

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, February 11, 2026
7:00PM
Community Room of the former
Chelsea Groton Savings Bank Building
300 Broadway, Norwich, CT

Committee Members Present: President Pro Tem Joe DeLucia, Alderman Bill Nash and Alderwoman Jill Zuccardy.

Committee Members Absent: None.

Administration and Staff Present: Chief Patrick Daley, Norwich Police Department; and Larry Sullivan, Norwich Public Utilities.

Volunteer/Central Fire Departments and Others: Norwich: Chief Sam Wilson and Assistant Chief of Training & Safety Jason Erban; East Great Plain: Chief Rich Huntley; Laurel Hill: Deputy Chief Peter Clark; Occum: Chief Scott Eggert; Yantic: Chief Robert Allen; and Taftville: Deputy Chief Bill Hayes.

Citizens Present:

1. Call to Order and Quorum

2. Adoption of Previous Meeting Minutes: Alderman Bill Nash made a motion to accept the January 14, 2026 regular meeting minutes. Alderwoman Jill Zuccardy seconded. All voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Citizen Comment: Alden Miner stated he was a resident of Franklin and asked if the city of Norwich had given any thought to the impact on mutual aid provided to surrounding towns by the closure of the Yantic firehouse. Alden Miner stated he felt it would have been wiser to approach the situation in the Spring during a less dangerous time of year in regards to cold weather, snow, increased car accidents and the increased fire hazard potentials with many running out of fuel for their homes.

Christina Martin of Taftville stated she had listened to statements by the Norwich Fire Chief and City Manager who said they did not want to dominate the volunteer fire houses, but would like them to confirm to their requests and felt as though they had retaliated. Christina Martin stated she felt unified command was a bullying tactic to force out the volunteer firefighters under the guise of uniformity. Christina Martin stated she felt it was a power grab and that to unify meant to bring together, but felt the chief and City Manager were working to tear

the community apart. Christina Martin stated she heard there were issues with the volunteer firehouses but questioned if the paid fire service was perfect with no faults. Christina Martin stated that no one wanted to be analyzed but felt quick comments and denigrating the volunteer firefighters was unacceptable. Christina Martin stated the Taftville fire chief often visited Ponemah Mills where she lives and was very familiar with the appropriate response needed for the property. Christina Martin stated that the Taftville Fire Department was very engaged with her community. Christina Martin stated the Taftville and Yantic fire departments were vital parts of their communities and served out of a love for their community. Christina Martin stated she had not yet heard what the cost of the closing of the Yantic firehouse would be for Norwich taxpayers. Christina Martin stated she would like to know the cost of the legal fees involved. Christina Martin asked if the city loses its volunteer firefighters what would be the cost to hire paid firefighters. Christina Martin stated she was not feeling trust.

John Bilda stated he had lived on Harland Road for decades, worked as general manager of NPU for 32 years and had volunteered with the Taftville Fire Department for 25 years. John Bilda stated he had also volunteered previously as the city manager for a year without pay. John Bilda stated he was aware firsthand that there were many opportunities to improve the fire service in Norwich and felt he had a good pulse on how the city operated. John Bilda stated the way in which the ordered directives were being implemented was wrong. John Bilda stated the community was largely made up of volunteers and the process the city was going through steered young people away from volunteering in any capacity, not just with the fire departments. John Bilda stated the process of implementing these changes has completely devalued lifelong commitments to what people in the community had made, and listed off various community members. John Bilda stated that the directives devalued what volunteers had done for the city by the process, not due to the changes themselves. John Bilda stated that the directives were being implemented by people he felt had no connection or commitment to the city. John Bilda again stressed the importance of volunteerism in the community. John Bilda stated there were outsiders making huge changes that would destroy the community. John Bilda urged the committee to think about this now and moving forward.

Gene Mariano stated he previously lived in Norwich for 29 years and had served as a fire chief for 43 years. Gene Mariano stated he did not understand how the public safety complex could detail a community and the city leaders needed to take care of their townspeople. Gene Mariano stated he had worked with many chiefs over the years at the Yantic Fire Department and the department always showed up when mutual aid was needed, typically with two trucks. Gene Mariano stated there was a call earlier that day for a structure fire in Colchester and the

city paid department had to pick up a truck in order to provide aid. Gene Mariano stated that the city council did not seem to care about the townspeople because if they did the Yantic firehouse would not have been shut down the way that it was. Gene Mariano stated that the Public Safety Committee members needed to ask themselves when the Yantic Fire Department was shut down how many engines could the city spare and at what cost. Gene Mariano stated the volunteer firefighters were there to help the city. Gene Mariano stated that Colchester suffered earlier that day because they had to wait for the Salem Fire Department to arrive before the Norwich Fire Department did. Gene Mariano stated that Chief Sam Wilson came from a city where all the volunteer firefighters left. Gene Mariano stated he was in complete support of the volunteer firefighters and thought the city should be as well.

Al French stated he was a Norwich resident and present at the meeting at Kelly Middle School where this process had begun through administration. Al French stated it was his understanding that the plan moving forward was to purchase a service truck for the high volume of EMS calls that the city paid department responded to, however they were now looking at buying a new engine.

RELISTEN 7:19 Al French stated inflated...

