

Minutes
Local Emergency Coordinating Committee Special Meeting
February 5, 2026
Town Hall Conference Room B and via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 PM by Lisa Thomas.

Present: Lisa Thomas, Town Council (via Zoom); Jonathan Hand, Town Council; James Drumm, Town Manager; Bud Meyers, Fire/EMS; Eric Peterson, Police Department; Ted Opdenbrouw, Public Schools; Bill Watkins, Public Works

Also present: Annemarie Sundgren, Human Services Department

Absent: Alex Bohr, Emergency Management

Audience of Citizens: none.

Acceptance of Minutes: January 8, 2026:

Jon Hand moved to accept the minutes of January 8, 2026. The motion was seconded by Bud Meyers and carried on unanimous vote.

Agency updates:

Fire/EMS –Bud Meyers:

- The monthly report was presented and is attached to the minutes. It will also be attached under Consent on the next Town Council agenda.
- Train derailment: there were 9 cars that turned over; 6 of them were in the river. There was some leaking on the shoreline that did not get in the water. They are moving a crane in at midnight to start righting the units and hope to do the recovery in a 48-hour window. This issue is not new to the railroad company – it happens all the time. The liquid propane is not odorized. The tankers are built very strongly. We do not know whether they will unload them on site or elsewhere. Lisa Thomas asked for a precise location. Bud replied it is between Rt. 44 and Rt. 275 northwest of Desiatos. It's across from Plains Road by the big farm. Lisa said as far as people know, liquid propane is not leaking anywhere. She asked about the grease that leaked. Bud said there was some in the water but it was pretty well contained at this point. The substance is actually animal fat, not grease. The wells will be back online soon. Lisa said there is a lot of misinformation out there and asked if anything is on the Manager's Facebook page. Jim said we have been communicating all day. We have done two Facebook updates, but not everyone is on Facebook, so we did a CivicReady alert to reach more people. Bud said they will not lift the shelter-in-place advisory any time soon. In the event of a leak while the cars are moved, liquid propane is heavier than air and any alerts should be directed downhill.

Public Works – Bill Watkins:

- We are at 19 events with the most recent storm, and another is expected this weekend.
- We currently have 600 tons of salt in the shed. A shipment is due in New Haven next week with deliveries starting 2/17 based on when your order was placed. We also have about 100 tons of straight salt in the circus shed. This is why we don't want to cut our budgets too

much – running out of salt is a stressful situation. Jon Hand asked if the straight salt could be mixed with the treated salt to stretch the supply. Bill said no. Some towns are mixing their salt with sand, but he doesn't think you really gain anything from that. He would rather dial back on our application.

- We have been dealing with a lot of roof ice dams and frozen pipes.
- Lisa Thomas said we appreciate all the work that went into this big storm. It seems like the community did a good job staying off the roads at the onset of the storm, so hopefully that helped.

Police Department – Eric Peterson:

- Monthly statistics were shared (attached to minutes).
- Officer Stebbins is in the schools making a positive impact as a liaison officer.
- We're waiting for our two cars to come in – they are anticipated in April and then it will take two months to outfit them.
- We might be losing an officer to the City of New Haven. He lives closer and their pension program is more attractive because you can buy in with sick time. Hartford, Waterbury, and New Haven have all bumped up their pensions and benefits to attract candidates. Depth of staffing support is also important in retention.
- Lisa asked about the two runaway situations and whether both individuals are still missing. Eric said they have been returned home.

Public Schools – Ted Opdenbrouw:

- We have started work toward a student First Responder Academy which will begin in March. This hands-on career exploration program was developed in partnership with the Police and Fire Departments and will provide experiential learning opportunities in public safety including CPR and Basic First Aid certification, law enforcement, and fire service instruction. It is open to any high school student with priority going to seniors. There will be a lottery if the program is full. It will be a six-week program. Lisa asked if there is a flyer for it that can go to the Council. Ted said yes, it will be ready next week. (see attached flyer)

Emergency Management – Alex Bohr (not present due to train derailment issue)

Human Services Department – Annemarie Sundgren:

The department had a few phone calls this week in regard to landlord tenant issues such as lack of heat or water. She asked if we have a Uniform Relocation Assistance program filed with the CT DEEP. Her previous employer had one. Some of these households have many layers of issues. If a landlord is refusing to pay and we refer it to the Building Department and they condemn the property, then the tenant has a right to apply for the program. Jim Drumm suggested talking with the Building Official. Bud said there are certain statutes that protect tenants, but some of these things may be lease-specific. Lisa asked who provided these services in Annemarie's previous position. She replied that the Human Services Department did it. It was a lot of work to coordinate. The Town places a lien on the property to recover the expenses. She hasn't come across it in Coventry which is why she was inquiring. Jim asked if the State statutes require that a local ordinance be adopted. Annemarie said towns are required to have a program filed. There is a template online. Lisa said she is concerned about the 3 situations Annemarie has mentioned. It sounds like the tenants are not safe. She asked if we could investigate and see what needs to be done under the statute. We need to do something. We are facing a very cold weekend of weather. Can something be done on an

emergency basis? Annemarie said we can offer our special needs fund, but it puts us between the tenant and the landlord. It has not been our practice. Lisa suggested that Annemarie and Jim talk outside of this meeting to develop a solution. Annemarie will check with DEEP to see if we have a plan on file.

Town Manager – Jim Drumm:

Jim said he had nothing to report other than the derailment. Lisa asked that another update go to the community regarding the derailment. Jim said that would be done. Bud said that the FD is on standby in case anything goes awry with the removal.

Town Council - Lisa Thomas:

Lisa asked that a summary be prepared for the Town Council after the derailment issue is resolved. Bud said he will work on it. Jon said he watched the press conference. It was clear that the railroad representatives know what they are doing. They have an assessment and remediation process in place. They estimated it would be several days. Lisa said there is a lot of misinformation out there and wants to make sure we do everything we can to provide factual information.

Other Business:

- Cancellation of March 5, 2026 LECC meeting: Lisa said it is being canceled because it is the same night as the Public Hearing on the Budget. If something urgent comes up, you know how to be in touch.
- Social Media Outreach: Lisa wants to start a conversation. She just went to a 4-hour training course at CRCOG featuring an expert who spoke on effective use of social media to reach your community. Videos were a big takeaway. She wants to think about more spontaneous videos like the one she did at DPW the other day. Videos that focus on good things. She asked the group to think about it. She also mentioned coordination of messaging during the storm event and coordinating our messaging in general. She asked departments to share their key posts with Laura Stone for posting to the Town Manager's Facebook page. Let Lisa know if you have any other thoughts about communication and messaging.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:52 PM on a motion by Jon Hand, seconded by Bud Meyers and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Laura Stone



