

**City of West Haven, CT**  
**Board of Police Commissioners**

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, February 16th, 2021

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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**

Chief Perno introduced items 8.1 and 8.1.1 to the agenda regarding an appeal from DeGennaro Towing of West Haven. Commissioner Wright MOVED to add the items to the agenda; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to accept the agenda as amended; SECONDED by Commissioner Suggs. Motion carried unanimously.

**1. Election of Officers**

1.1 Election of Chairperson

Commissioner Butler MOVED to elect Commissioner Collins as the Chairman of the Board of Police Commissioners. SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

1.2 Election of Vice Chairperson

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to elect Commissioner Butler as the Vice Chairman of the Board of Police Commissioners. SECONDED by Commissioner Collins. Motion carried unanimously.

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### 1.3 Election of Secretary

Commissioner Butler MOVED to elect Commissioner Suggs as the Secretary of the Board of Police Commissioners. SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

### 1.4 Election of Pension Board Chairperson

Commissioner Suggs MOVED to elect Commissioner Wright as the Chairwoman of the Pension Board. SECONDED by Commissioner Collins. Motion carried unanimously.

## **2. Minutes for Approval**

No minutes to approve, the previous meeting was cancelled.

## **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**

The following monthly reports:

- 4.1 K9 Monthly Report – Ofc. Marchitto/Ado – Month of December 2020
- 4.2 K9 Monthly Report – Sgt. Bloom/Ike – Month of January 2021
- 4.3 Animal Control Report - Month of January 2021
- 4.4 Attendance Report - Month of January 2021
- 4.5 Investigative Services Division - Month of January 2021
- 4.6 Traffic Report - Month of January 2021
- 4.7 Training Report - Month of January 2021

## **5. Report of the Chief**

The Chief reported that the animal control is hosting a fundraiser. More details will be posted on Facebook.

## **6. Report of the Deputy Chief – No report**

The Deputy Chief reported that 5 new police vehicles will be on the road by the end of the month.

Commissioner Wright inquired as to when the budget process will begin between the City and the Police Department. Chief Perno stated that they are currently undergoing that process with the finance department. The final budget will need approval from the City Council.

**7. Old Business – None presented**

**8. New Business**

**8.1 An appeal from DeGennaro’s Towing of West Haven**

Attorney Thomas Farver, from the Law Firm Farver and Heffernan located at 2858 Old Dixwell Avenue, Hamden CT, spoke on behalf of his client Mr. DeGennaro who was also present. He spoke regarding an incident on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February on Locust St. that resulted in the suspension of DeGennaro Towing from the tow list. Attorney Farver claimed that there were no grounds to suspend his client from the tow list maintained by the Police Department. He cited many examples supporting the good character of his client. He asked that the commission repeal his client’s suspension.

Officer Buetel gave his account of the incident that occurred on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February on Locust St. He stands by his judgement and sides with the complainant against Mr. DeGennaro.

**8.1.1 Executive Session regarding the appeal from DeGennaro’s Towing**

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to enter Executive Session to discuss item 8.1. SECONDED by Commissioner Suggs. Motion passed unanimously.

At 7:50 p.m. the Commissioners returned to regular session.

Commissioner Suggs MOVED to suspend DeGennaro Auto Truck Repairs towing privileges with an end date of Sunday, February 28, 2021 to resume business on Monday, March 1, 2021 with a 6-month probation period with an end date of September 1, 2021. Any further incidents may lead to a permanent expulsion from the West Haven Police Department tow list. SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. The motion passed with 4 votes in the affirmative and an abstention from Commissioner Wright.

**9. Pension Board – No report**

**10. Commissioners Report-**

Commissioner Butler spoke to City Councilman Mitchell Galignano of District 4 regarding resident requests to make Clifton Street a one-way street. Sgt. D’Amato gave comments on this

matter and recalled a recent study that showed turning Clifton Street into a one-way street would not improve the traffic flow or speeding situation. He continues to explore options to stop cars from speeding on this street and improve safety when turning onto First Avenue.

### **11. Executive Session**

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

- 11.1 Street Crime Report – Month of December 2020
- 11.2 Special Victims/Firearms Unit – Month of January 2021

Motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Sweeney. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Return to Regular Session/Adjournment**

At 8:05 p.m. the Commissioners returned to regular session and adjourned by a motion from Commissioner Wright. SECONDED by Commissioner Suggs. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcin Stankevitch, Recording Clerk