

Minutes
Local Emergency Coordinating Committee Special Meeting
January 8, 2026
Town Hall Conference Room B and via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Lisa Thomas.

Present: Lisa Thomas, Town Council; Jonathan Hand, Town Council; James Drumm, Town Manager; Bud Meyers, Fire/EMS; Eric Peterson, Police Department; Alex Bohr, Emergency Management; Mike Heimer, Emergency Management

Also present: Annemarie Sundgren, Human Resources Administrator; Ryan McKenna, Eversource

Absent: Bill Watkins, Public Works; Ted Opdenbrouw, Public Schools

Audience of Citizens: none.

Acceptance of Minutes: December 4, 2025:

Bud Meyers moved to accept the minutes of December 4, 2025. The motion was seconded by Jon Hand and carried on unanimous vote.

Eversource: Discussion of Recent Storm Events and Coordinator of Service Repairs and Restoration Efforts:

Lisa said she had asked Ryan McKenna from Eversource to join us to give an overview of what happens when there are power outages. Many of us get tagged on social media and this will help us out in terms of how best to respond to these concerns.

Ryan said first and foremost, his contact is Bud Meyers, so when a storm is in place and there are outages, we are in contact. When a storm is starting to happen, we are monitoring the weather daily. We will “plus up” our operations when we expect something to happen and if it doesn’t, we stand down. Sometimes it happens in reverse and more happens than was expected. There are different thresholds. Please tell the community that if you are without power or if there is a road closure due to a downed power line, to call the Eversource 800 number to report it. There is also a text option. When the storm is happening, you will normally see the storm assessment team on site first. The other big takeaway is Eversource will focus on the biggest mass first to get the greatest number of people back on. If there is a 200-person outage and a 150 o-person outage but you can do the smaller one faster we will do that. We use the UConn damage model for what we expect for outages, but you never know what will happen until the storm takes place. In most cases if we get activated, we will go to a level 5 with one person covering 3 towns. If it is level 4 or higher the ratio changes to 1:1. Level 1 would be 70-100% of customers out and a restoration duration of greater than 72 hours.

Jon Hand asked if we have ever gotten to a level 1 in this state. Ryan said no. The Halloween storm in 2012 was close, probably a level 2. Bud said that storm took out the power to the substation. One of the things we ran into, is sometimes there are things that take priority. We can’t let people travel over a secondary road with downed lines. We had to shut Rt. 44 down during the last event. Priority one is life-saving. In the past we have been able to steer where we need a piece of equipment most. The Rt. 44 event shut down the road for a lengthy amount of time (8:30 AM – 4 PM). It’s a major route

with trucks, buses, commuters etc. It's more of a priority than some of the other things that were being worked on at the time.

Ryan said as those things come up we try to get the crews out there. People are running from ticket to ticket to get roads open. Bud said something like that should be relayed as most important – it's a 15 minute job that delayed a lot of people. Ryan agreed public safety is #1. There is also a difference between an impeded roadway and a closed roadway. Bud said just disconnecting it from the pole and getting it out of the way would have addressed the problem. When we try to shut down a road sometimes people ignore the closure, putting lives at risk. Jon asked if there was some way to communicate a higher priority. Ryan said he was on this storm but because it wasn't declared until early afternoon we couldn't get the bodies in place early enough. Bud said in the initial run of the storm it would behoove Eversource to give us one vehicle. Ryan said he would love to supply a dedicated truck, but we don't have those resources, unless we have to contract out. Bud asked how many linemen are on place in the initial event. Ryan said 40 crews statewide plus about 125 tree crews. Like a fire department, a mandated crew rest also comes into play. If we can send one, we will, but a dedicated truck is not possible.

