

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

7:00PM

Council Chambers - City Hall

100 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: Alderman Peter Nystrom, City of Norwich; and Chief Patrick Daley and Captain Tom Lazzaro, Norwich Police Department.

Volunteer/Central Fire Departments and Others: Norwich: Chief Sam Wilson; East Great Plain: Chief Rich Huntley; Laurel Hill: None; Occum: Chief Scott Eggert; Yantic: Chief Robert Allen; and Taftville: Deputy Chief Bill Hayes.

Citizens Present: Joanne Philbrick, John Bilda, Pietro Camardella, Jennifer Telford, Pat Stolz and Kathy Delaney.

- 1. Call to Order and Quorum:** President Pro Tem DeLucia opened the meeting at 7:00 PM and noted that a quorum was present.
- 2. Adoption of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Alderman Bill Nash made a motion to accept the February 11, 2026 regular meeting minutes. Alderwoman Jill Zuccardy seconded. All voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.
- 3. Citizen Comment:** Joanne Philbrick stated the issue she discussed at the previous meeting was resolved with Norwich Fire Department's human resource department. Joanne Philbrick expressed distressed over the current status of the fire service in the city. Joanne Philbrick stated she felt the city council had the ability and responsibility to direct the city manager to restore Yantic Fire Department to its full capacity. Joanne Philbrick stated that she lives in Norwichtown and her insurance carrier informed her that based on the current set of circumstances where she did not have a dedicated fire department for her address they would not continue to insure her.

John Bilda of 348 Harland Road stated that the process, manner and way the city council was going about enacting changes to the fire system in the City of Norwich was wrong. John Bilda expressed his feelings that collaborating and the ability to work with others was not being handled properly. John Bilda implored

city council members to establish the Yantic Fire Department and reiterated that the current situation was wrong.

A community member questioned the procedure at a fire incident and assumed the senior member of the first unit on site took responsibility as the incident commander who communicates with dispatch. They also questioned if it was the case that someone be nominated to act as the staging area manager.

Pietro Camardella questioned if the goal of the current fire service operations was to save taxpayer money as that would be a considerable reason. Pietro Camardella questioned the amount of taxpayer money being currently spent and noted the decades long service of the Yantic Fire Department.

Alderman Peter Nystrom stated he felt it was a valid suggestion that the city council pass a recommendation to the city manager to reopen the Yantic Fire Department. Alderman Nystron expressed that he felt the fire service was being weakened and that the city manager should get back involved in the fire chiefs meetings. Alderman Nystrom stated that by April 15th an additional \$200,000 will have been spent on the current fire service operations and questioned if the city manager was expecting that extra cost. Alderman Nystrom noted any money spent was money that would be unavailable to the Board of Education and school system.

Jennifer Telford of 127 North Wawecus Hill road shared her concerns regarding the human impact of the volunteer fire service and their commitment to the community. Jennifer Telford also expressed her concerns about the amount citizens are spending on taxes and the effect that has on potential homeowners. Jennifer Telford stated she would appreciate consideration for all groups to work together and embrace the volunteers who have given everything to this community.

Pat Stolz stated there was no comparison between the volunteer and paid response times and expressed concerns over what the city was spending on the fire service. Pat Stolz asked that city council members think about all those affected.

Kathy Delaney of Hudson Road questioned why the current situation with the volunteer fire departments was occurring and felt things needed to return to their previous status.

4. On-going Business

- a. **CAD Update**
- b. **RMS Update**

Chief Patrick Daley reported that the CAD system was set to go live on February 23rd but the recent blizzard pushed that date out to March 24th. Chief Daley stated that in the meantime they were continuing to work on things and Motorola had been at the station the previous week to work on the records aspect. Chief Daley reported that training was in full effect with the record management system. Chief Daley stated that things should be up and running in March. President Pro Tem DeLucia expressed concern that there may be a large expense incurred to get the CAD RMS project finalized due to its lengthy evolution. Chief Daley responded that there was nothing anticipated and the project was spec'd out. Chief Daley noted that all software and hardware was upgraded to the latest version. Chief Daley added that all of the maintenance and warranty agreements did not go into effect until the system was live. Chief Daley reiterated that the radio system was running and that it was the CAD system they were waiting on.

