

My name is Richard Szanto and I've lived in town for 49 years and have been an active volunteer firefighter in town for over 48 years. I currently live at 159 Bagley Rd. During that time I've seen tremendous growth in the town – population, infrastructure and economic. That growth has caused an enormous increase in the demand for services provided by the Town's Public Safety agencies – EMS, Fire and Police. This demand will certainly not decline in the foreseeable future with the Town having taken over these responsibilities for the Southbury Training School.

I think it is time for the Town to have a commission or commissions to oversee these respective services – a Fire Commission, an EMS Commission and a Police Commission, or at the least a Public Safety Commission. Their responsibilities should include but not necessarily be limited to such things as Town funding (budgeting review and spending monitoring) and search committees for any personnel to be hired by the Town so that a pool of applicants can be reviewed and the Town get the most competent and qualified individual(s) for such positions and then make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen, be it final or down to a pool of maybe three with rankings.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Szanto

Police Departments/Commissions

			Southbury	East Lyme	Bethel	Monroe	Seymour	Middlebury
Board of Selectmen/Town Meeting			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Population	Total		19,989	19,159	20,358	18,825	16,450	7,574
	<18		22.8%	21.9%	27.3%	29.1%	23.9%	24.5%
	18-24		3.3%	6.3%	6.0%	4.8%	6.3%	4.2%
	25-44		22.7%	33.4%	31.9%	24.3%	32.6%	25.3%
	45-64		25.1%	25.8%	24.6%	25.7%	22.9%	29.4%
	65&>		26.1%	12.6%	10.2%	10.5%	14.4%	16.5%
				95.8%	101.8%	94.2%	82.3%	37.9%
Households			7,225	6,308	6,505	6,481	6,155	2,494
				87.3%	90.0%	89.7%	85.2%	34.5%
Area	sq mi	Total	40.1	42.0	16.9	40.1	15.0	18.5
		Land	39.0	34.1	16.8	39.0	14.6	17.8
		Water	1.1	7.9	0.1	1.1	0.4	0.7
Police Department Established				2016	1947	1947	unknown	1973
By Town Charter				Yes	Yes	Yes	unknown	unknown
Statutory Limit				<i>Proposed</i>	No	No	No	No
Board of Police Commissioners			<i>No</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes