

City of West Haven, CT
Board of Police Commissioners
Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, May 17th, 2022

The regular meeting of the West Haven Board of Police Commissioners was called to order at 7:00 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

Chief Perno explained that there was an addendum to the Memorial Day Parade event. The street closure will be extended from Brown Street to Main Street in order to accommodate a benefit concert event in front of Z's Corner Café at the end of the parade for approximately an hour and a half to two hours.

Commissioner Butler MOVED to accept the agenda as presented; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Minutes

Commissioner Butler MOVED to accept the minutes of the meeting on May 3rd, 2022; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. Motion passed with an abstention from Commissioner Carrano.

2. Public Input

Mayor Nancy Rossi, 12 Robin Road, addressed the board in order to discuss the Tier 4 MARB meeting that occurred earlier in the day. She explained that it was evident that some of the members did not want to support what was put forward before in the contract. Some members wanted to wait and see, and other members wanted to make changes. She explained that the reason the budget did not pass at the meeting was because the actuary was not able to give the numbers in time for the vote, and they were never able to be incorporated into the budget. She emphasized that despite the budget not passing, she will continue to fight for the active police force and their peace of mind. She acknowledged the frustration that officers may have with the budget not passing because many believed that once the contract went forward, that everyone

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would follow through with it. She explained that the city has done its best to follow through, but with the new powers of the MARB board with the Tier 4 designation, the MARB board now has the authority to approve or disapprove of the budget. By June 15th, another budget needs to be submitted, and if for any reason the MARB board does not want it to pass, MARB can propose their own budget. She explained that the meeting was recorded and the portion of the meeting regarding West Haven will be uploaded on the city's YouTube Channel for people to view.

Mayor Rossi also expressed her frustration at the fact that none of the MARB board members live in West Haven, and therefore the changes being made at their discretion for West Haven do not directly affect them. She explained that she wants to continue to work on a solution through more conversations with the finance chair as well as councilman Bruneau. She also noted that she would like to look deeper into the actuary study because it was observed that there were numbers that seemed to grow very quickly, and she wants to ensure that there are no issues occurring that were found in previous actuary studies conducted in the past. For this actuary study, she explained that by year 30, the contribution will be over 10 million dollars. Due to the large numbers predicted in the study and the close deadline, she would like to investigate the study further, and she emphasized that any help or assistance from the board in doing so would be greatly appreciated.

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

- 3.1 Animal Control Report – April, 2022
- 3.2 Attendance Report – April, 2022
- 3.3 Training Division Report – March & April, 2022
- 3.4 Investigative Services Report – March, 2022
- 3.5 Traffic Management Unit – April, 2022

4. Report of the Chief – No Report

5. Report of the Deputy Chief – No Report

Chairman Collins asked how many officers are currently staffed. Deputy Chief Flemmig responded that after the meeting tonight, they will be staffed at 114 officers, 97 of which are able to patrol on the street.

6. Report of the Committees – No report

7. Old Business - None

8. New Business

- 8.1 Resignation – Officer Christina Parillo – Effective May 18, 2022.**

Deputy Chief Flemmig offered the following remarks:

“Officer Christina Parillo resigned from the West Haven Police Department after 8 years of service. She served in several special assignments, she was a highly decorated officer, including our life saving award for her actions in assisting a drowning swimmer off of Bradley Point. She was well respected by the rank and file and her positive attitude and sense of dedication toward the agency will be missed. I would like to thank Christina for her service to the West Haven Police Department and the citizens of our community. I wish her well in her future endeavors.”

Chief Perno expressed that he was disappointed to see her leave because she would have been an excellent supervisor. He commented on her strong work ethic and the dedication she had to the department.

Commissioner Butler MOVED to accept Officer Christina Parillo’s resignation effective May 18, 2022; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

8.2 Withdrawal from Consideration – Ofc. Musa Chukadze – Effective May 9, 2022

Commissioner Butler MOVED to accept the withdrawal from consideration for Officer Musa Chukadze effective May 9, 2022; SECONDED by Commissioner Carrano. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Pension Board

9.1 Dave Moran – Raymond James

Commissioner Wright explained that Mr. Moran was not able to attend the meeting.

Commissioner Carrano asked about the pension study that was brought up by Mayor Rossi during public input. He asked that if contribution to the pension fund is around 6 million dollars currently, how is it possible that the contribution can possibly grow to 10 million dollars in 30 years, considering that there are currently officers on pension, another group of officers that will be added to the pension, and the rest that are on 401K? He noted that the numbers in the study did not make sense.

Commissioner Wright agreed with Commissioner Carrano and explained that she will need to look at the pension studies and discuss it with Mr. Moran. She explained that she will have to look at the numbers the study used to come up with the 10 million dollar amount to be paid out of the pension. She emphasized that if the study used the 114 number of officers to come up with the amount, then the numbers are skewed, because the 114 does not accurately portray the number of individuals eligible for pension, retirees, and those who are paying into it.

Commissioner Suggs added that he believes the commission, the police department, and city hall need to look at this situation more diligently to find out what the numbers actually are in terms of the pension years, the dollar amounts, or if a new, more accurate actuary study needs to be

conducted. He emphasized that this situation needs to be investigated themselves and that they need to have their own conversations, while being prepared and considering how this information should be presented.

Commissioner Wright agreed and added that her and Mr. Moran will need to meet and create their own package based on their own numbers. She hoped to have it prepared and ready to present for the upcoming meetings In June.

Chief Perno mentioned that he asked Corporation Counsel attorney, Lee Tiernan, to set up a meeting with the union attorney, Chip Walsh, the city's attorney, Chris Hodgson, and himself. He explained that he would like the other Commissioners to be in attendance to provide more insight and different perspectives into the discussions taking place. He noted that he will reach out to Chairman Collins with more information regarding the date and time of the meeting.

10. Commissioners Reports

Commissioner Wright thanked Chief Perno for reaching out and meeting with the West Haven Community House. She commented that the inspiration that he left was phenomenal and the West Haven Community House is looking forward to working with the police department to make plans to be safe as possible for both the child and adult lives they take care of.

11. Executive Session

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

- 11.1 Special Victims Unit/Firearms Unit Report – April, 2022
- 11.2 Street Crime Unit – March, 2022
- 11.3 Street Crime Unit – April, 2022

Motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

The Commissioners entered Executive Session at 7:29 PM.

12. Return to Regular Session/Adjournment

At 7:45 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