5. **New Business**

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

i. **NPU:** None.

ii. **American Ambulance:** None.

iii. **Police Department:** Chief Patrick Daley reported a busy month with two major snow storms and that the department did a record number of tickets and towed vehicles during that time. Chief Daley explained that their goal was to now tow a vehicle unless it was obstructing traffic or cleanup operations. Chief Daley stated that on March 21st at 1:30PM the department's community service office would be receiving a Community Hero Award. Chief Daley reported critical needs as the replacement of the fire station and that staffing had reached a crisis level. Chief Daley explained that multiple officers were lost to due career changes and they've hit a 25% staffing shortage. Chief Daley stated that a 30% shortage is typically considered emergency status. Chief Daley reported that he met with the city manager, comptroller and purchasing agent to develop ideas. Discussion ensued regarding the department recruitment and hiring process. President Pro Tem DeLucia asked for an update on the search for a Deputy Chief. Chief Daley responded that a candidate was identified who was currently going through the new hire procedure.

Chief Daley stated he had a piece of legislation he would like to bring to the attention of the council and return to them with drafted language from corporation counsel. Chief Daley explained that during the recent blizzards the department faces additional hurdles caused by large recreation vehicles parked on city streets so he would like to see an ordinance put forward prohibiting that. Chief Daley read the related ordinance in place with the City of Hartford for the committee members' reference. Chief Daley expressed that he was also working on an ordinance to remove inoperable motor vehicles and noted that many removed during the storms were determined to be inoperable even though they may be legally licensed and insured.

Chief Daley stated he was looking to bring the drafted language to the next Public Safety meeting so that positive improvement can be made prior to the next large snowstorm.

iv. Emergency Management: Chief Sam Wilson reported that the Emergency Operation Center was fully activated for the two recent blizzards in addition to working remotely with teams, which turned out well. Chief Wilson stated there were not a lot of calls for service during the storms and power was kept on for all residents. Chief Wilson reported the EM team ensured the city's sandbag stock was adequate moving forward into the spring. Chief Wilson stated that EM continued to work on the NSEF drill for 2027 and would be putting in for an NSEF grant in the next fiscal period.

v. Fire Departments

- **Norwich:** Chief Sam Wilson reported that regular service had continued.
- **Taftville:** Deputy Chief Bill Hayes reported during the recent blizzard 15 members were on standby at the station starting at 3:00PM Sunday through 10PM on Monday. Deputy Chief Hayes reported that 350 man hours were spent and members worked 6 to 8 hours a day over the following days to clear snow from fire hydrants. Deputy Chief Hayes stated the roof project had stalled and the lift was removed from their property that Wednesday. Deputy Chief Hayes stated they had not been given any answers to what was occurring and that Chief Timothy Jencks was working on that. Deputy Chief Hayes reported that the Taftville parking lot catch basin was starting to fail and sink, which would become a major issue.

- **Yantic:** Chief Bob Allen reported that five members were halfway through the Firefighter 1 course. Chief Allen reported critical needs as addressing a couple hydrants off of the 24-inch main which were having issues and the reopening of the Yantic Fire Department station.

- **Occum:** Chief Scott Eggert reported that Occum's call volume had doubled in the last couple of months. Chief Eggert reported critical needs as the replacement of Engine 41, which was 35 years old and Engine 42, which was 29 years old. Chief Eggert stated that members continued to work on the fire station and training continued as planned. Alderwoman Zuccardy asked about the progress of replacing the station fire alarm system, to which Chief Eggert stated they were working on an updated quote.

- **East Great Plain:** Chief Rich Huntley reported two major incidents since the previous meeting; a detached garage working fire with the Norwich Fire Department on February 18th and on March 12th EGP responded to a working structure fire in Montville with Engine 51. Chief Huntley reported five calls for service during the recent blizzards and the replacement of Engine 52 as a critical need, which was 32 years old. Chief Huntley clarified for the committee members that at the March 12th fire in Montville mutual aid was provided by one engine, however originally Montville requested that Engine 52 from EGP also respond to help establish rural water supply at the draft site, which was denied by Chief Sam Wilson. Chief Huntley that the Norwich Fire Department and Laurel Hill also responded to the fire. Chief Huntley stated that all of Montville's departments were on scene.