Al French stated the three recent fatal fires in the city were in the paid department district. Al French stated there was eight months to come to an understanding and the city wanted to drop the hammer. Al French stated in 15 hours 179 years of service were canceled out which was indefensible. Al French stated he understood Chief Sam Wilson had a mission but was opening the door for additional questions, such as what the paid department's call for service was and what their fire losses were. Al French questioned how many EMS calls went out and did not think an engine was needed to respond to an EMS call when it could be done by two firefighters in a pickup truck. Al French stated he felt the closing of the Yantic Fire Department was wrong and the service rendered by volunteer firefighters was what America was about.

Laura McKinney stated she was part of a five generational family living on Wawecus Hill Road and had dealt with the Yantic Fire Department many times over the years. Laura McKinney stated there was an instance where the Norwich Fire Department arrived 10 minutes after Yantic Fire Department and she would have lost her home if not due to the quick response. Laura McKinney stated there was another situation where the Yantic Fire Department also was the first to arrive when her mother had a heart attack. Laura McKinney stated the actions taken by the city were not safe and noted the Wawecus neighborhood operated on well systems. Laura McKinney stated that because of this a pumper truck would be needed if there was a fire and questioned if the Norwich Fire Department could provide this every time. Laura McKinney questioned where the

transparency was in this decision making process and why a contract was sent to the Yantic Fire Department after business hours with an expectation it be signed by 10:00AM the following day. Laura McKinney asked if the contract was sent to other volunteer departments, and what the reasoning was if it was not. Laura McKinney recalled it was said a fire apparatus was placed in a city building near the Yantic Fire Department but its exact location was not publicly stated. Laura McKinney stated the Yantic Fire Department was only 6 minutes from her own while the Norwich Fire Department was 9 minutes away. Laura McKinney stated that more transparency was needed and these decisions were putting citizens at risk.

Nick Cassiano stated he lived in the East Great Plain neighborhood. Nick Cassiano stated the Yantic Fire Department existed since 1847 and was shut down because they were strong armed, not due to a failure. Nick Cassiano stated the Yantic firefighters followed the rules and their attorney asked for time to review the contract, but they were shut down. Nick Cassiano stated the act was claimed to be for public safety but he felt it was coercion. Nick Cassiano asked what this occurrence stemmed from. Nick Cassiano stated that mutual aid was voted down by Norwich citizens in 2023 and instead of following the wishes of the people the city instead decided to strongarm the volunteer departments into doing what the city wanted. Nick Cassiano stated the executive action on mutual aid was a power grab. Nick Cassiano stated if one was to follow the money they would find in Connecticut there are two pacts primarily with the city; the Norwich Firefighters Pact and the State Firefighters Pact. Nick Cassiano reported that the Norwich Firefighters Pact donated \$1,500 to the Democratic Party of Norwich. Nick Cassiano stated that the current primarily Democratic city council was strong-arming the volunteer services. Nick Cassiano stated that the Norwich Firefighters Pact was chaired by an officer within the paid department. Nick Cassiano stated this was a conflict of interest that was not illegal but questioned their motivations. Nick Cassiano stated this was not a matter of public safety because if it were the Yantic firehouse would be open. Nick Cassiano asked all to question what this action was really about, public safety or expanding power.

Robin Sieczkowski stated the closing of the Yantic Fire Department was an egotistical power grab and the citizens of Norwich voted that they did not want unified command, which was ignored. Robin Sieczkowski stated things like that should not happen. Robin Sieczkowski stated Chief Sam Wilson wanted to control everything and he did not live in Norwich. Robin Sieczkowski stated the hiring of paid firefighters would increase the city mill rate which would not affect Chief Wilson since he did not live in town. Robin Sieczkowski stated she did not understand how this option was on the table. Robin Sieczkowski stated the

people in the room currently voted for the city council members and their loyalty should lie with the voters. Robin Sieczkowski stated the city council was not serving the town as they should and were not holding up their end of the bargain.

Greg Schlough stated the city wanted economic growth but questioned what businesses or homeowners would want to move to Norwich given the current situation. Greg Schlough stated that people used to take care of their neighbors. Greg Schlough stated that the city was saying to Yantic members that even though their neighbor may have a call that they could respond to faster than another firefighter, their tone will not go off. Greg Schlough stated that was not public safety and was putting the public in danger. Greg Schlough stated he pays taxes in the city and would not accept a raise in taxes. Greg Schlough stated that volunteer firefighters were the backbone of the country and 90% of firefighters in the country were volunteers. Greg Schlough stated the city council was making a very bad decision.

Joanne Philbrick stated that she lives on the Norwichtown Greene and several weeks prior she witnessed a ladder truck from the Norwich Fire Department pull up near her home and raise the bucket high up into the air. Joanne Philbrick stated she saw men in bunker gear remove ice dams off the roof of a career Norwich firefighter. Joanne Philbrick stated she posted about the instance on Facebook and within an hour a battalion chief that she knew personally arrived at her home in full uniform. Joanne Philbrick stated the battalion chief told her to stop stirring the pot and that while they know what they did was wrong, they would do it again. Joanne Philbrick stated that later the same afternoon a different battalion chief who she was also familiar with stopped by her home to tell her she needed to seek professional help. Joanne Philbrick stated she supported the Yantic Fire Department and felt what was happening was about power and control.

Peter Nystrom stated he felt the solution to the current situation was for the city council to take back its responsibility and deal with the issue, not allow the Norwich Fire Department chief or city manager to handle it. Peter Nystrom stated the city council should let the public know where they stand. Peter Nystrom provided the committee with a copy of the Public Act passed in 1847 that established the Yantic Fire Department as a state-chartered fire department. Peter Nystrom stated this Public Act has never been amended, weakened or changed in any way. Peter Nystrom stated he did not believe Chief Sam Wilson had the authority to shut down the Yantic Fire Department. Peter Nystrom stated this situation would not go away quietly. SEE ADDENDUM.

Pietro Camardella stated the city council was a disgrace and was causing

residents to leave Norwich. Pietro Camardella stated things in town were getting worse and worse. Pietro Camardella stated the city thought its way of doing things was supreme. Pietro Camardella stated God Bless the Yantic Fire Department and firefighters. Pietro Camardella stated they had courage.

Kyle Shirk of Yantic Lane stated that all the testimony so far has focused on the capabilities of the firefighters but felt the additional aspect of the underwater search and rescue team was being lost. Kyle Shirk stated that the Taftville and Yantic Fire Department's service affected all of eastern Conenticut and parts of Rhode Island. Kyle Shirk stated that Chief Sam Wilson made it clear in his recent press conference that he was willing to shut down the other volunteer fire departments aside from East Great Plain. Kyle Shirk questioned if Chief Sam Wilson was willing to cover that manpower and if the Norwich Fire Department had the capability to cover the search and rescue teams.

Bob Buckley stated he lived in the Consolidated Chelsea District of town and his biggest concern was that currently those in the CCD pay more taxes due to the paid Norwich Fire Department. Bob Buckley stated that CCD residents pay for all paid firefighters salaries with their taxes. Bob Buckley stated the paid fire department would need to increase manpower through overtime or hiring new members. Bob Buckley questioned if that tax would also fall on the CCD or would taxes raise throughout town to cover the cost. Bob Buckley stated he did not want to cover that cost alone nor did he think any others would. Bob Buckley stated that the rest of Norwich resident taxes outside of the CCD only contributed to the cost of equipment, which he also contributed to with his taxes. Bob Buckley stated that he hoped in June when the city council was looking at the budget to see how much the Norwich Fire Department costs had risen that information would be shared with citizens.

Roland Frechette stated he was a retired Emergency Management Deputy Director for the city of Norwich and had worked with all of the volunteer firefighters in the city, especially from the Yantic Fire Department. Roland Frechette stated that Yantic floods frequently and residents were frequently assisted by Yantic firefighters. Roland Frechette questioned if Chief Sam Wilson had any idea as to what would happen in the chance of a heavy rain with the current snow caps in the area.

Kathleen Kaiser stated she had lived in Norwich for over 30 years and had full confidence in the Yantic Fire Department. Kathleen Kaiser stated she had never felt her safety in jeopardy. Kathleen Kaiser stated she was left with many questions following the press conference the previous night. Kathleen Kaiser stated she did not hear if Chief Sam Wilson discussed issues with the Yantic Fire

Department after every call he attended with them or if kept a list of issues to dump on them. Kathleen Kaiser stated that Chief Sam Wilson did say that on all the calls he attended no one was killed, injured, and that all calls were answered and resolved. Kathleen Kaiser stated that barring those very serious situations it seemed to her the other issues were able to be worked out. Kathleen Kaiser stated she did not hear in the press conference what efforts or opportunities were given to Yantic to address the identified safety factors and to create a corrective action plan to resolve things in a timely manner. Kathleen Kaiser stated she also did not hear what number of calls Chief Sam Wilson attended with the East Great Plain Fire Department. Kathleen Kaiser questioned if East Great Plain was already cooperating under the unified command structure, how they were able to do so without a new contract in place, and where the contracts were for the other volunteer fire departments. Kathleen Kaiser stated that if Chief Sam Wilson took over all operations he would strip the volunteer departments of their ability to respond to calls in their own districts. Kathleen Kaiser stated that the city manager has said the Yantic Fire Department did not want to move into the present and that Norwich has a relationship with volunteer firefighters dating back to the 1800's. Kathleen Kaiser stated she found this to be a strong and proud tradition that should be preserved and not destroyed. Kathleen Kaiser stated she found it shameful the way the city was addressing the problem and felt it was more of a back door form of bullying and a control tactic directed at the Yantic Fire Department because they would not do what Chief Sam Wilson said. Kathleen Kaiser stated if the city spent this amount of time, effort and money to strengthen the volunteer district the current conversation would likely not be occurring.

Frank Blanchard of Norwichtown stated he was the Deputy Chief of the Yantic Fire Department. Frank Blanchard noted it was asked what the Yantic members did that was so egregious to warrant being taken out of service. Frank Blanchard stated that Yantic had not received any written documentation other than one regarding personnel issues from six days prior that was resolved with Chief Sam Wilson within 48 hours. Frank Blanchard stated that Chief Sam Wilson did not notify the Yantic fire chief of any problems. Frank Blanchard what Chief Sam Wilson did, as with the Otis Street Fire, was hold an executive session and special meetings with the city council. Frank Blanchard stated on August 3, 2026 the city manager issued an executive order to basically take over the volunteer services and felt it was dictated. Frank Blanchard stated he has been part of the unified command process and did not think it was the way the city council or city manager intended it to go. Frank Blanchard stated that unified command was not in the best interest of the city nor was Chief Sam Wilson. Frank Blanchard stated the fire service was currently paying for it and he did not want to see the public jeopardized more than they already had been by the acts of Chief Sam Wilson.

