

City of West Haven, CT
Board of Police Commissioners
Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, July 5th, 2022

The regular meeting of the West Haven Board of Police Commissioners was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Raymond Collins III at West Haven Police Headquarters, 200 Sawmill Road. All those present, rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance

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| Raymond Collins III, <i>Chairman</i> | Present |
| Paul E. Butler, <i>Vice-Chairman</i> | Present |
| John M. Carrano, <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

Commissioner Butler MOVED to add Item 8.3 to the agenda under new business regarding the creation of a handicap parking space at 57 Malden Street; SECONDED by Commissioner Suggs. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Butler MOVED to add Executive Session to the agenda to discuss policy; SECONDED by Commissioner Carrano. Motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Minutes

Commissioner Butler MOVED to accept the previous meeting minutes from June 21st, 2022 as presented; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Public Input

Meli Garthwait, 22 2nd Ave, addressed the board regarding the implementation of parking enforcement constables. She explained that on the June 9th special council meeting for ARPA, she mentioned that it would be helpful to allocate some of the ARPA money to Chief Perno to hire part time summer help along the shoreline in the form of seasonable parking enforcement constables. They would be responsible for regular constable duties along with monitoring parking compliance, enforcing motor vehicle parking regulations through ticketing, and promoting positive community relations through public interaction. She mentioned that it would alleviate some of the parking enforcement from the police department and would add extra pairs

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of eyes monitoring the shoreline. It was further explained that the implementation of the constables could be modeled after Milford Police Department's Summer Employment Opportunity that was released in June, titled Civilian Parking Enforcement. The salary could be \$20/hour with part time employment for several constables working 19 hours per week. If the department were to hire 8 of the seasonal workers for 10 weeks of summer, at \$380 per week, it would cost around \$30,000. If the program were to be implemented for two summers, it would be at a cost of \$60,800. She explained that based on the ARPA rules, the positions are allowable as long as they are budgeted as of January 27th, 2020, meaning that what was budgeted in the summer of 2019 will be allowable. The hires may also be covered under the Travel and Tourism section of the ARPA rules, as this is a need due to the large number of visitors to the shorelines, which experienced a loss during the height of the pandemic. She explained that this model could be used as a test to see if parking tickets that are written each year can help pay for the part time summer help and if the constables can help generate more revenue for the city. She explained that she would like future conversations on this topic.

Sean Faughnan, president of the Local 895, first thanked the Commissioners, the Chief, and the City Council for their efforts in helping with the recruitment and retention of officers. Then on behalf of the Local 895 and the Union, he congratulated D/Sgt. Pliszka on his successful years of policing and commented on his vast skill set and knowledge that made him an important member of the department.

Bill Ciccocanti, 200 Sawmill Road, reminisced about the time him and D/Sgt. Pliszka spent together in the detective bureau and he wished him luck in his future endeavors.

3. Communications

3.1 K9 Report – Ofc. Marchitto/K9 Ado – May 2022.

4. Report of the Chief – No Report

Chief Perno also thanked D/Sgt. Pliszka for his time with the department and commented on the valuable experience he brought to the agency.

5. Report of the Deputy Chief – No Report

6. Report of the Committees – No Report

7. Old Business – None

8. New Business

8.1 Request for Retirement – D/Sgt. Stanley Pliszka, Effective 7/1/2022.

Deputy Chief Flemmig offered the following remarks:

“Detective Sergeant Stanley Pliszka began his law enforcement career with the West Haven Police Department on September 20, 1991. He was a highly decorated officer who received numerous commendations throughout his 30 year career, including an award for locating an armed robbery suspect who fired a shot at him before being subdued and arrested.

Detective Sergeant Pliszka was a dedicated officer who has served in numerous special assignments and as he ascended through the ranks up to Detective Sergeant he supervised several units including Records and Traffic. While serving as the Detective Sergeant of SVU he oversaw the successful investigation of a homicide as well as other serious felonies such as robberies, burglaries, and sexual assaults. All of which resulted in arrests and convictions.

Detective Sergeant Pliszka was well respected by the rank and file and throughout his career he consistently demonstrated a high level of competency and a commitment to duty, which always reflected positively upon our agency’s missions and goals. His leadership, experience, and knowledge was a great asset to our agency and he will be missed.

Stan, I want to thank you for your 30 years of friendship and your dedicated service to the West Haven Police Department and the citizens of our community. I wish you and your family happiness and continued success as you begin this new chapter in your life.”

Commissioner Butler MOVED to accept D/Sgt. Pliszka’s retirement; SECONDED by Commissioner Carrano. Motion carried unanimously.

8.2 Request for Retirement – Officer Matthew Haynes, Effective 7/26/2022.

Deputy Chief Flemmig explained that Officer Haynes couldn’t be at the meeting, but he thanked Officer Haynes for his 20 years of service and commitment to serving the citizens of West Haven. He wished him and his family happiness as he starts this new chapter in his life.

Commissioner Butler MOVED to accept Officer Haynes’s retirement; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

8.3 Handicap parking space for 57 Malden Street

Commissioner Butler MOVED to approve the addition of a handicap parking space for 57 Malden Street; SECONDED by Commissioner Carrano. Motion carried unanimously

9. Pension Board

Commissioner Wright thanked D/Sgt. Pliszka for his service and for all that he has taught her while she has been a Commissioner.

Commissioner Butler MOVED for the approval of D/Sgt. Pliszka’s retirement request; SECONDED by Chairman Collins. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Butler MOVED for the approval of Officer Haynes's retirement request; SECONDED by Chairman Collins. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Wright explained that Mr. Moran will be returning for the meeting in August as he works on finishing the numbers for end of the fiscal year.

10. Commissioners Reports

Commissioner Carrano explained that he received a call from a citizen over the weekend where Officer Makiem Miller was praised for the professional manner in which he responded to an accident that her son had. Commissioner Carrano commended Officer Miller on a job well done.

Commissioner Wright thanked the Chief and the entire police department for all that they do. She explained that many people have reached out to the Commissioners to inform them of the great job the department has been doing. She mentioned that she was extremely proud of the men and women of the department.

11. Executive Session

Commissioner Butler MOVED to enter Executive Session to discuss policy; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

The Commissioners entered Executive Session at 7:22 PM.

12. Return to Regular Session/Adjournment

At 7:40 PM, the Commissioners returned to regular session and adjourned by a motion from Commissioner Butler; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Briana Hojo
Recording Clerk