- **Laurel Hill:** None.

b. Traffic Cameras: Chief Patrick Daley reported that after researching the issue his thoughts had changed. Chief Daley explained that the information he received from the City of Middletown, which was a community close in demographics and size to Norwich, made him believe that traffic cameras were worth pursuing. Chief Daley stated the next step would likely be to bring in a vendor as studies would need to be conducted to identify the traffic impact areas and standard as to where the cameras are placed. Chief Daley added that information would need to be provided to the public upfront to explain why certain

streets would be selected for cameras.

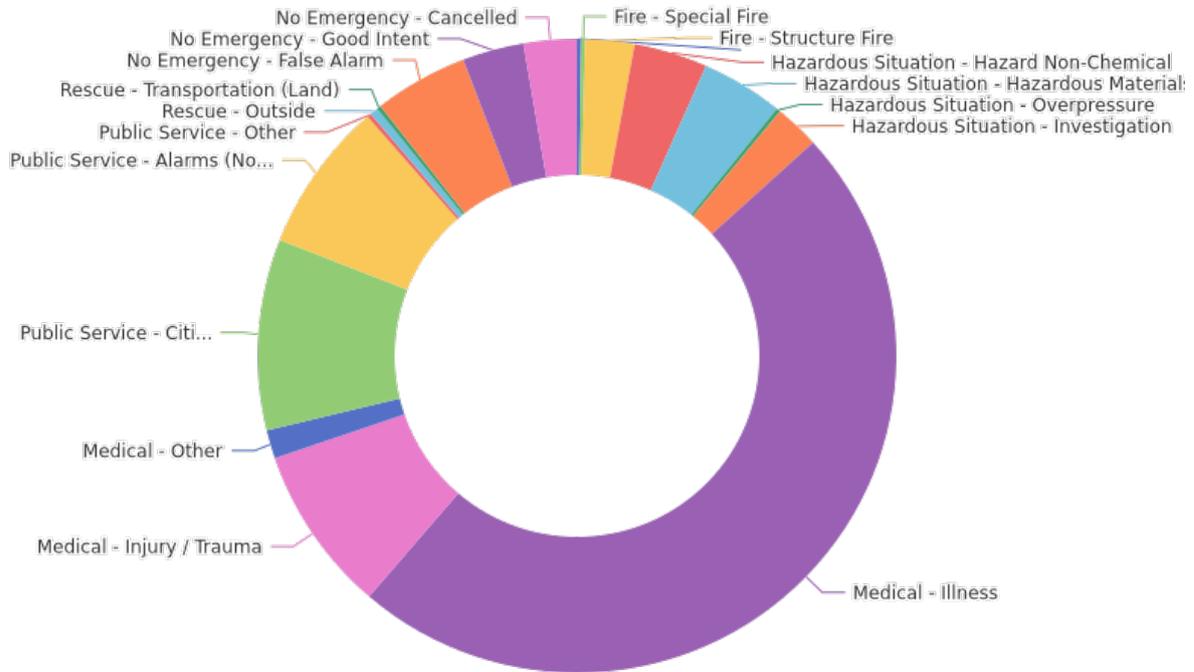
- c. **Norwichtown Traffic Issues:** Chief Daley expressed that he was working to meet with all Norwichtown citizens with traffic concerns. President Pro Tem DeLucia shared that he composed a letter to the Public Works Committee identifying a number of ideas that came out of the Norwichtown citizen group meeting, which he and Alderwoman Zuccardy attended. SEE ADDENDUM II.

Chief Daley expressed that he hoped to take some type of action and begin with the less costly approaches for resolution.

6. **Next Meeting:** April 8, 2026 at City Council Chambers
7. **Adjournment:** Alderman Bill Nash made a motion to adjourn at 8:04PM. Alderwoman Jill Zuccardy seconded. All voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.