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



Town of Coventry

OFFICE OF THE FIRE CHIEF
FIRE-EMS DEPARTMENT

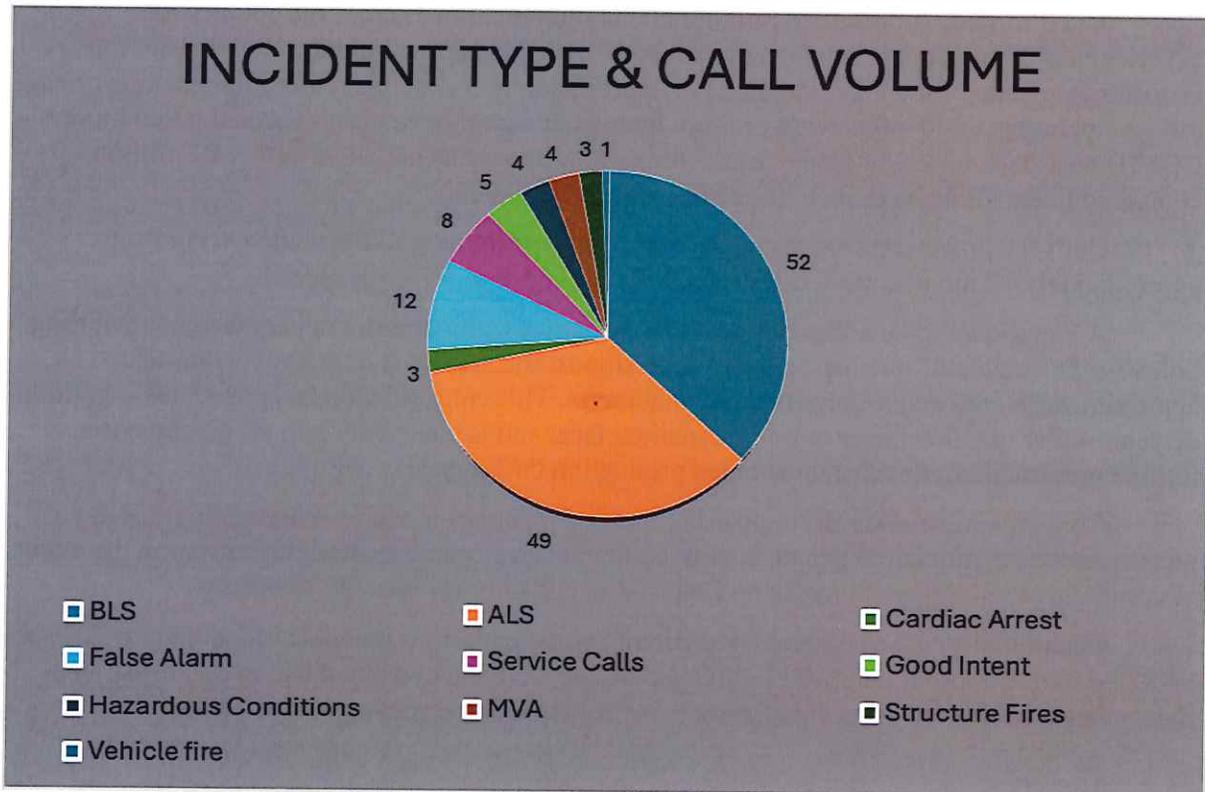
Bud Meyers, Fire Chief
bmeyers@coventry-ct.gov

LECC Report

February 05, 2026

Calls:

For the month of ^{January} December, we responded to 141 calls consisting of: 52 BLS, 49 ALS and 3 Cardiac Arrest for a total of 104 Medical calls, 12 False alarms, 8 Service calls, 5 Good intent calls, 4 Hazardous conditions, 4 MVA, 3 Structure fires, and 1 Vehicle fire.



Apparatus:

New tires are required for the rear of Quint 218

Stations:

Station 318 has a heat circulating pump issue that requires replacement. Fire alarm panels at Station 118, 218 and 318 have been converted to internet and cellular monitoring.

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:

1,300 feet of large diameter hose has been order.

Administrative:

Our live-in program was recently featured in the municipal magazine

I wanted to share a brief update following my attendance at a recent press conference that focused on national issues affecting fire apparatus pricing, procurement practices, and manufacturing delays.

The information presented reinforced that municipalities across the country are experiencing fire apparatus cost increases that far exceed historical trends. Where departments historically planned for annual increases of approximately 3–5 percent, current apparatus pricing reflects increases of 40–60 percent or more over what would have been expected based on pre-COVID cost trajectories. In many cases, comparable apparatus is now priced at \$1 million, compared to an anticipated range of approximately \$600,000.

Delivery timelines were also discussed, with apparatus lead times increasing from approximately 12 months pre-COVID to commonly three to five years today.

A significant topic addressed was consolidation within the fire apparatus manufacturing industry. Through multiple mergers and acquisitions, the market is now largely dominated by approximately three major corporate manufacturers. This consolidation has reduced competition, driven smaller manufacturers out of the marketplace, and is contributing to escalating costs, limited purchasing options, and extended production backlogs.

Concerns were also raised regarding pricing practices in which manufacturers pass cost increases back to municipalities even after contracts have been executed, undermining the intent of competitive bidding and increasing financial uncertainty for local governments.

Additionally, it was noted that a federal engine emissions mandate scheduled for 2027 is expected to add approximately \$115,000 per engine, and due to extended manufacturing lead times, these anticipated costs are already being reflected in current apparatus pricing.

Respectfully submitted,

Bud Meyers,
Chief
Town of Coventry Fire & EMS Department



COVENTRY POLICE DEPARTMENT
Professional Policing – Community Commitment

Chief Eric Peterson
epeterson@coventry-ct.gov

Police Activity for the month of January 2026

Calls for service: We responded to a total of 462 calls. Each call is listed in the Incident Analysis sheet.

Some of the activities included:

- 7 domestic disturbance calls
- 20 suspicious activity complaints
- 29 motor vehicle accidents
- 11 animal complaints
- 3 larceny/fraud complaints
- 1 burglary
- 13 disturbances
- 18 check welfare
- 2 runaway/missing person
- 1 home invasion

Officers also conducted 24 traffic stops and issued 8 infractions and 6 criminal arrests.

Officer Stebbins continues to make a positive impact as a part-time school liaison officer. He has dedicated time to each school in town.





Coventry Police Department Incident Analysis

1*/2026

		Shift			Total
		1st	2nd	3rd	
		73	252	135	462

UCR	Nature	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
003	Car Seat Installation	0	2	3	5
029	Disabled Motor Vehicle	1	9	11	21
13A	Assault Aggravated	0	1	0	1
13B	Assault Simple	0	0	1	1
13C	Intimidation	0	1	0	1
152	Suicide Threat/Attempt	0	1	2	3
220	Burglary	0	0	1	1
23C	Larceny Shoplifting	0	1	0	1
23F	Larceny Theft From MV	0	1	0	1
23H	Larceny All Other	0	2	1	3
2604	Fireworks/Gunshots	0	0	2	2
2619	Building Check	0	2	0	2
2620	Patrol Check	22	2	2	26
2621	Speed Enforcement	0	5	2	7
2622	Admin	1	8	0	9
2623	Visibility	2	1	0	3
2627	School Detail/Assist	1	2	0	3
2631	Public Hazard	3	2	0	5
26B	Fraud Credit Card/ATM	0	0	1	1
2914	Animal Complaint	0	5	6	11
3009	Susp Person/Activity/MV	6	8	6	20
326	Illegal Parking	0	1	0	1
332	Harassment/Harassing Phone Calls	0	1	0	1
334	Untimely Death	0	3	1	4
343	MV Accident (Injuries)	0	0	1	1
346	MV Accident (No Injuries)	4	13	10	27
347	MV Accident (Private Property)	0	0	1	1
351	Alarm	2	10	7	19
353	Medical	14	45	18	77
355	MV Stop	0	17	7	24
375	Routine Assistance	3	28	9	40
377	Open Door/Window	2	1	0	3
388	Miscellaneous	0	2	0	2
390	Police Information	1	1	0	2
391	CREST callout	0	0	2	2
396	Escort	0	3	1	4
398	Missing Person	0	1	0	1
399	Lost And Found	0	1	4	5
400	Family Matter - Non Arrest	0	2	1	3
40A	Prostitution	0	1	0	1
4811	Finger Printing	0	16	2	18



Coventry Police Department Incident Analysis

1/*/2026

4858	Fire	2	5	2	9
4873	Assist Other Agency	1	6	9	16
4874	Test Ticket	1	1	3	5
82	Runaway/Non NIBRS	0	1	1	2
861	Disturbance (Non-Domestic)	1	3	0	4
863	Town Ordinance Violation	0	1	1	2
866	Noise Complaint	1	1	0	2
889	Check Welfare	1	11	5	17
890	MV Erratic Operation	1	6	3	10
891	MV Lock Out	2	2	0	4
90Z	All Other Offenses	0	1	0	1
Sup	Supplemental	1	15	9	27



FIRST RESPONDER STUDENT ACADEMY



Coventry Public Schools is pleased to offer the First Responder Student Academy; a hands-on career exploration program developed in partnership with the Police and Fire Departments. This program will provide participating high school students with experiential learning opportunities in public safety, including CPR and Basic First Aid certification, law enforcement and fire service instruction.

When: Every Thursday March 5th through April 9th from 5:00 to 7:00

Where: Law enforcement training at Police Headquarters, fire department training at Station 218 (across from CGS)

Eligibility: Any CHS student who is in good standing

Class size: The maximum number of participants is 12 students

Selection: Awarded based on seniority of class (senior, junior, sophomore, freshman)

Applications: Applications are available in the guidance office

Closing date: February 27, 2026

