

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

Executive Session

At approximately 6 p.m., Commissioner Butler MOVED to enter Executive Session to conduct Candidate Interviews; SECONDED by Commissioner Bon Tempo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

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	absent

Return to Regular Session

At 7 p.m., the regular meeting of the West Haven Board of Police Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Raymond Collins, III at Police Headquarters, 200 Saw Mill Road. All present rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Acceptance of Agenda

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 suggested a correction to the minutes of June 18, 2019. The Secretary noted that she has already made that correction and refiled the minutes.

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to accept the minutes of June 18, 2019 as presented; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

2. Public Session

Chairman Collins asked three times if anyone wished to speak.

Detective Sean Faughnan, President, Local 895

Detective Faughnan extended his congratulations to Domenic Vinci on his retirement after 29 years of service to the West Haven Police Department. Speaking to Det. Vinci, he wished him all the best and thanked him personally and on behalf of the Police Union.

Walter Casey, 40 Harding Avenue

Mr. Casey congratulated Domenic Vinci on his retirement and recalled some of the times they spent working together at the West Haven Police Department.

Mr. Casey went on to report the high temperature in the Shift Commanders' area and asked the Commissioners to contact the City to do something to regulate the temperature in that room.

3. Communications

None presented.

4. Report of the Chief

Chief Perno reported that printers have been ordered. He is not sure when they'll be in.

He and his command staff have met numerous times over the last six weeks with the City and the Fire Department regarding the fireworks. He commanded Sergeant Joe D'Amato for his tireless effort into the planning. He commended Tom McCarthy for his assistance to Department of Public Works. He recognized Lieutenants Zitnay, Flavin, Urrata, Romano and Kleinknecht for their input in the planning process.

Traffic control including road closures, tagging and towing of vehicles, there will be Officers assigned as well as the Traffic Division. The people on the tow list are ready to go.

The Youth Academy was completed last week. We instituted the Pam Gardiner Award for the Outstanding Student. This was a good mix of students. He recognized the Officers involved in the Youth Academy – Sergeant Young, Officers Jefferson, Tavares and Aclin, Lieutenant Kleinknecht, Sergeant Masi, Detective Pirolo, Officers Laychak, Jakubowski, Dias, and Nielsen, Master Patrol Officers Allard and Nolan.

As far as the cellblock cameras and the plumbing issues, Chief Perno reported, the LOCIP money that was designated for HVAC and plumbing was going to be utilized for the plumbing issues. Anything left would hopefully cover a portion of the cameras. He is not sure of the timeline of the bidding process for the plumbing repairs.

Commissioner Bon Tempo thanked Commissioner Butler for personally taking care of a couple of the problems at the Beach Patrol Office, including putting in a new air conditioner, steam cleaning the floor and repairing a broken window.

Commissioner Bon Tempo would like Traffic to be sure that when people apply for block parties or events on certain streets, that the applicant actually live on the street that will be affected. Commissioner Sweeney added that on larger streets such as Colonial Boulevard, the applicants should be required to get a majority of the homeowners to sign on.

5. Report of the Deputy Chief

Deputy Chief Flemmig reported that with tonight's retirement, the Department will be at 108 total Officers. There will be seven heading to the Academy on Friday, bringing us to 115. We will still be short by five of our goal of 120. We're ready to put another testing process in place and hopefully we'll have five seats in October.

In response to questions by Commissioners, Sergeant D'Amato noted that there will be 73 Officers on the street for fireworks on July 3rd. Deputy Chief Flemmig explained that there will be one retirement and possibly one resignation in the coming month or two; and one officer will possibly be returning from light duty in early July.

Commissioner Wright is appreciative that the Chief and Deputy Chief can now scan information out to the Commissioners.

6. Report of the Committees

No reports.

7. Old Business

None presented.

8. New Business

8.1 Retirement of Domenic Vinci

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to retire Detective Domenic Vinci, effective 7-18-2019; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright.