Incident Count by Primary Incident Sub Group



PRIMARY INCIDENT GROUP / PRIMARY INCIDENT SUB GROUP	COUNT	PERCENT OF TOTAL
Fire	13	2.69%
Fire - Special Fire	1	0.21%
Fire - Structure Fire	12	2.48%
Hazardous Situation	50	10.35%
Hazardous Situation - Hazard Non-Chemical	18	3.73%
Hazardous Situation - Hazardous Materials	20	4.14%
Hazardous Situation - Overpressure	1	0.21%

Incident Count by Primary Incident Sub Group

City of Norwich Fire Department
Address: 10 N Thames St, Norwich, CT, 06360



PRIMARY INCIDENT GROUP / PRIMARY INCIDENT SUB GROUP	COUNT	PERCENT OF TOTAL
Hazardous Situation - Investigation	11	2.28%
Medical	280	57.97%
Medical - Illness	232	48.03%
Medical - Injury / Trauma	41	8.49%
Medical - Other	7	1.45%
Public Service	85	17.60%
Public Service - Citizen Assist	47	9.73%
Public Service - Alarms (Non Medical)	37	7.66%
Public Service - Other	1	0.21%
Rescue	3	0.62%
Rescue - Outside	2	0.41%
Rescue - Transportation (Land)	1	0.21%
No Emergency	51	10.56%
No Emergency - False Alarm	23	4.76%
No Emergency - Good Intent	15	3.11%
No Emergency - Cancelled	13	2.69%
Law Enforcement Support	1	0.21%
	1	0.21%
Total	483	100.00%

MEMORANDUM

2/15/2026

From: Joseph A. DeLucia
President Pro Tempore
Norwich City Council

To: Public Works Committee
Norwich City Council

Re: Public Works initiatives

Good morning,

I have several items that I would like to have taken up by the committee and implemented. I urge you to take swift and immediate action, not debate, on these items and get them underway this spring season using whatever funding it left in this year's Road Bond or other capital improvement funds.

1. Traffic calming, speed control, pedestrian safety measures, and road reconfiguration in the lower Norwichtown area; including East Town St. and the Norwichtown Green area.

At a recent Public Safety Committee meeting, a group of residents spoke regarding the alarming increase in the volume, travel speed, and traffic violations that are occurring in this area. The situation is unacceptable and needs to be rectified. To that end, the Police Chief scheduled a public dialog with these residents shortly after the P-Safety meeting that I and Alderwoman Zuccardy attended along with the City Engineer.

The meeting evolved into a brainstorming session, and the Police Chief offered a phased plan of strategies. My solutions are more concrete and

- Collapse the intersection of Scotland Road, Canterbury Tpke, East Towne St, and Washington Street. The size of this intersection dates back to the trolley turn-around circle of the 19th Century. It lends itself to a driver's perception that it is an acceleration zone instead of a four-way stop.

- Significantly narrow East Towne St. from Washington St. to the stop sign at Elm Ave. Provide ADA compliant sidewalks on both sides of the street and crosswalks at both ends and at Huntington Lane.
 - Erect permanent speed-tables in the roadway, no further than 100 feet apart, and no further than 25 feet from all stop signs, on Elm Avenue, East Towne St. (from the first Cong. Church to Washington St. Ext.), Mediterranean Lane, Huntington Lane, and Washington St.
 - Increase the visibility of signs and markings everywhere in this neighborhood.
 - Reconfigure Lathrop Lane to One-Way in the direction up the hill toward Harland Rd. to reduce its use as a cut-through to avoid the RT. 2 connector intersection.
 - Reconfigure Washington St. to One-Way in the direction with the lowest traffic count.
2. Upgrade and improve the newly created intersection of Boswell Ave. and the secondary entrance to the new Greeneville School site.
- Increase the size of the stop signs in both directions on Boswell Ave.
 - Increase the “stop ahead” warnings in both directions on Boswell Ave.
 - Cut back and maintain the vegetation that is obscuring the intersection.
 - Remove the rock out-cropping at the edge of the northbound travel lane and provide an ADA compliant sidewalk from the end of the existing sidewalk to the school entrance.
 - Significantly increase the foot-candles of lighting for a distance of 100 feet in each direction of the intersection. In short, make night like day.
3. Move forward with the reconfiguration of the north intersection of Central Ave. and North Main St.

This initiative has lingered long enough and for at least four years. When this was last discussed during my chairmanship of the Public Works Committee, the project design was approved by the committee. Get going on completing this project.