,233,860	\$ 10,241,420
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AFA CFB ADA AEA CEB

OPM=Cooles types of disability