

City of West Haven, CT
Board of Police Commissioners

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, March 2nd, 2021

The regular meeting of the West Haven Board of Police Commissioners was called to order at 7:00 p.m. 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
Keith Sweeney, <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 the personnel report as item 10.2. SECONDED by Commissioner Sweeney. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Wright MOVED to accept the agenda as amended; SECONDED by Commissioner Collins. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Minutes for Approval

Commissioner Butler MOVED to accept the minutes of February 16th, 2021; SECONDED by Commissioner Suggs. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Public Input

Commissioner Butler stated his displeasure with the protest that took place in front of the Chief's house. He does not believe the Chief's family should be the target of work issues.

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

3. Communications

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The following monthly reports:

- 3.1 K9 Monthly Report – Ofc. Standish/K9 Cody – Month of October 2020
- 3.2 K9 Monthly Report – Ofc. Standish/K9 Cody – Month of November 2020
- 3.3 K9 Monthly Report – Ofc. Standish/K9 Cody – Month of December 2020
- 3.4 K9 Monthly Report – Ofc. Standish/K9 Cody – Month of January 2021
- 3.5 K9 Monthly Report – Ofc. Marchitto/K9 Ado – Month of January 2021
- 3.6 Support Services Report – Month of January 2021

4. Report of the Chief

The Chief reported that the camera project has begun this bidding process.

Commissioner Suggs offered a budget question to the chief related to body cameras. He wanted to know where the money would come from to implement them. The Chief stated there will possibly be no money allocated in current budget or in 2021-22 budget due to the cost of implementing the program. He is hopefully that money can come from state to fund body cameras.

Commissioner Butler inquired about the status of the rescue vehicle. The Chief is still waiting to hear back from the Attorney General's office regarding this matter.

Commissioner Butler asked if the Chief has been in contact with the City Council regarding the reinstatement of the police pension. The Chief confirmed that he is speaking with members of the Council related to this topic.

5. Report of the Deputy Chief

The Deputy Chief offered the following report: "With this evenings two departures, we are staffed at 118 officers. We are minus 4 officers in Police Academy, 1 Officer in Field Training, 1 Sergeant and 2 officers out injured, 1 Officer on Light Duty, 1 Sergeant and 2 Officers on Military Leave which leaves us with a total of 106 Officers available.

The Four Officers at the Police Academy will graduate sometime this month and the officer on FTO will be released to regular duty this month as well.

The Training Unit will begin applicant interviews next week and we have two seats reserved in POST's next scheduled academy class beginning in June."

6. Old Business – None presented

7. New Business

- 7.1 Request for Retirement – Officer Jeffrey Carleton

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to accept the retirement of Officer Jeffrey Carleton; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. Motion carried unanimously.

The Deputy Chief offered the following remarks: “Master Patrol Officer Jeffrey Carleton began his law enforcement career with the West Haven Police Department on April 15, 1995. Throughout his 26 years of service he was a highly decorated officer who on two separate occasions responded to working house fires, being the first person on the scene, he entered the residences with no regard for his personal safety and assisted the occupants to safety.

MPO Carleton was a dedicated officer who has served in numerous assignments including the Traffic Unit, SRT Unit, Bike Patrol Unit, Honor Guard, and was most recently assigned to the Patrol Division as a Field Training Officer on A Squad, where he consistently demonstrated a high level of competency, commitment to duty and frequently mentored the less experienced officers on his shift.

MPO Carleton was well respected by the rank and file and his positive attitude and hard work always reflected positively upon our department’s mission and goals.

Jeff, I want to thank you for your 26 years of dedicated service to the West Haven Police Department and the citizens of our community and wish you well with all your future endeavors.”

7.2 Request for Resignation – Officer Lars Vallin

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to accept the retirement of Officer Lars Vallin; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

The Deputy Chief offered the following remarks: “I would like to thank Officer Lars Vallin for his year of service to the West Haven Police Department and the citizens of our community. Lars came to us after serving 20 years with the New Haven Police Department and his experience and commitment to our agency will be missed.

7.3 New Parking Signs, “Shoreline Summer Regulations” May 1, 2021-September 1, 2021.

Sgt. D’Amato presented the newly proposed beach parking signs to be effective through May 1 until September 1st. The goal of the signs is to discourage out of town parking in residential areas near the shoreline and in resident only lots.

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to accept the new recommended sign design for beach parking; SECONDED by Commissioner Suggs. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Pension Board

Commissioner Collins moved to accept the pension benefits for Ofc. Carleton. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Butler. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Wright announced that David Moran will give a pension update at the next meeting.

9. Commissioners Report- None presented

10. Executive Session

Commissioner Sweeney **MOVED** to enter Executive Session to discuss the following monthly reports:

- 10.1 Street Crime Report – Month of January 2021
- 10.2 Personnel Report

Motion was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Suggs. Motion carried unanimously.

Return to Regular Session/Adjournment

At 7:35 p.m. the Commissioners returned to regular session and adjourned by a motion from Commissioner Suggs. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Butler. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcin Stankevitch, Recording Clerk