Lisa Thomas said one of the people who reached out to her said a particular neighborhood (Deborah Drive) was out of power at 10 AM on 12/19 and got power back on 12/20 at 2 in the afternoon. Bud said that is actually a good response time. Alex Bohr said in the ranking if there are only 5 houses it would be a lower priority. Bud said that is approximately a 24-hour restoration which is actually not that bad. Ryan also mentioned we have to wait until the wind dies down to 35 mph before we can even send a bucket truck up. We had people who were still out on Friday and coming back on Monday morning. It was still within the restoration cycle. The best thing you can do is call the reporting line 800-286-2000 or use the app. Keep calling. It won't change the priority if there are only 4 houses and there is a larger scale issue, but we will at least see the repeated reports. A standard pole repair is usually about a 12-hour job. Once you get the pole in, you have to re-do all the connections. That's if it doesn't have a transformer. Coventry is covered by the Tolland work center, which goes from Andover south up to Union and over to Suffield. If equipment is needed that isn't in Tolland we go to Hartford.

Lisa asked if the live storm sheet is still in place on the Town website. Bud said it wasn't used in the last storm, but it is still in place. It used to get put up by Mike Cote at the PD. Lisa said if it can be active and is a good tool maybe we can direct people to it on the Town Manager's Facebook page or via emergency alerts. Eric Peterson was asked why it wasn't used in the last storm, and said it was a communication issue – the coordination didn't happen, but it is not difficult to use.

Lisa said in these situations how do we alleviate the pressure on emergency response people and staff so that we aren't fielding multiple phone calls from irate residents. She wants the people who need to be responding to be able to focus on that. Eric said if Bud wants the sheet to be activated just to call the dispatcher at CPD and we will update it. Eric said it allows the FD, PD and DPW to work together. Lisa said it also shows the community we are working together and helps to tone down the nasty rhetoric. Ryan said proactive Facebook messaging can also help - providing links to the app, reporting the location of restoration truck, etc. No matter what, you will get calls. Bud said people don't want to wait. Ryan also talked about Eversource poles vs. Frontier poles. There are some poles owned by Frontier and not Eversource. In those cases, Frontier has to authorize work to be done – we can't just do it. There are times when it's not our jurisdiction. It's rare, but common enough that it can become an issue.

Lisa said the idea of proactive messaging is good. There could just be one graphic that gets used over and over again and one message ready to roll. She asked if Coventry Alerts could be used for that. Jim said it depends on where it's coming from. Laura (Stone) can do it or the PD could do it if it's over the weekend.

Ryan said as tickets are coming in and we have estimated times of repair (ETR), we can be aware, but we will not usually contact individuals. The automatic response system does do that, and it is done in real time. We can only change those ETR's three times. Bud said giving an estimate restoration time can backfire if that target isn't met.

Lisa said when she gives her chair report at the next Council meeting, she will talk about this, and that gets shared on social media.

Ryan left contact information for the group. Jim asked if Ryan is always our rep during a storm. Ryan said we do rotate. We had a staff shortage recently and the other rep had 17 towns. She is back down to her normal number and he has his usual 12.

The committee thanked Ryan for attending the meeting. Ryan said to visit at any time.

Annemarie Sundgren said she wanted to attend this meeting to better understand the Eversource protocols because we take a lot of energy-related calls. It was helpful to hear the presentation.

Events:

- **Debrief: Christmas in the Village – 12/7/25:** Bud Meyers said the event went very well. Santa got dropped off by the fire truck and we went forward with the light parade. Lisa asked if traffic went smoothly. Jim said we had initial concerns about traffic from the previous year with food trucks in the parking lot at the community center. They moved the food trucks down the hill this year to help prevent the parking lot congestion. He has not heard anything negative. Eric said he heard they want to extend the event to 5 PM next year. Jim said he's not sure that's a good idea – it gets dark and colder once the sun is down. That decision is made by the Lions Club.

Agency updates:

Police Department – Eric Peterson:

- Monthly statistics were shared (attached to minutes).
- We have one person out on long-term leave, so we are still not fully staffed.
- Christmas in the Village went well. We worked with the FD on the toy drive.

