

CITY OF WEST HAVEN, CT
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, June 4, 2019

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	present
Deborah B. Wright, Pension Board	present
Joseph Perno, Interim Chief of Police	present
Carl Flemmig, Interim Deputy Chief	present
Lee Tiernan, Corporation Counsel	present
Mayor Nancy Rossi	present

Chairman Collins welcomed all of the guests present, including Mayor Rossi, Retired Chief Quagliani, Fire Chief O'Brien, and Fire Chief Scarafiello.

Acceptance of Agenda

There being no add-ons, Commissioner Wright MOVED to accept the agenda as presented; SECONDED by Commissioner Sweeney. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

1. Minutes for Approval

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to accept the minutes of the May 21, 2019 Regular Meeting; SECONDED by Commissioner Bon Tempo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

2. Public Session

Chairman Collins asked three times if anyone wished to speak regarding any of the items on the agenda.

Walter Casey, 40 Harding Avenue

Mr. Casey spoke in favor of the appointment of Chief Perno. He has known the Chief since he came to West Haven Police Department on July 1, 1978. He noted that he feels honored to have been a supervisor of each of the last six police chiefs; and perhaps his supervisory style has paid off [laughter].

Mr. Casey then went on to speak directly to Chief Perno, stating, you're a West Haven person, you're a West Haven Police Officer. The rank and file respects you, and that's a big thing to have going for you. They respect you because you're a worker and a policeman's police officer. Stay here for a while; don't build your resume up and leave for greener pastures. Stay here for at least 50 years. Good luck, Joe. [Applause].

Mary Kiesinger, 37 Washington Avenue

Mrs. Kiesinger expressed her concerns regarding the intersection of Washington Avenue and California Street. Now that Stowe's is open for the season there are cars parked along the street that inhibit the view of vehicles exiting the side streets. Her daughter's car was nearly hit coming out from California Street. There are two No Parking signs that need to be replaced; one was knocked down in a car accident and the other has been painted over. It has become increasingly difficult to get into her driveway on the weekends no matter which way she comes into Washington Avenue.

Chairman Collins assured Mrs. Kiesinger that the Traffic Division will look into it.

Mayor Nancy Rossi, 12 Robin Road

Mayor Rossi congratulated Officers Christopher Nolan and Scott Allard on their promotions to Master Patrol Officer. She went on to congratulate Chief Perno on his permanent appointment as Chief of Police. She stated, I wish you the best, I look forward to continuing to work with you. I think we work very well together on behalf of the City of West Haven. On behalf of the City I'd like to extend the best of luck to you and sincerest congratulations. [Applause]

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

3. Communications

None presented.

4. Report of the Chief

Chief Perno reported, since the move I still don't have a printer; I had to leave my printer with the Deputy Chief, and he will have to deal with it not working.

The Command Staff and I have met regarding the upcoming fireworks detail and our plan with the City. We have discussed staffing for that event. We have also discussed staffing and recruitment for the Department. We should have a tentative plan for the fireworks by the week of June 10th for the Board of Police Commissioners to look at for their meeting on the 18th.

Commissioner Bon Tempo asked, has all leave been canceled for that week?

Chief Perno replied yes, and confirmed that there will be substantially more personnel on the ground this year than there was last year.

Commissioner Sweeney asked if there is any word about security cameras.

Chief Perno replied that he has been in discussions with the City regarding the cameras and the plumbing issues in the cells. Securing the funding for it is the biggest challenge, but we are in discussion.

5. Report of the Deputy Chief

Deputy Chief Flemmig reported that an active shooter drill will take place Thursday, June th at Thompson School. This drill will involve the Police Department and all three of the West Haven Fire Departments and will be a large-scale, realistic drill involving approximately 100 participants. Half Street will be closed between Campbell and Washington. Messages will be sent out Wednesday night and again Thursday morning to alert residents that it is only a drill. The City has put that out on its website.

6. Report of the Committees

No report.

7. Old Business

None presented.

8. New Business

8.1 Appointment of Chief of Police

Commissioner Bon Tempo MOVED to appoint, with pleasure, Joseph Perno as Chief of Police of the West Haven Police Department, pending the finalization of his contract. SECONDED by Commissioner Butler.

Commissioner Bon Tempo stated, it is my pleasure to appoint a great guy; a good friend. I believe he is the only person that can lead this department going forward. I had the pleasure to work with Chief Perno as a patrol person and I will hopefully have the pleasure to work with him as Chief.

Commissioner Sweeney stated, back in June of 1978 an Allingtown native named Joseph Perno graduated from the University of New Haven with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice. One month later he joined the West Haven Police Department. Over the next several years he mastered his trade as a Police Officer in the Patrol Division and as a member of the Department's SWAT Team. In January of 1991 he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant where he served as a supervisor in the Patrol Division and then the Street Crime Unit. In April of 1998, he was promoted to the rank of Detective Sergeant and served as the supervisor of the Investigative Services Unit. Four years later in July of 2002 he was promoted to Lieutenant where he was assigned back to the Patrol Division and served as

the A Squad Shift Commander. In March of 2010 he was promoted again, bypassing the rank of Captain and appointed to the position of Deputy Chief where he has served for the past eight years with equanimity. Throughout his 40 years of police service to the citizens of West Haven, Interim Chief Perno has received numerous awards, including letters of commendation, certificates of commendation and unit citations. More importantly he has earned the love and respect of his family and his brother and sister officers. Interim Chief Perno's leadership, character, and regard amongst his colleagues is beyond reproach. His education, training and experience will be instrumental in upholding the integrity and prestige of those who have held this highly-esteemed position in the past, and he will shape a vision for our department that is progressive, innovative and reflects the high standards that our community expects and deserves. Chief, congratulations and God bless.

Commissioner Collins stated, since being on this Commission I've gone to you almost daily regarding things and if I ever wanted something done, I've always reached to Chief Perno. Whenever you talk to any of the officers in the room, I've never, ever heard one negative thing said about this man. The only thing that basically comes forward is, "he's a cop's cop." He has led this Department through some pretty stormy weather with only half a command staff. I have no question at all that when fully staffed, you can do anything you need.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Commissioner Bon Tempo swore in Chief Perno, who was flanked by Master Patrol Officers Louis Matteo and Vincent Costanzo. Chief Perno stated that he could think of nobody better to stand beside him at this time than these two officers.

Chief Perno's daughters pinned him with his Chief's badge. [Applause rang throughout the forum]

8.2 Promotion of Christopher Nolan to Master Patrol Officer

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to promote Officer Christopher Nolan to the rank of Master Patrol Officer; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler.

Commissioner Sweeney stated, Officer Chris Nolan has been with the West Haven Police Department since December of 2001. Throughout his 18 years of service he has served in the Patrol Division, the Street Crime Unit, as a Field Training Officer, and is currently assigned to the Traffic Division where he is a member of the Major Accident Squad. Officer Nolan has a positive work ethic and often offers guidance and advice to junior officers who need assistance, especially in the area of DUI. He has received numerous awards and commendations, including the Life Saving Award, and is a valuable member of our agency. Officer Nolan was unanimously selected by the Command Staff for appointment to Master Police Officer.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously. [Applause]

8.3 Promotion of Scott Allard to Master Patrol Officer

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to promote Officer Scott Allard to the rank of Master Patrol Officer; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler.

Commissioner Sweeney stated, Officer Scott Allard has been a member of the West Haven Police Department since March of 2004. Throughout his 15 years of service he has served in the Patrol Division, Bike Patrol, Quality of Life, Prisoner Hand, and is currently assigned as the Training Officer and Armorer. Officer Allard is also a member of the Honor Guard, is a Squad Leader on the SRT Team and is a Field Training Officer. He was instrumental in the development of our agency's Active Shooter Response Plan and is an instruction in its implementation. Officer Allard has received numerous awards and commendations and is a dedicated member of this agency. Officer Allard was unanimously selected by the Command Staff for his appointment to Master Police Officer.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

8.4 Action on 11.1 – Candidate Interview

Commissioner Collins noted that this item will be taken up after 11.1 Executive Session.

8.5 Colonial Boulevard Block Party – June 29, 2019

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to approve the Colonial Boulevard Block Party scheduled for 3 to 8 p.m. between Lake Street and Honor Road on June 29, 2019; SECONDED by Commissioner Bon Tempo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

8.6 Tri-State Trek – June 22, 2019

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to approve the route of the Tri-State Trek to be held June 22, 2019 as outlined in Sergeant D'Amato's memo; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

8.7 Don's Hat Rack Motorcycle Ride – June 9, 2019

Commissioner Wright MOVED to approve the route of the Don's Hat Rack Motorcycle Ride to be held at 10 a.m. June 9, 2019 as outlined in Sergeant D'Amato's memo; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

9. Pension Board

No report.

10. Commissioner Reports

No report.

11. Executive Session

At approximately 7:20 p.m., Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to enter Executive Session to interview a prospective candidate; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. Chief Perno, Deputy Chief Flemmig, Sergeant Masi and Jay Kaufman were invited into the Executive Session. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

12. Return to Regular Session/Action on Executive Session Items

At 7:40 p.m., Commissioner Wright MOVED to return to Regular Session; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

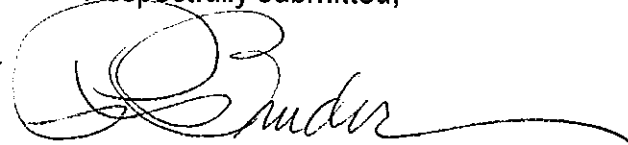
Action on Item 8.4 - Candidate Interview

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to hire Jay Kaufman as a Probationary Grade D Patrol Officer effective Friday, June 7, 2019; SECONDED by Commissioner Bon Tempo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously. [Applause]

13. Adjournment

At 7:42 p.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 black ink, appearing to read "Patricia M. Bruder", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Patricia M. Bruder
Secretary