

City of West Haven, CT
Board of Police Commissioners
Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, February 1, 2022

The regular meeting of the West Haven Board of Police Commissioners was called to order at 7:02 PM by Chairman Raymond Collins III at West Haven Police Headquarters, 200 Sawmill Road. All those present, rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance

Raymond Collins III, <i>Chairman</i>	Present
Paul E. Butler, <i>Vice-Chairman</i>	Present
John M. Carrano, <i>Commissioner</i>	Present
Christopher Suggs, <i>Commissioner</i>	Present
Deborah B. Wright, <i>Pension Board Chair and Commissioner</i>	Present
Joseph Perno, <i>Chief of Police</i>	Present
Carl Flemmig, <i>Deputy Chief</i>	Present

Agenda

Commissioner Butler MOVED to add Item 8.3 regarding the Body Camera General Order; SECONDED by Commissioner Carrano. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Butler MOVED to accept the agenda as amended; SECONDED by Commissioner Carrano. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Election of Officers

Commissioner Carrano MOVED to keep the slate the way it is presented; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Minutes

Commissioner Carrano MOVED to accept the previous minutes from January 18th, 2022 as presented; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Input

Chairman Collins asked three times if any person from the public wished to speak. There being none, he declared the public portion closed.

4. Communications

- 4.1 K9 Monthly – Sgt. Bloom/K9 Ike Dec 2021.
- 4.2 Traffic Report – December 2021.

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- 4.3 Investigative Services Report – December 2021.
- 4.4 Letter of Appreciation – Sgt. Bloom, Det. Michael Wolf, Ofc. Brittany Fink, Ofc. Tychicus Lindsey from Olympia M. Decrescenzo.

Commissioner Carrano commented in response to Item 4.4 that he was proud of the Officers and the department for how they handled that specific situation. He explained that the Officers involved went above and beyond, and he applauded them and credited their de-escalation training.

5. Report of the Chief

Chief Perno explained that in December 2021, the department took possession of a rescue vehicle for testing and evaluation to be used for the city. He mentioned that on Saturday, Sergeant Hayward did a test with the vehicle around the city, and according to Sergeant Hayward, the vehicle served its purpose and functioned properly. He explained that sometime this month they are on the agenda for the State Senate to have the vehicle officially turned over to the City of West Haven. Once he receives confirmation regarding the dates, he will inform the Board.

Commissioner Butler commented that he also had the privilege of going out on the rescue emergency vehicle and confirmed that it indeed do everything it was intended to.

Chief Perno also added that the department now has a narcotic detection dog, a one-year-old lab named Annie. The handler is Officer Brandon Butler. He added that the dog will be for narcotic detection, and the dog is not trained in marijuana detection.

6. Report of the Deputy Chief

Deputy Chief Flemmig offered the following report:

“With tonight’s hire we will be staffed at 114 Officers. We are minus 2 Officers in Police Academy, 1 Officer on FTO, 2 Officers out injured, 1 Sergeant and 4 Officers on Light Duty, which leaves us a total of 104 available Officers.

There are currently seven open Patrol Beats and eight Officers will be temporarily re-assigned to Patrol effective February 28th to help alleviate the shortage. Officers are being taken out of two Federal Task Forces, Detective Bureau, Traffic, S.R.O., C.R.O., and DOIT.

There are two Officers are at the Police Academy. One will graduate in April 2022 and the other in July 2022.

We are requesting 3 seats in Milford’s Police Academy, which is tentatively scheduled to begin April 21st.”

Commissioner Carrano commented that it’s a shame that Officers have to be taken off those Special Assignments, but emphasized that it is needed to alleviate the shortage of Officers.

Chairman Collins asked if Officers coming off Special Assignments are allowed to go back to their assignments. Deputy Chief Flemmig answered that those Officers get priority when it comes to refilling those Special Assignment positions.

7. Old Business – None Presented

8. New Business

8.1 Resignation of Officer Joseph McDonald

Deputy Chief Flemmig explained that the resignation was effective January 28th, 2022, and that the Officer was lost due to higher salary offers at other agencies.

Commissioner Butler MOVED to accept the resignation of Officer Joseph McDonald; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

8.2 Review Police Applicant

Commissioner Carrano MOVED to table Item 8.2; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

8.3 Body Cameras

Commissioner Butler MOVED to approve the Body Camera General Order; SECONDED by Commissioner Suggs. Motion carried unanimously.

Captain Romano explained that in regard to the implementation of body cameras, other agencies have fallen short when it came to training the policies correctly. He stated that the Chiefs decided to go live with the body camera initiative on March 1st, which will allow enough time for all individuals to go through training and have the opportunity for line ups. This will ensure that everyone knows the policies and expectations, especially when it comes to when and when not to wear the body cameras.

9. Pension Board

9.1 David Moran – Raymond James

Mr. David Moran from Raymond James gave a brief report on the status of the police pension.

10. Report of the Committees

Commissioner Carrano briefly mentioned that he received a call from a citizen earlier in the week regarding the great job that Detective Aklin did. He explained that the specific individual was administratively having issues obtaining a pistol permit, but Detective Aklin was able to assist the individual and walk them through all the necessary steps. Commissioner Carrano commended Detective Aklin for a job well done.

Commissioner Wright brought to the attention of the Board the big push for the Connecticut Big List, which is the state list for unclaimed property. She explained that through that state list, she discovered that the West Haven Police Department has 23 items of unclaimed property, amounting to around \$430. She mentioned that she started the claiming process for the department, and that it needs to be submitted to the Chiefs for completion in order to obtain that money.

Chief Perno mentioned that once the money is received, it will go into the department general funds.

11. Executive Session

Commissioner Butler MOVED to enter Executive Session to discuss the following:

- 11.1 Discussion of New Body Camera General Order
- 11.2 Police Applicant Interview

Motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

The Commissioners entered Executive Session at 7:22 PM.

12. Return to Regular Session/Adjournment

At 8:20 PM, the Commissioners returned to regular session and adjourned by a motion from Commissioner Butler; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Briana Hojo
Recording Clerk