Emergency Management – Alex Bohr:

- He and Mike had our yearly meeting with DEHMS. We got sworn in and discussed a lot of issues. They are coming out with new items that will affect the Emergency Operations Plan, so he is glad he hasn't submitted it yet. Once that's in everything is good to go.

- For the past storm we had discussed the issue of an overnight shelter for people in need, but the numbers dropped so we did not do that. We did communicate about a warming center at the Library. Lisa said she would like to get that standard informational slide prepared so everyone can use it.

Fire/EMS –Bud Meyers:

- The monthly report was presented and is attached to the minutes.
- Ambulance 518 is back in service.
- We assisted with a variety of December events including Wreaths Across America and the toy drive.
- Lisa said that the Town Council unanimously approved the list of apparatus for bonding to go to referendum. Bud said we have been trying to get that into the budget for two years. We lost revenue due to our inability to field second calls.
- Annemarie thanked the Department for their assistance with the Adopt a Family program. We served 75 families.

Town Manager – Jim Drumm:

- Public Works has been very busy. They have been out almost every night due to the need for salt, ice breakup, etc. As a result, some things that needed to be done during the day have fallen behind. We brought a new hire in as a result of a recent vacancy. He has a CDL and leadership background which is helpful as we look toward eventual succession planning.

Town Council - Lisa Thomas:

- Lisa went to the staff meeting Wednesday morning. Her primary reason for going was to share the adoption of new Town Council goals. The goals are different than usual – they are not highly-detailed project goals. We shouldn't be putting projects on anyone's plate. One goal is to establish a Coventry Citizens Academy so help residents understand how the Town is governed and how departments work. We want to do a series of workshops and videos to get information into the community. It became clear last year that there is not a great deal of understanding of why we have the budget needs we have, so if we can increase understanding perhaps we can have more fiscally responsible budgeting so we have the resources we need. She asked the group to think about the key things you would want the community to know about what your department does and the things you need. Annemarie said this was brought up a while back, including suggestions for putting it into the newsletter. Lisa said she would like to do it in an approachable way. The time it is most heard is during budget time but waiting until then is difficult. Jim said he has done a Citizens Academy in previous towns and sometimes it creates more volunteerism. Lisa said we carried over two goals about reviewing existing boards and commissions and their charges and making sure the ordinances that created them are still relevant and conform with State law. Also, the issue of continuing to collaborate with partner organizations. The two she feels most strongly about – is the eliminating of silos so that we are not duplicating efforts or competing with others for resources. It's a strategic plan we put into place to guide our decision making. We have a lot of big projects coming up for Coventry. We know we need to deal with our wastewater treatment plant. The BoE is ready to ask the Town Council to establish a building committee to close Coventry Grammar School and combine students into a middle school complex. Plus if we do that, we have an empty building that could be used for other purposes. All of that needs to go onto the table so we have a vision and a

master plan to make it happen.

Alongside strategic planning for infrastructure and building needs, we also need to look at attainable workforce housing. Putting the economic development in place is a key element but there needs to be people here to take advantage of that. We are going to have a presentation on 2/2/26 from the Municipal Development Authority who will provide a lot of resources to us that may take some of the burdens off of staff. We are also going to work with CRCOG to see if we can put a housing affordability initiative in place. Everybody has to be involved because it's all connected. There are also the two bond commission requests we have made to get the water tower in the Village and the culvert fixed. She met with the Lt. Governor yesterday about some of these issues. We are willing to be role models in how a small town can make these things work.

Other Business:

- None

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 PM on a motion by Bud Meyers, seconded by Jon Hand and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura Stone', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Laura Stone



COVENTRY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Professional Policing – Community Commitment

Chief Eric Peterson
epeterson@coventry-ct.gov

Police Activity for the month of December 2025

Calls for service: We responded to a total of 558 calls. Each call is listed in the Incident Analysis sheet.

