EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN PUBLIC HEARING OF DECEMBER 3, 2025 REGARDING AN ORDINANCE TITLED

"Ordinance Authorizing The Use Of Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices"

MINUTES

PRESENT: Board of Selectmen Members Dan Cunningham, Ann Cicchiello, Rose Ann Hardy, Candice Carlson, Jason Deeble and Cindy Collins
ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Police Chief Kevin Glenn and Police Commissioner Regina Hitchery

Mr. Cunningham opened the Public Hearing at 7:07 p.m. and read the Public Hearing Notice into record. He then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

First Selectman Cunningham called for public comment.

Lisa McGowan, 33 Spinnaker, inquired about where the data is going and who it will be shared with; she is concerned about privacy and profiling. She requested the Board take a pause before adopting the ordinance. Chief Glenn stated that this proposed equipment is not part of the State's license reader program, and he noted that the proposed speed camera program is backed by the State and ACLU and does not collect or store any identifying information. He acknowledged that he understands her concerns.

Joshua Caske, One Grooms Way stated that he is generally in favor of the ordinance as these devices have been proven to reduce speeding and fatal crashes in the areas that they are installed. He also feels that a program like this overall reduces the risk of bias because there is no human interaction. He stated that the revenue generated should be used for installing sidewalks and traffic calming measures in the worst areas of town.

Chris Hanney, 124 N. Bride Brook Road, asked where the cameras would be installed. Chief Glenn stated that the ordinance needs to be adopted before they can decide on possible locations, but the areas surrounding the school are priority. Once the ordinance is adopted, locations will be considered, and public hearings will be scheduled for the public to weigh in on where they should be placed. Mr. Hanney is concerned about how having the equipment near the schools and the senior center might inadvertently penalize a vulnerable portion of the community, including penalizing the parent who is the registered owner of the vehicle. Mr. Hanney asked how much of the revenue the State will receive. Chief Glenn stated that the Town receives 100% of the revenue as the administrative fees are built into the infraction. Chief Glenn stated that the offender would not receive an infraction, but simply a Town fine. He stated that the fines are not meant to bring in revenue or penalize a person specifically but is intended to be a tool to promote safety in those areas. Mr. Hanney asked what would happen if the individual does not pay for the ticket. Chief Glenn stated that it would be up to the Board of Selectman and included in the ordinance, so he is not yet sure, but that other

municipalities use tools such as debt collection and civil court to recoup these unpaid fines.

Jim Craddock, 31 Pattagansett Drive, stated that he is in favor of this ordinance as speeding in town, especially on Boston Post Road, is very dangerous.

Jaime Barr Shelburn, 31 McElaney Drive, inquired as to who will be calibrating the equipment and how often it will be done to ensure accuracy. She noted that the one by Lillie B. Haynes is often way off on the speed. Chief Glenn stated that the vendor will be calibrating the equipment on a regular basis and noted that the electronic sign by the school is owned by the Town and does not collect any data and simply shows speed, but that the Public Works department calibrates that equipment. She noted that she appreciates the effort to slow down speeders, but she feels like this could be just a mechanism to bring in revenue, citing the recent article in The Day stating an average income of \$1,000,000 per week. Chief Glenn stated that he is not sure where the reporter came up with that number, and to remember that the goal of this program is not to generate revenue but to promote safety. The vendor has supplied statistics showing that within a year, approximately 90% of the municipalities are reporting a drastic decrease in the number of speeding violations and accidents in the areas that they are installed.

MOTION (1)

Ms. Cicchiello MOVED to close the Public Hearing regarding an ordinance titled "Ordinance Authorizing The Use Of Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices" at 7:29 p.m.

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

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Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Anderson Recording Secretary