Frank Blanchard stated that Chief Sam Wilson was playing with peoples' lives and he could not replace the Yantic fire service with one engine staffed with three firefighters. Frank Blanchard stated Chief Sam Wilson took three engines out of service earlier that day and trumped up charges that he was locked out of the Yantic firehouse. Frank Blanchard stated that no one was present at the Yantic firehouse at that time. Frank Blanchard stated that in Chief Sam Wilson's complaint to corporation council in order to get an injunction to remove the fire trucks, which was a cost to the taxpayers, he stated there were Yantic firefighters across the street from the firehouse watching him and not getting involved, and questioned why Chief Wilson did not approach them to talk to them about getting into the firehouse. Frank Blanchard stated Yantic members were at that time with their attorney to discuss the contract that Chief Sam Wilson provided them to sign within one business hour. Frank Blanchard stated that because Yantic could not comply at 10:02AM Chief Sam Wilson was in the Yantic firehouse parking lot to begin the procedure of shutting services down. Frank Blanchard stated those were the actions of a dictator, was not acceptable, was not how the city was run and was not how the fire company responds for 179 years of service. Frank Blanchard stated the Yantic firefighters were there for the citizens and if they make mistakes they should be given the opportunity to work them out with the Norwich fire chief. Frank Blanchard reiterated that Chief Bob Allen received a unified command ten page contract for Yantic at 8:00PM that previous Monday and it was ridiculous to give anyone one business hour to fill that out.

Chief Bob Allen stated that Yantic members never locked the city out of the firehouse and were never notified they were arriving. Chief Bob Allen stated that city representatives showed up earlier that day to retrieve the fire trucks. Chief Bob Allen that time he was able to speak to City Manager John Salomone by phone who asked to arrange a time for the trucks to be picked up and the Yantic members offered to leave them outside as the weather was good. Chief Bob Allen stated there was no issue and the retrieval was taken care of cordially. Chief Bob Allen stated there had been no other communication and after the special executive city council meeting that past Monday which ended at 5:15PM he received an email at 7:13PM with the agreement which had a 10:00AM deadline for the following day. Chief Bob Allen stated when there was an agreement he felt the public came together and not be put under duress. Chief Bob Allen stated he did not have the authority as the chief to sign the agreement and it needed to be presented to the Yantic members. Chief Bob Allen stated the Yantic Fire Department bylaws state three day notice is required for special meetings, which they were planning to hold. Chief Bob Allen stated he and Deputy Chief Frank Blanchard met with Chief Sam Wilson upon the conclusion of which they shook hands and left knowing there were no major issues that could not be addressed. Chief Bob Allen stated any issues discussed were not

repetitive. Chief Bob Allen stated that aside from not meeting the 10:00AM deadline to sign the contract he did not understand what Yantic members did wrong. Chief Bob Allen stated that Chief Sam Wilson speaks about replacing the Yantic fire department but it would take more than placing one engine at Clinton Street. Chief Bob Allen stated that Yantic Fire Department FAST Team and Dive Team service neighboring towns as well as provided coverage on Interstate 395 with Taftville and Occum Fire Departments. Chief Bob Allen stated the Yantic Fire Department was part of the community.

Ian G. of Yantic stated he bought his home in June and within the first two months living there he heard the volunteer fire department sirens for calls constantly. Ian G. stated he believed Chief Sam Wilson read the situation wrong and that the Yantic Fire Department would reopen. Ian G. suggested that Chief Sam Wilson reverse his decision.

Jerry stated he lived in Yantic most of his life. Jerry stated the Yantic Fire Department had been around for 179 years and the city needed to support them. Jerry stated he wanted to know where the transparency was and why citizens weren't informed of this decision before it was on the news. Jerry asked why Norwich citizens didn't have a right to know. Jerry expressed shame to the city manager and Chief Sam Wilson for doing this. Jerry noted the Yantic Fire Department had been working for many years without incident.

Kaitlin O'Connell stated she lives across from Backus Hospital and was a member of Yantic Fire Department for 11 years. Kaitlin O'Connell stated her father was a member of Yantic for the past 55 years. Kaitlin O'Connell the issue was not about just taking away fire trucks or people's safety, but also about family. Kaitlin O'Connell stated the current situation broke her heart. Kaitlin O'Connell stated she has known the members of Yantic Fire Department her entire life and what occurred was disrespectful to all of them as well as the community. Kaitlin O'Connell stated that out of this many had come together, but now there was also a divide. Kaitlin O'Connell stated that is not how things should be and implored the city council to rethink this so the community may come together. Kaitlin O'Connell stated it should always be about saving lives.

Skyler Johnson stated she lived in Ledyard but was the fourth generation of volunteer firefighters in her family. Skyler Johnson stated the fire service was not only something she supported but was part of her and her family's identity. Skyler Johnson stated she could not put into words the heartbreak she felt over hearing the current situation with the Yantic Fire Department. Skyler Johnson stated it was not just about the closure of the building or reassignment of equipment. Skyler Johnson stated the current action was dismantling endless years of public

service. Skyler Johnson stated that volunteer firefighters do not punch a clock but leave their lives to respond to help for no pay in return, just the opportunity to serve. Skyler Johnson stating the freezing of Yantic's funding and taking of their apparatus due to compliance sent a chilling message to every firefighter that has ever served that their voices can be taken away. Skyler Johnson stated the issue was about men and women who have built lives around protecting others because they chose to. Skyler Johnson stated when volunteer fire departments disappear they do not return. Skyler Johnson urged the city council to reconsider the path forward and to listen to the volunteers, citizens and families who have given so much to the fire service.

Steve Caisse, former Taftville fire chief, stated he worked with five different Norwich Fire Department chiefs in his time and they always worked together. Steve Caisse stated that Chief Sam Wilson did not know what the community has faced in the past. Steve Caisse stated he has watched out departments fall apart from the mutual aid system. Steve Caisse stated that once paid members began to be put in volunteer fire districts it discourages the volunteer firefighters. Steve Caisse stated he served as fire chief of the Taftville Fire Department for 27 years and worked hand-in-hand with the paid fire chiefs. Steve Caisse stated things were always discussed together. Steve Caisse stated that the volunteer firefighters know what they are doing and are just as trained as the paid members.

Roberto stated he lived on Washington Street and was a new member of the Yantic Fire Department. Roberto stated that all of the support shown this evening gave him a greater appreciation of his fellow members. Roberto stated that the Yantic firefighters are always available to train him and answer questions. Roberto stated he was working through the Firefighter 1 course currently and the Yantic Fire Department gave him a sense of family he did not have otherwise. Roberto stated the city could take away the trucks but not the relationships that had been created.

Rob Dempsey thanked all firefighters for their service. Rob Dempsey stated he agreed with everything that had been said that evening and noted that not a single person was in favor of what was happening. Rob Dempsey reiterated that it was mentioned there was not an underwater rescue team in operation right now. Rob Dempsey stated it was his understanding that there was only one piece of heavy equipment, which was also now out of service. Rob Dempsey asked if it was thought of if that equipment would be needed for an accident. Rob Dempsey stated the International Association of Firefighters has in its bylaws a list of items that could get a department expelled from the union. Rob Dempsey continued that Item E. on Page 58 included advocating or encouraging any labor or any

other rival organizations or organizations they chose to specifically highlight in the bylaws, as one of these items. Rob Dempsey stated that the more of the volunteers they push out with the tactics used means the more union members would need to come in and staff the volunteer apparatus. Rob Dempsey stated he hoped the city council had a plan to spread the new expenses out over the rest of the city, which is what he felt everything was all about. Rob Dempsey stated the city charter prevented this from happening, however questioned what would occur if others had the same complaint as the citizen who lived in the CCD. Rob Dempsey stated that if the charter was currently being ignored and Chief Sam Wilson was able to operate how he saw fit, that area of the charter may also be ignored. Rob Dempsey stated that Chapter 7 Section 18 of the city charter outlined that the paid fire department is a special benefit of the CCD and citizens outside of the CCD were prohibited to be forced in any way to pay that additional tax. Rob Dempsey stated the Norwich Fire Department services should be kept downtown where the charter prescribes them to be.

Christina stated she served with five departments over several states and had also been part of a unified common structure where two companies were bridges together. Christina stated they were required to develop a contract in a reasonable amount of time and in her experience both parties had to agree on the contract. Christina stated that being a volunteer firefighter was a responsibility and response time was important, as well as knowing your staff and that they are fully trained. Christina stated she could see that Chief Sam Wilson wants the volunteer departments to be part of rules and safety, which she did think was important. Christina stated that she has not seen that the volunteer departments are being unsafe. Christina stated the volunteer department she served with was the safest she had ever worked with. Christina stated she thought everyone needed to stand together as one group/

Dave Attis stated he hoped that the town meeting its demise did not become a reality. Dave Attis worried that something may happen to an innocent family in Yantic due to the incompetence that he heard about that evening. David Attis stated Chief Sam Wilson was playing with lives and did not have that right. David Attis stated if it was Chief Sam Wilson's family at risk he would want the volunteers to come to serve them. Dave Attis asked that the city stop playing with lives. David Attis stated that a family who loses their loved one will blame the city for its recklessness. David Attis asked the committee members to look at all of those in the room who were not in support of what was happening.

Josh Chapman stated he was a proud supporter of all first responders. Josh Chapman stated the issues upon the city council, who were elected and sworn to serve their constituents, were brought to the public many times before. Josh

Chapman stated a few years ago unified command was voted down by a 4:1 margin. Josh Chapman stated the city proceeded to hire an outsider to run the Norwich Fire Department who has no investment in the city. Josh Chapman asked what the current mill rate means to Chief Sam Wilson and what it would matter to him at the end of the dangerous game he was playing. Josh Chapman stated the city council did not seem to be listening to their constituents, which was the job they were elected to do. Josh Chapman recommended firing the city manager for the unwise and reckless pursuit of his agenda.

Beryl Fishbone stated she lived on Bliss Place and flooding was a concern with all the heavy snow followed by rain. Beryl Fishbone stated the ground is currently frozen and can't accept water. Beryl Fishbone stated that in the past Public Works was not the first to arrive during flooding and in the past she was awakened by members of the Yantic Fire Department blowing horns to let citizens know the street was under water. Beryl Fishbone stated that Public Works arrived after 8:00AM once they arrived at work and made their way to Bliss Place. Beryl Fishbone stated the Yantic firefighters understood there would be flooding and took the responsibility onto themselves because they care about their community and neighbors. Beryl Fishbone stated the city did not want to lose the Yantic Fire Department.