Some of the activities included:

- 6 domestic disturbance calls
- 24 suspicious activity complaints
- 36 motor vehicle accidents
- 10 animal complaints
- 3 larceny/fraud complaints
- 5 disturbances
- 17 check welfare
- We made an arrest where an individual drove his vehicle onto the golf course of Twin Hills. Ofc. Wesolowski was on routine patrol and came across the vehicle exiting the golf course. The vehicle fled. An investigation led to a confession and an arrest.
- We participated with the FD for the yearly Toy Drive
- We provided police presence for the annual Christmas in the Village.
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Officers also conducted 24 traffic stops and issued 12 infractions and 3 misdemeanor summonses. Officers also made 8 criminal arrests.



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Accredited Law
Enforcement Agency



Coventry Police Department Incident Analysis

12/1/2025...12/31/2025

	Shift		Total
1st	2nd	3rd	
116	282	159	558

UCR	Nature	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
					0
003	Car Seat Installation	0	2	0	2
029	Disabled Motor Vehicle	5	5	10	20
11D	Fondling	0	1	0	1
13C	Intimidation	0	1	1	2
23H	Larceny All Other	0	3	0	3
2604	Fireworks/Gunshots	0	1	1	2
2609	Littering	0	1	0	1
2619	Building Check	1	0	1	2
2620	Patrol Check	61	5	16	82
2621	Speed Enforcement	0	0	3	3
2622	Admin	1	5	1	7
2623	Visibility	6	0	1	7
2627	School Detail/Assist	0	4	0	4
2631	Public Hazard	5	21	5	31
26E	Fraud Wire	0	1	0	1
26F	Identity Theft	0	1	0	1
270	Embezzlement	0	1	0	1
2914	Animal Complaint	2	6	1	9
2915	Domestic Bite-Person	0	1	0	1
3009	Susp Person/Activity/MV	8	9	7	24
332	Harassment/Harassing Phone Calls	0	1	0	1
334	Untimely Death	1	2	1	4
343	MV Accident (Injuries)	0	2	2	4
344	MV Accident Evading	0	1	0	1
346	MV Accident (No Injuries)	2	14	13	29
347	MV Accident (Private Property)	0	1	1	2
351	Alarm	0	20	5	25
353	Medical	7	31	26	64
355	MV Stop	1	18	5	24
35A	Drug/Narcotic Violation	0	1	0	1
375	Routine Assistance	2	28	10	40
388	Miscellaneous	0	3	0	3
390	Police Information	0	2	1	3
391	CREST callout	0	1	0	1
396	Escort	1	3	0	4
399	Lost And Found	0	2	0	2
400	Family Matter - Non Arrest	2	3	1	6
401	Repossessed Vehicle	0	1	2	3
4811	Finger Printing	0	11	1	12
4858	Fire	4	3	5	12



Coventry Police Department Incident Analysis

12/1/2025...12/31/2025

4867	Background Investigation	0	3	0	3
4873	Assist Other Agency	1	5	4	10
4874	Test Ticket	1	3	1	5
5000	Search and Seizure Warrant Execution	1	1	0	2
861	Disturbance (Non-Domestic)	0	2	3	5
866	Noise Complaint	0	1	1	2
889	Check Welfare	1	10	6	17
890	MV Erratic Operation	0	3	2	5
891	MV Lock Out	0	2	0	2
90D	DWI	1	1	1	3
90Z	All Other Offenses	0	1	4	5
911	911 Hang Up Call	0	1	1	2
Sup	Supplemental	2	33	16	52



1712 Main Street
Coventry, Connecticut 06238
(860) 742-1606 Ext 6007 desk



Town of Coventry

OFFICE OF THE FIRE CHIEF
FIRE-EMS DEPARTMENT

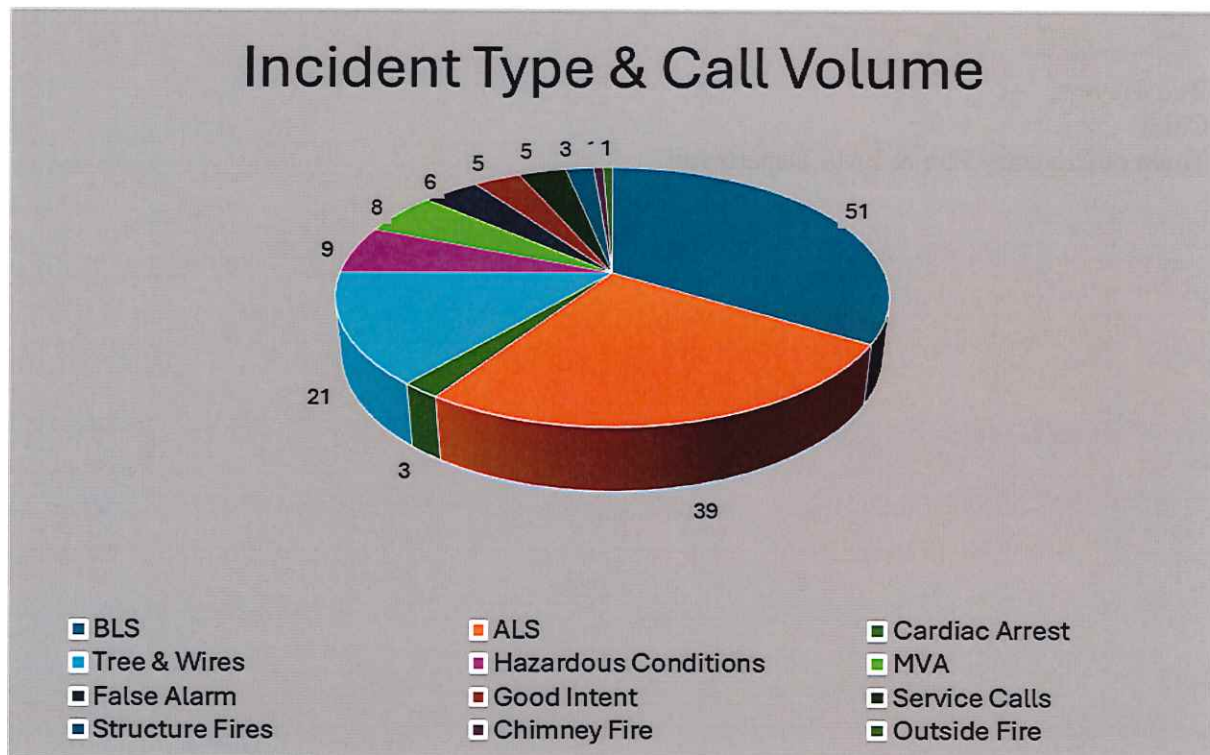
Bud Meyers, Fire Chief
bmeyers@coventry-ct.gov

LECC Report

January 08, 2026

Calls:

For the month of December, we responded to 152 calls consisting of: 51 BLS, 39 ALS and 3 Cardiac Arrest for a total of 93 Medical calls, 21 Tree & wires, 9 Hazardous conditions, 8 MVA, 6 False alarms, 5 Good intent, 5 Service calls, 3 Structure fires, 1 Chimney fire and 1 Outside fire.



Apparatus:

Happy to report December 18, Ambulance 518 went back in -service, we are without issues to date.

Stations:

Station 218 has a heat circulating pump issue that requires replacement.

Dedication – Teamwork – Respect



1712 Main Street
Coventry, Connecticut 06238
(860) 742-1606 Ext 6007 desk



Town of Coventry

OFFICE OF THE FIRE CHIEF
FIRE-EMS DEPARTMENT

Bud Meyers, Fire Chief
bmeyers@coventry-ct.gov

Equipment:

Annual SCBA flow testing was completed, and no pack issues were found.

Administrative:

We kicked off December with our annual toy drive in partnership with CPD, followed by Christmas in the Village and the Light Parade. We also assisted with Wreaths Across America and supported Santa's surprise visits throughout the community.

Respectfully submitted,

Bud Meyers,
Chief

Town of Coventry Fire & EMS Department