Chief Perno stated, Domenic started at the West Haven Police Department on July 27, 1990. He advanced to Grade A in 1991. Domenic served in the Patrol Division until 2003. While in Patrol he was assigned to the Training Division, Bike Patrol, Crime Prevention and Public Information Officer. As a Detective, he was assigned to the SVU as well as an SRO at the High School. He had been assigned in the Detective Bureau to Pistol Permits and the Weapons Division while in ISU. He also was responsible for missing persons cases, which he performs tremendously. Domenic has a knack for finding people. I don't know how he does it. People are missing; he goes on the Internet, to Facebook, or checks phone numbers, friends, and then within hours, he got them. He is the recipient of numerous commendations, including the Medal of Merit for an incident which took place in August, 2000. Domenic's wit and humor will be missed. We wish him nothing but the best. Domenic, good luck and God bless.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

[Applause rang throughout the forum].

8.2 Department Recognition of Mr. Jason Tucker

Lt. Kleinknecht recognized Jason Tucker with a West Haven Police Department Challenge Coin in recognition of and appreciation for his actions on May 25, 2019.

He explained, in recent years the City of West Haven and surrounding communities have been and continue to be terrorized by reckless ATV riders. The ATV riders are a problem that is plaguing the quality of life within the City, and have become a major quality of life issue to the citizens we are sworn to protect. The ATV riders frequently engage in what the public perceives as intimidating behavior while riding. This includes kicking cars, our patrol cars, surrounding cars, and threatening law-abiding motorists with words and gestures. They frequently wear masks to accomplish this intimidating act. The residents of the community have expressed their concerns to the Police in both a personal setting and/or through social media. From my personal observations, which includes real-time patrol activities and through watching social media videos posted of the ATV riders, it is apparent to me that the ATV riders have little-to-no fear of consequence. This includes their safety nor the public's. They have exhibited this lack of fear, safety concerns and consequence through their reckless operation of their ATVs. The riders show the utmost lack of respect toward law enforcement and are purposeful in their behavior and act with malicious intent through their actions.

On the date of May 25, 2019, we were attempting to apprehend one of the ATV riders who hit one of our Officers with his ATV. Subsequent to hitting our Officer with his ATV, the operator attempted to flee on foot from the scene, and ran behind Biagetti's restaurant. A patron, Jason Tucker, was on patio. Upon seeing our personnel in foot pursuit of the operator, Jason quickly and without hesitation tackled the subject. With Jason's assistance, our personnel were quickly able to apprehend the subject. The subject was not only fleeing after assaulting one of our officers, but he additionally was armed with a loaded handgun which he was carrying illegally.

As Law Enforcement we often advise civilians to act only as the best witnesses possible, and to not physically get involved. However, it is reassuring to all of us that when officers are in need of assistance, there are brave citizens in the community that are willing to act and not just be another spectator holding a cellphone. In order to be a successful and legitimate Police Department, we must rely on the citizens for their help and assistance through which we will have a greater success in solving crime.

On the date of May 25, 2019, Mr. Jason Tucker went above and beyond the citizen's call of duty and through his brave actions this Department was able to move forward in stopping this ever-growing problematic quality of life issue that has been plaguing this City and its residents. For your actions and for your exhibited bravery on that date, Mr. Jason Tucker, you are being issued this Department's Challenge Coin and the recognition is much-deserved. Thank you.

[Applause rang throughout the forum].

9. Pension Board

9.1 Retirement of Domenic Vinci

Commissioner Wright reported that the numbers in the retirement package are good and Detective Vinci will be paid. She wished him the utmost best in this new chapter in his life.

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to approve the retirement pension for Detective Domenic Vinci at the pay grade of Detective Sergeant; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Commissioner Wright distributed a flash report on the pension numbers from Dave Moran to the Commissioners.

10. Commissioner Reports

None presented.

11. Executive Session

At approximately 7:25 p.m., Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to enter Executive Session to conclude the Candidate Interviews; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

12. Return to Regular Session/Adjournment

At 8:50 p.m., Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to return to Regular Session; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to hire the following individuals as Patrol Officers Grade D with starting dates of July 5, 2019:

James Rolden
Joyce Pesantez
Steven Evora
Ian Ackborali
David Carrubba
Dominic Migliaro
Brianna Jara

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

13. Adjournment

At 8:55 p.m., Commissioner Wright MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Commissioner Bon Tempo. 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