

**CITY OF WEST HAVEN, CT**  
**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**  
*Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, June 18, 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 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>Joseph Perno, Interim Chief of Police</b>	present
<b>Carl Flemmig, Interim Deputy Chief</b>	present
<b>Lee Tiernan, Corporation Counsel</b>	present

**Acceptance of Agenda**

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to add the following to the agenda:

- 3.10 Training Report
- 8.5 Rescission of Offer of Employment – Jeffrey Suchy
- 9.1 Dave Moran

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

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

**1. Minutes for Approval**

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to table the acceptance of the minutes of the June 4, 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. Being none, he declared the public session closed.

### **3. Communications**

The Commissioners reviewed the following monthly reports for May, 2019:

1. Investigative Services
2. Overtime
3. Attendance
4. Animal Control Division
5. K-9 Activity – Sgt. Bloom/Ike
6. K-9 Activity – Ofc. Standish/Cody
7. K-9 Activity – Ofc. Marchitto/Ado
8. Support Services
9. Traffic Management
10. Training Division

#### **ADD-ONS**

Commissioner Butler MOVED to add the following items to the agenda:

- 3.10 Training Division monthly report, May 2019
- 9.1 Dave Moran

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

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

### **4 Report of the Chief**

Chief Perno reported, we have our last scheduled meeting tomorrow with the City regarding the fireworks. We will confirm that we have the necessary items from the City regarding barricades and signage. There is an electronic sign at Captain Thomas and Kelsey's Rock. We are also going to go over our manpower status for that evening.

The West Haven Youth Academy starts Monday, headed by Sergeant Young. He'll have three officers helping him throughout the week. We have two officers on injured leave; one's surgery is this week. The other has indicated that he will return to work the week of the 8<sup>th</sup>. The third officer is still on injured time and we have no update.

The MPTC graduation is next Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. at the Palace Theatre in Waterbury. The Register will be accompanying our Shore Patrol person during the day shift on Thursday; she's off Tuesday and Wednesday. The Register would like to do an article regarding the enforcement and the community interaction with the officer at the shore.

Chief Perno explained that he is still without a printer. He is working on getting two – one for detention and one possibly in the bureau. He received two quotes today for a printer for his office and will submit those to City Hall.

The Traffic Division got The Haven report from OSTA for the preliminary approval. It's now sitting on the Secretary of Transportation's desk for approval.

Commissioner Sweeney explained that even when he was out injured, he had to report in at least monthly with doctors' reports. He would like to see the submission of monthly reports start up again, and when they go to the doctors, they give us a date of when they're going back and what they feel their status is of that date that they've seen the doctor. He feels that when people stay out for months with no reports from the doctors is not good for the department, and ridiculous.

Commissioner Bon Tempo asked if anybody was assigned to look at 37 Washington Avenue based upon the complainant, Mary Kliesinger, that came before the Commission at the last meeting. Commissioner Sweeney replied that it was looked at. There was a sightline problem.

Commissioner Bon Tempo asked the Chief about the cameras and the plumbing in the cells. He noted that he is concerned about a possible lawsuit with no camera in the cellblock. Chief Perno has discussed it with the City and expressed his concerns to the Mayor, along with other scenarios that may come up. There is possibly some funding available to take care of at least one of the issues. Corporation Counsel Tiernan added that he has urged the repurposing of said funding. Chief Perno assured the Commission that everything is being documented, and the cellblock is being monitored.

## **5 Report of the Deputy Chief**

Deputy Chief Flemmig reported, we're adding a spot to the July academy class, so now we'll be hiring seven. That class will start as a commuter class, adding two weeks to the length of the academy. We have five seats for the academy class starting in October. The interviews for the seven candidates will be held July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Commissioner Sweeney asked Deputy Chief Flemmig, as a regular assignment, to go over the agendas before they're sent out to the board. Commissioner Wright added that every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday David Moran should be listed on the agenda under Pension.

Deputy Chief Flemmig noted that everything went really well with the active shooter training; there were no issues and the media was there. The Fire Chiefs in the Center District said it was an excellent training and they were very happy that the PD invited them in. Chief Perno added, the most recent Branford hiree said that in 25 years of police work the in-house active shooter training that he went through was the best he's ever had. Kudos to Mike Wolf and his crew.

## **6 Report of the Committees**

No reports.

## **7 Old Business**

None presented.