Alderman Bill Nash made a motion to adjourn for a brief recess at 8:15PM. Alderwoman Jill Zuccardy seconded. All voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting returned to order at 8:23PM

4. On-going Business
a. CAD Update
b. RMS Update

Chief Patrick Daley reported that the CAD system had officially gone dark for the changeover and February 22nd was the go-live date for emergency service organizations. Chief Daley asked that all be patient and anticipate some issues during the transition. Chief Daley stated they were in constant contact with Motorola as they worked through the training. President Pro Tem DeLucia asked if there were any concerns about expenditures to complete the process. Chief Daley stated they had not come across anything and so far everything fell within the budget. Chief Daley stated the CAD and GIS systems were completely built and not every instance of a call type had been programmed in but they could modify things as time progressed.

Alderwoman Zuccardy asked when the committee could expect an informational session. Chief Daley asked to plan for May. President Pro Tem DeLucia asked if there was an artificial intelligence aspect to the programming that would help it learn. Chief Daley responded there was and for instance the AI would recommend the closest available unit respond to a call based on their GPS location, if the city was interested in that type of feature.

5. New Business

a. Department Updates (please identify yourself by name and title)

i. **NPU:** Larry Sullivan reported that reservoirs were 88% full.

Alderman Nash asked if there were any flooding concerns with the upcoming weather. Larry Sullivan responded that they were prepared. President Pro Tem DeLucia noted that he spoke to Jeff Brining who told him during the recent 16 inches of snow only one utility pole was affected. Chief Bob Allen asked if the hydrants on Wawecus were working and noted that the hydrant located at the end of Yantic Lane had the wrong size steam fitter. Larry Sullivan responded that the Wawecus hydrants were working.

ii. **American Ambulance:** None. Electronic report submitted.

iii. **Police Department:** Chief Patrick Daley reported that at 5:00PM the following day at Kelly Middle School two officers would be graduating from the Eastern Regional Police Academy, and invited all to attend. Chief Daley stated he had a productive meeting that past Monday with citizens in the historic district regarding a neighborhood watch. Discussion ensued.

iv. **Emergency Management:** Assistant Chief of Training & Safety Jason Erban reported he was navigating two nuclear safety grants, one of which for the 2026 fiscal year that would provide a portable dispatch laptop to the police department. Assistant Chief Erban stated they were still in the licensing phase and were working out the internet process through Norwich Public Utilities. Assistant Chief Erban stated that once that was complete they would have the ability to send the dispatch console to the Emergency Operations Center and still have complete dispatch control. Assistant Chief Erban stated the other grant was planned for 2027 and would cover the FEMA exercise for evacuation in case of a situation at Millstone. Assistant Chief Erban explained that every eight years the city was required to show how it would evacuate and decontaminate citizens if need be. Assistant Chief Erban stated that the grant should cover all of the aspects involved in the exercise. Assistant

Chief Erban stated he met with Region 4, Everbridge, and people from the state to discuss the Fitchville dam. Assistant Chief Erban stated he was working with NPU to establish the 100 year flood zone in case there was another break in the dam.

v. Fire Departments

- **Norwich:** Chief Sam Wilson reported that Unified Command was still ongoing and that meetings were held that month as well as the previous month. Chief Wilson stated he was working through items with the participating departments.
- **Taftville:** Deputy Chief Bill Hayes reported that during the last large snow storm Taftville members clocked 379 man hours and the station was staffed with 14 members as well as a crew from American Ambulance. Deputy Chief Hayes reported that members responded to multiple calls with American Ambulance to ensure they arrived safely. Deputy Chief Hayes reported that prior to the storm the Taftville DIVE Team assisted Yantic Fire Department with a search and rescue for an individual. Deputy Chief Hayes reported that the Taftville monthly breakfast was that upcoming Sunday.
- **Yantic:** None.
- **Occum:** Chief Scott Eggert reported that the call volume for Occum had doubled in the last month due to numerous accidents on Interstate 395, a broken sprinkler at Ponemah Mills and various mutual aid calls. Chief Scott Eggert reported the replacement of Engine 41, a 1991 vehicle, and Engine 42, a 1997 vehicle, as critical needs. Chief Eggert stated that both vehicles were aged. Chief Eggert reported one member in the EMR course pending certification with a written exam and three members in the EMT course. Chief Eggert reported that in June there would be an EMT class hosted at the Occum firehouse. Chief Eggert reported he was working with Frank Blanchard at Prime Electric to get the station fire alarm system updated and to get quotes.
- **East Great Plain:** Chief Rich Huntley reported that EGP responded to a structure fire with Yantic, Norwich Fire Department and Mohegan Tribe Fire Department on New London Turnpike on January 23rd. Chief Huntley reported that EGP also responded to a structure fire on January 29th in the city district with Ladder 5 and Rescue 5. Chief Huntley stated that on February 4th Guiseppe Conti

was recognized as Firefighter of the Year from the New London County Fire Chiefs' Association. Chief Huntley reported that weekend was EGP's annual Valentine rose sale.

- **Laurel Hill:** Deputy Chief Peter Clark reported that the first round of annual CPR training was completed the previous night. Deputy Chief Clark reported three members were enrolled in the Fire 1 course and another was also enrolled simultaneously in the EMT class.

