

**CITY OF WEST HAVEN, CT**  
**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**  
*Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, April 2, 2019*

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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**

<b>Raymond Collins, III, Chairman</b>	present
<b>Paul E. Butler, Vice-Chairman</b>	present
<b>Keith Sweeney</b>	present
<b>Peter BonTempo, Secretary</b>	present
<b>Deborah B. Wright, Pension Board</b>	present
<b>John Karajanis, Chief of Police</b>	absent
<b>Joseph Perno, Deputy Chief of Police</b>	present
<b>Lee Tiernan, Corporation Counsel</b>	present

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to accept the agenda as presented; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

**1. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to accept the following meeting minutes:

- March 19, 2019 Regular Meeting
- March 28, 2019 Special Meeting

SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

**2. PUBLIC SESSION**

Commissioner Collins asked if any member of the public wished to address the Commission on any items that are listed on the agenda. He noted that any other comments can be mailed in writing, or the speaker can attend the next meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

State Representative Stephen Dargan, 215 Beach Street

Representative Dargan thanked the Police Commissioners and the West Haven Police Department for providing an Honor Guard during his father's funeral. He lauded the Department for the manner in which they conduct themselves during such ceremonies. He noted that he is not attending tonight's meeting in his official capacity; but as a citizen of the City of West Haven.

Rep. Dargan spoke in favor of the promotion of Officer Jay Gregoriades to the rank of Detective, and congratulated him and his family. He continued speaking in favor of the promotion of Deputy Chief Joe Perno to the rank of Interim Chief of Police. He noted that he knows Chief Perno will do a great job for the City of West Haven.

He concluded by stating, to the West Haven Police Department, it's difficult being a man or woman in the uniform nowadays. He wished everyone the best, and that they stay safe.

Detective Sean Faughnan, President, Local 895

Detective Faughnan offered his congratulations to Officer Jason Gregoriades and his family, and thanked the Commissioners for making this difficult choice of three good candidates.

On behalf of the Union and the Police Department, he offered congratulations to Chief Perno, his family, his children, his wife, and his 109 other children. He noted that everyone is grateful to have Chief Perno in charge at this difficult time and to calm the waters. He pledged the support of the department, expressed his hopes of working well together, and expressed his appreciation to Chief Perno for all he has done thus far.

Det. Faughnan went on to wish the new recruits good luck as well.

Walter Casey, 40 Harding Avenue

Mr. Casey congratulated Chief Perno, and briefly discussed a bit of history shared between the two when Mr. Casey worked at West Haven Police Department. He noted that what is unique about Chief Perno is that he has the respect of everybody that works for him. He wished him the best.

Mr. Casey then offered his congratulations to Officer Gregoriades.

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 DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE**

Chief Perno reported, with tonight's agenda as well as the meeting of March 28, 2019, the Department's staffing will be at 115 and budgeted for 120. We have 11 Officers in the POSTC and Milford Training Academies; six will be available in the fall of 2019 – five in early 2020.

Sergeant Dlugolenski has begun the task of General Order review and update.

With tonight's resignation and the anticipated departure of two other officers, the addition of the lateral to begin on April 5<sup>th</sup> is a great help. An officer will complete his Field Training in a few weeks.

Today, the promotional examinations took place.

The other information provided to the Commissioners tonight is the Workers Compensation and Light Duty, etc. We have a sergeant out on military leave, another on worker's compensation. We have an officer on short-term worker's comp. Our number one swing officer will be leaving – he is item 7.4 on tonight's agenda. We are close to 100.

## **5. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES**

No reports.

## **6. OLD BUSINESS**

### **6.1 Policy – Use of Department Vehicles**

Commissioner Sweeney noted that the Commissioners took the Chief's recommendations and reworked the policy. He read the proposed policy aloud.

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to approve the new policy; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Swearing-in of Officer Jason Gregoriades to the rank of Detective**

Commissioner Wright MOVED to approve the promotion of Officer Jason Gregoriades to the rank of Detective, effective April 5, 2019; SECONDED by Commissioner Bon Tempo.

Chief Perno stated, "Jason joined the West Haven Police Department March 4, 2005. He advanced to Grade A in March, 2009. He has served in a quality of life unit, street crime unit, and was assigned to the DEA Task Force from February 2014 until October 2016. As the Commissioners saw during the interviews and in notes from staff, Jason takes that extra effort in all assignments, as was reflected by the recommendation of said staff. Jason [inaudible] if something happened to one of your loved ones, you will be happy to have him assigned. We all have the confidence in you, Jason, and your abilities. It's up to you now – God bless, stay safe."