## **8 New Business**

### **8.1 Resignation – Officer Ryan Doughan**

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to accept the resignation of Officer Ryan Doughan; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler.

Chief Perno stated, Ryan is a four-year veteran of the West Haven Police Department. [inaudible] to see Ryan grow as an officer within the Patrol Division. He leaves us for Stamford. He will be greatly missed. We wish him well; we wish him to stay safe. God bless. I personally will miss him.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

### **8.2 Ordinance Violation – 161 Forest Road**

Commissioner Sweeney stated, I inspected the property today and understand Commissioner Collins also inspected the property yesterday. I found two vehicles on the premise. One matched up with a plate that we had previous. Before I came in tonight I had the Sergeant on duty run it – the plate does belong on the vehicle that is in the driveway. There is a different unregistered motor vehicle also in the driveway from just the other day.

I'm going to ask the Chief or Deputy Chief to have the Traffic Division check into this with the Department of Motor Vehicles to see what's going on at that address, as to so many top of the line vehicles there; it seems like maybe there's the issue of somebody running a business out of a residential home. Deputy Chief Flemmig said he would take care of it.

Commissioner Sweeney stated, I find them in compliance as of today.

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to strike the violation with the follow up to be done by the Traffic Division; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

### **8.3 Ordinance Violation – 34 Bristol Street**

Commissioner Sweeney stated, I inspected that property also and have found it to be in compliance. However, read the report – they were at least seven days non-compliant for that. They were issued a ticket I don't know how many days afterwards, because we had the report afterwards.

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to uphold the ticket and fine the owner \$100; SECONDED by Commissioner Bon Tempo.

Commissioner Wright asked, they are in compliance now? Commissioner Sweeney replied yes, but they were out of compliance for seven days minimally, and our officer had to go out a couple of times, the City had to go out a couple of times, and they just disregarded notices, phone calls, and everything else. For those seven days at least they should be fined at least \$700 or \$100 per day. I am asking that the board fine them \$100.

Commissioner Wright stated, but they are in compliance now, which I think is contradictory to what we've done in the past. Because it is contrary to what we've been doing in the past, to me, if he is in compliance now, then we should waive the fee.

Commissioner Sweeney stated, we have been fining some people just because they're not in compliance during the time, and it's a waste of the taxpayers' funds – the Building Department had to go out there.

Corporation Counsel Tiernan added, we have done this with more than one – we are trying to recoup some of our administrative costs.

Commissioner Sweeney stated, one we just did has a \$50 administrative fee. We should not disregard the efforts from the city, from our officers. They were not in compliance for a minimum of seven days. It should be a \$700 fine and I'm asking the Board to pass \$100.

Commissioner Collins noted that he agrees with Commissioner Sweeney on this. First, the mattress shouldn't have been out there in the first place. We don't pick up mattresses. It was put out there, there were multiple attempts made, multiple letters left, voice mails. It comes to the point that it's not our job to pick up mattresses. Commissioner Butler added, \$100 is a gift.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 4 in favor, 1 opposed (Wright).

#### **8.4 Fireworks – July 3, 2019 (Savin Rock Fireworks Committee)**

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to approve; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright.

Commissioner Sweeney asked Chief Perno about staffing levels that night, and in a specific area. Chief Perno replied, we are going to be covering it from South Street to Ivy. Other agencies will be notified just in case backup is needed.

Commissioner Sweeney noted that the carnival is at Our Lady of Victory this year. They will be trying to go back to where they were next year.

#### **8.5 Rescission of Offer of Employment – Jeffrey Suchy**

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to rescind the offer of employment to Jeffrey Suchy; SECONDED by Commissioner Bon Tempo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

## **9 Pension Board**

### **9.1 Dave Moran**

Mr. Moran noted that he will come to the Commission meeting the first Tuesday in August. He then reported on the state of the pension fund, noting that all of the money lost in 2018 has been recouped in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2019, and things are continuing to go well.

## **10 Commissioner Reports**

It was noted that the Commission holds will meet only once during the months of July and August, on the first Tuesday.

## **11 Executive Session**

At approximately 7:35 p.m., Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to enter Executive Session for the following:

- 11.1 ISD – Special Victims & Firearms Unit Monthly Activity Report – May, 2019
- 11.2 ISD – Street Crime Unit Monthly Activity Report – May, 2019

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

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

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

There were no votes taken in Executive Session nor after.

## **13 Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia M. Bruder  
Secretary