

CITY OF WEST HAVEN, CT
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, January 21, 2020

The regular meeting of the West Haven Board of Police Commissioners was called to order at 7 p.m. by Chairman Raymond Collins, III at Police Headquarters, 200 Saw Mill Road. All those present rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance

| | |
|---|---------|
| Raymond Collins, III, Chairman | present |
| Paul E. Butler, Vice-Chairman | present |
| Keith Sweeney | present |
| Peter BonTempo, Secretary | absent |
| Deborah B. Wright, Pension Board | present |
| Joseph Perno, Chief of Police | present |
| Carl Flemmig, Interim Deputy Chief | present |
| Lee Tiernan, Corporation Counsel | present |

Agenda

Commissioner Butler MOVED to accept the agenda as presented; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

1. Minutes for Approval

Commissioner Wright MOVED to accept the minutes of January 7, 2020; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

2. Public Session

Chairman Collins asked if any member of the public wished to speak.

Corporation Counsel Lee Tiernan

Corporation Counsel Tiernan acknowledged the service of George Sherman, an individual the City has lost that was an integral part of the blight proceedings. He was a great worker for the City and Corporation Counsel Tiernan asked that the Commission observe a moment of silence in his memory.

Commissioner Sweeney concurred, having worked with Mr. Sherman on many blight issues.

Chairman Collins asked three times if any other person wished to speak. Being none, he declared the public session closed.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Mr. George Sherman.

3. Communications

The Commissioners reviewed the following monthly reports for December, 2019:

- 3.1 Attendance
- 3.2 Training Division
- 3.3 Traffic Management Unit
- 3.4 Investigative Services

They also reviewed a letter of appreciation from Paula Prates of Captain Thomas Boulevard regarding Officer Christopher Nolan's kindness and compassion during a call for service to her home.

4. Report of the Chief

Chief Perno reported, along with Corporation Counsel and Finance, we are still in discussion regarding the cameras and plumbing issues in the cellblock.

We are currently in the process, with the assistance of Captain D'Amato, Captain Flavin, Deputy Chief Flemmig and Sergeant Eric Dlugolenski, of preparing the application for the grant regarding domestic violence and sexual assaults. Sergeant Dlugolenski is working on that as we speak; the deadline is Monday.

The five vehicles that we are in the process of securing – three of them should be delivered within 2.5 months, the other gas one after that, and the hybrid will be depending upon the mileage that it incurs in demonstration mode.

Commissioner Wright reminded Chief Perno that she is available should he need assistance preparing the budget.

Commissioner Sweeney asked about how the pricing will be determined regarding the hybrid vehicle, specifically regarding discounting during testing, and where will the vehicle be assigned when received.

Chief Perno explained that the vehicle will be assigned to patrol. The vehicle is \$5,000-\$8,000 less. We will have the vehicle for part of the time period during the demonstration phase. They will be putting approximately 4,000 miles on the vehicle during testing. The amount of our discount will have a lot to do with the price fluctuation that Ford puts on these vehicles.

Corporation Counsel Tiernan explained that we're protecting ourselves and we are not committed to any final arrangement – we have the ability to negotiate and to decide whether the price point is something we agree with or not. We have the right to say no.

The Commissioners discussed the hybrid vehicle at length.

5. Report of the Deputy Chief

Deputy Chief Flemmig reported, with tonight's resignation we're at 117 Officers. One is in Field Training, 11 are in the Police Academy; seven of those will graduate this Thursday, one is on administrative leave, and one is on military leave. This gives us a total of 102 Officers available.

Chief Perno, Officer Healey and I met with ATF Special Agent Scott Riordan this past week regarding Officer Tim Healey who will be assigned to that unit effective January 31st.

Commissioner Sweeney asked that Chief Perno have a firm discussion with his support staff regarding information that is disseminated to the Commissioners for their meeting packets.

6. Report of the Committees – no reports

7. Old Business – none presented

8. New Business

8.1 626 Savin Avenue – Ordinance Violation (blight)

Corporation Counsel Tiernan explained that these are serious violations. Based on my review with staff, we have no information that this has been corrected.

Commissioner Sweeney stated, I was there today and I also find that they are not in compliance. This is the second or third time this house has come before us. The first time we let them fix their problems; the second time we issued a small fine. This time they are not in compliance.

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to impose a \$300 one-time fine, and further, a certified letter is to be sent out that if the property is not completely in compliance by our next meeting on February 4, 2020, the fine will be \$100 per day. SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Commissioner Butler noted page six of the report, the yellow garage that is clearly not in compliance. Commissioner Sweeney explained that is the property next door and the Officer is going to visit that property tomorrow or the next day.

8.2 Resignation of Officer Joel Hernandez, effective 1-23-2020

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to accept the resignation of Officer Joel Hernandez, effective January 23, 2020; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

8.3 Action on 11.3

To be taken up after Executive Session

9. Pension Board

No report.

10. Commissioners Reports

Commissioner Wright explained that somebody was talking with her about King Street and King Place, with King Place possibly being a private road. She suggested talking with the VA since they've built more parking and letting them know we're going to start enforcing more in that area. Chief Perno will speak with Sergeant D'Amato in Traffic tomorrow.

Commissioner Collins reported that he attended the Council meeting on Monday. The Council voted unanimously to keep the pension with Dave Moran and to fund the study to bring the pension back. The tone of their discussion seemed to be that the Council members were in favor of bringing the pension back.

11. Executive Session

At approximately 7:20 p.m., Commissioner Wright MOVED to enter Executive Session to discuss the following:

- 11.1 Street Crime Report
- 11.2 Special Victims & Firearms Report – December, 2019
- 11.3 Employment Interview – ACO Applicant Morgan Ruggiero

Command Staff were invited to remain. SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Return to Regular Session

At approximately 7:50 p.m. Commissioner Wright MOVED to return to Regular Session; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

8.3 Action on Executive Session item

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to hire Megan Ruggiero as an Animal Control Officer, effective January 28, 2020, pending medical review; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

11 Adjournment

At 7:51p.m., Commissioner Butler MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "P. Bruder", written in black ink.

Patricia M. Bruder
Secretary