6. Next Meeting: March 11, 2026 at City Council Chambers

7. Adjournment: Alderman Bill Nash made a motion to adjourn at 8:44PM. Alderwoman Jill Zuccardy seconded. All voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLVES
AND
PRIVATE LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF CONNECTICUT,
FROM THE YEAR 1836 TO THE YEAR 1857.

PUBLISHED UNDER AND BY VIRTUE OF A
RESOLUTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, PASSED MAY SESSION, 1856,
UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

VOLUME III.

NEW HAVEN:
THOMAS J. STAFFORD, PRINTER.
1857.

more,) be and they are hereby made and constituted a corporation by the name of *The Wolcottville Fire Company*; with power to fill vacancies or make additions by voluntary enlistment, to appoint such officers as they may deem expedient or necessary, to make by-laws not inconsistent with the laws of this state or of the United States, and to enforce the same by fine not exceeding five dollars for any one offense, to impose taxes on themselves and to do all other acts and things which of right a corporation may do, and be entitled to all the powers, privileges and immunities of a legally authorized fire company.

Provided, that this act may be altered or repealed at the pleasure of the general assembly.

INCORPORATING THE YANTIC FIRE COMPANY.

PASSED 1847.

Resolved by this Assembly, That a fire company be and the same is hereby established, by the name of "*The Yantic Fire Company*," to be raised and located in the village of Yantic, in the town of Norwich. And that on or before the tenth day of July next, that Erastus Williams be and he hereby is authorized and empowered to give public notice, by posting the same in two public places in the village of Yantic, that enlistments will be taken up on the third Saturday in July, 1847, at one o'clock P. M., by him the said Erastus Williams, for the establishment of said fire company; and that there may be enlisted a fire company not to exceed forty members, thirty-five of whom may be from the militia of this state at any one time and no more. And the persons to be enlisted as aforesaid, or at any time after said third Saturday in July, 1847, their associates and successors, be and they are hereby constituted a body corporate and politic, with the usual powers and privileges of fire companies in this state.

Provided, that this grant may be altered, amended or repealed at the pleasure of the general assembly.



Norwich Police Department Public Safety Committee Report *JANUARY 2026*

Statistics for Month

Calls for Service	4,129
Incident Reports generated	269
Arrests made	131
Accidents investigated	105

Significant incidents for the month

Detective Division –

Larceny / ATM Fraud

01/03/2026

An ATM larceny was reported after cash was unlawfully dispensed from a financial institution ATM during overnight hours. Surveillance footage showed an unidentified individual manipulating the machine and later returning with a second person to collect the dispensed currency. Evidence collected included surveillance video, physical evidence from the ATM components, and digital storage devices. The investigation remains ongoing, and no arrests have been made at this time.

Assault / Stabbing

01/06/2026

Officers responded to a reported stabbing at a commercial location. The victim sustained non-life-threatening injuries and was transported to a local hospital for treatment. During the investigation, it was determined the incident followed a dispute related to an illegal transaction. Evidence was collected, and surveillance footage was reviewed. The case remains under investigation.



Norwich Police Department

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JANUARY 2026

Attempted Burglary / Criminal Mischief

01/12/2026

Officers responded to an attempted ATM burglary after an alarm activation at a financial institution. Surveillance footage showed an unidentified male accessing the ATM before alarms activated, causing the suspect to flee. The ATM sustained significant damage. Evidence collected included physical items and extensive surveillance footage from multiple locations, as well as license plate reader data. The investigation remains ongoing.

Extradition Arrest

01/14/2026

An individual was extradited from out of state and taken into custody on an active arrest warrant for a felony sexual assault charge. The extradition was completed without incident.

Death Investigation

01/16/2026

Officers responded to a residence after a deceased individual was discovered. The investigation determined the death to be a suicide, with no signs of foul play. Detectives documented the scene, collected evidence, and coordinated with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. No criminal investigation is pending.



Norwich Police Department

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Weapons / Narcotics Investigation

01/22/2026

Police responded to multiple reports of gunfire in a residential area. Officers located spent shell casings and recovered firearms, ammunition, and controlled substances following a consent search. Surveillance footage and license plate reader data were utilized, and a vehicle connected to the incident was seized as evidence. The investigation remains open.

Death Investigation

01/27/2026

Officers responded to a reported suicide at a residence. Evidence recovered at the scene and subsequent interviews confirmed no criminal involvement. The incident was ruled a suicide.

Joint Task Force / Federal Assistance

- Task force officers are assisting federal prosecutors with preparation for upcoming federal trials.
- Assistance was provided in federal firearm investigations resulting in guilty pleas.
- A long-term narcotics trafficking investigation remains active.

Overdose Investigations

Fatal: 0

Non-Fatal: 3



Norwich Police Department Public Safety Committee Report *JANUARY 2026*

Open Homicide Investigations

- Multiple previously reported homicide cases remain under review with no new developments during this reporting period.