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Chief Perno swore in Detective Gregoriades; his wife pinned his Detective's badge witnessed by their children. Applause rang throughout the forum.

## **7.2 Appointment of Interim Chief of Police**

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to appoint Deputy Chief Joseph Perno as Interim Chief of Police, with an effective date of April 3, 2019; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright.

Commissioner Sweeney stated, "I take great pride and privilege knowing Chief Perno for the past 40 years. I have worked with Joseph Perno as a Patrolman and now I look forward to working with him as Chief of Police. I know he's the man to lead the Department back to the pride and the [inaudible] that's been lacking for many years at the West Haven Police Department."

Commissioner Bon Tempo stated, "I have known Chief Perno for 56 years. We grew up together; we played together. We came on the job together in November of 1977. He was always a steady influence, a steady cop. Good on his feet; good thinker. He always had the respect of his peers and/or subordinates. This time in West Haven Police Department, I feel from a personal level that Joe is the right guy and the right person at this time in the history of our Department, to help lead us going forward and never looking backward, to become one of the better Police Departments, again, in the State of Connecticut. It's my privilege to be here tonight and to acknowledge him as one of the best men I know. One of the best cops I know, and a guy who's going to be a great Chief. I appreciate it, congratulations, Chief."

Commissioner Collins stated, "One thing stands out whenever I hear Chief Perno talking about the men and women in blue. He always refers to them as his children. It's never truer than this day. When you hear the Officers talking about him, he's always "a cop's cop." I can't think of a better person to fill these shoes right now.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Commissioner Collins swore in Chief Perno. Applause rang throughout the forum.

## **7.3 Discussion on Posting for Deputy Chief Eligible Candidates are to inform the Chief's Office by 4-5-2019**

Commissioner Collins stated, eligible candidates are to inform the Chief's Office by 4-5-2019 at 1600 hours. The Chief has the guidelines.

## **7.4 Resignation of Officer Eric Dias**

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to accept the resignation of Officer Eric Dias; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

**7.5 New Hire – Patrol Officer Ahmed G. Arnold**

**7.6 New Hire – Patrol Officer Tychicus A. Lindsey**

**7.7 New Hire – Patrol Officer Ashley N. Schafer**

The discussion of items 7.5, 7.6 and 7.7 were tabled until after the Executive Session.

## **8. PENSION BOARD**

Commissioner Wright noted that there will be no report tonight, but she will have updated numbers, along with Dave Moran reporting on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **9. COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner Sweeney stated, "I'm thankful we got through a few different things to run forward with, along with the car policy and the appointment of Chief Perno. I look forward to working with him, and moving forward with the Department."

Commissioner Wright stated, "I want to remind, once again, the men and women of this Department how ridiculously proud we are as a board of you. Please know and understand whether you are sworn or civilian, we count it a blessing to be able to say that we are the ones that are responsible for you in making sure that all is well with you. That being said, I will remind you once more and again to please keep a check on your brothers and your sisters. Please make sure that everybody is doing well, even if it's just a quick 'hey, how are you doing', because you don't know what everybody is going through and you don't know what's going on behind everybody's smile. We are concerned for you. There are too many departments around the state and country that are losing men and women to suicide. We don't want that to happen here. Please, if you ever feel yourself in a dire state, reach out. Many of you have contacted us for smaller things. Please know you can always contact us for whatever you need to contact us for. We are here for you and we care about you and we're proud of you."

## **10. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 7:23 p.m., Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to enter Executive Session to discuss the following:

10.1 Interview and Action on 7.5, 7.6 and 7.7 New Hires

SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

A 15-minute recess was observed to clear the room.

## **11. RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION/ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS**

At approximately 9 p.m. the Commission returned to Regular Session.

11.1 Action on Executive Session Items

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to hire, effective April 5, 2019, the following Probationary Grade D Patrol Officers:

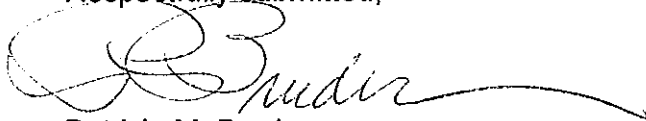
Ahmed G. Arnold  
Tychicus A. Lindsey  
Ashley N. Schafer

SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

At approximately 9:07 p.m., Commissioner Butler MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Commissioner Bon Tempo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "P. Bruder", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Patricia M. Bruder  
Secretary