Staffing//Training/Hiring matters

Training Classes:

January 5-9, 2026 – Crisis Intervention Training (Officer M. Nott)

January 7, 2026 – CT Alert E911 Communications Training (Lt. Reichard, & Dispatcher Gabor)

January 12-16, 2026 – NYPD Detective School- *WEEK 1 of 2*. (Officer Szuba & Officer Wisniewski)

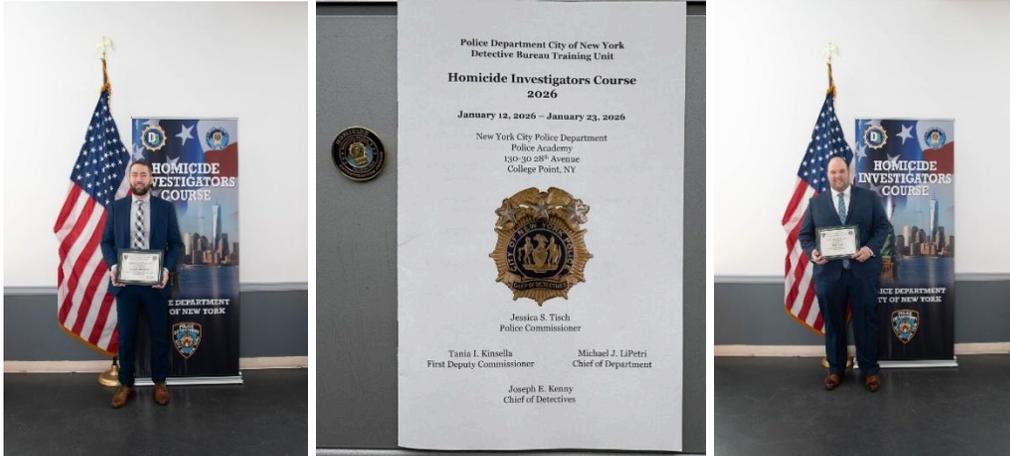
January 12 – 13, 2026 – NTOA Supervising Critical Incidents (Sgt. Callender & Sgt. Karasuk)

January 16, 2026 – Street Level Drug Investigations – Online Training (Officer Santos & Officer Carollo)

January 19-23, 2026 – NYPD Detective School- *WEEK 2 of 2*. (Officer Szuba & Officer Wisniewski)



Norwich Police Department Public Safety Committee Report *JANUARY 2026*



January 20, 2026 – CTIC Intel Conference (Officer O’Reilly)

January 22 -23, 2026 – Do’s & Don’ts of Death Investigations (Carter and Rankowitz)

January 29 – 30, 2026 – Advanced Roadside Impairment Enforcement (Officer Rodriguez)

Misc. Information:

January 7, 2026 – The Norwich Police welcoming three new police recruits. Haven Mish, Alejandro Melchiorre, Abimelech Caraballo were sworn-in as the newest members of the department and started the 389th session of the CT Municipal Police Academy in Meriden, CT.



Norwich Police Department Public Safety Committee Report *JANUARY 2026*



NOTE: Our recent social media efforts have significantly increased visibility and engagement for police recruitment. It seems our posts are reaching a wider audience, generating more views and interactions, and helping capture the attention of potential applicants who may not have been reached through traditional recruitment methods. For perspective, a recent video post with Officer Rankowitz had 889,000 views on Facebook. This same video had 66,000 views on TikTok and 1.1 million views on Instagram. Applications numbers to PoliceApp seem to be increasing slightly.

January 23, 2026 – Daniel White started his internship with the Norwich Police Department. White is obtaining his bachelor’s degree in criminology at Eastern Connecticut State University.



Norwich Police Department Public Safety Committee Report *JANUARY 2026*



January 30, 2026 – Recruits Neville and Luce from the Eastern Region Police Academy Session #4 participated in OC Exposure Day with instructors at the Plainfield Police Department.

Community Outreach/events attended or facilitated

There were no events during the month. Sgt. Cannata attended a virtual meeting for the Norwich Events Committee and an in-person meeting for the Chase Manor Community Watch. On February 17th, Detective Castro and Sgt. Cannata will be hosting a fraud prevention talk at Ahepa.

Just to put it on your radar, the St. Patrick's Day Parade is scheduled for Sunday March 8th.



Norwich Police Department
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Traffic
Stop

Breakdown

Total Traffic Stops	157
Arrests Made	7
Summons	3
Infractions	15
Written Warnings	38
Verbal Warnings	80
Other/Investigation	14

Rank	Street / Roadway	Approx. Number of Stops*
1	West Main Street	20
2	Boswell Avenue	18
3	Franklin Street	16
4	Washington Street	14
5	New London Turnpike	13
6	Taftville–Occum Road	11
7	Laurel Hill Avenue / Road	10
8	Norwich Avenue	9
9	Water Street	8
10	Chelsea Harbor Drive	7

*Counts are based on frequency of listed stop locations in January 2026 CAD motor vehicle stop entries and may include intersections and business-address references along the same roadway.

AMERICAN AMBULANCE

February 11, 2026

Norwich Public Safety Report for January 2026

ALS Transports: 287

BLS Transports: 378

Total Transports: 665

Canceled or No Transport Responses:

Unfounded 6

Canceled by NPD 7

Canceled by NFD 14

On Scene / No Transport 113

Lift Assist 5

Total Canceled / No Transport: 145 (22% of response volume)

Most Common Incident Types

Sick Person 110

Breathing Problems 70

Falls 57

Psychiatric 45

Chest Pain 34

Unconscious/Fainting 23

Abdominal Pain 21

Seizures 18

Traffic Accidents 15

Heart Problems 15

Patient Demographics:

Average Age 56

Male 52% Female 48%