

**City of West Haven, CT**  
**Board of Police Commissioners**  
Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, July 6, 2021

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The regular meeting of the West Haven Board of Police Commissioners was called to order at 7:01 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**

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>	Absent
Deborah B. Wright, <i>Pension Board Chair and Commissioner</i>	Present
Joseph Perno, <i>Chief of Police</i>	Present
Carl Flemming, <i>Deputy Chief</i>	Present

2021 JUL -9 AM 11:15

OFFICE OF THE CLERK  
CITY OF WEST HAVEN, CT

**Agenda**

The Deputy Chief MOVED to accept the agenda as presented; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

**1. Minutes for Approval**

The Deputy Chief MOVED to accept the minutes as presented; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. Motion carried unanimously.

**2. Public Input**

Prior to beginning the public portion, Chairman Collins explained that based on past practices during promotions or retirements, the public portion would be limited to items on the agenda. He stated that any other comments could wait for the next meeting, or the commissioners could be contacted via email or in writing.

Detective Sean Faughnan spoke to congratulate Master Patrol Officer Costanzo on his 41 years of police experience and to highlight Officer Costanzo's commitment and dedication to the department, the city, and its people. He explained that Officer Costanzo has truly made a difference from helping the traffic sergeants and traffic officers in that department, to the little things that he did during his time.

Walter Casey congratulated Officer Costanzo on his retirement and recalled some of the times they spent working together at the department. He emphasized Officer Costanzo's good work

ethic, character, and resiliency. He commented on how proud he was of everything Officer Costanzo has done and wished him the best in retirement.

John Jarvie extended his congratulations towards Officer Costanzo. He explained how Officer Costanzo was always a helpful and reliable member of the department, and that it was an honor and a pleasure working with him. He wished Officer Costanzo good luck and a happy, long retirement.

Chairman Collins asked three times if any person from the public wished to speak. There being none, he declared the public portion closed.

**3. Communications – None Presented**

**4. Report of the Chief – No Report**

**5. Report of the Deputy Chief – No Report**

**6. Report of the Committees – No Report**

**7. Old Business – None Presented**

**8. New Business**

8.1 W.H. Apple Festival – Sept 24, 25, 26, 2021 – Hosted by the First Congregational Church

The Deputy Chief MOVED to accept the details of the festival; SECONDED by the Chief. Motion carried unanimously.

8.2 Request for Retirement – MPO Vincent Costanzo

The Chief commented on how somber of an occasion it was, and how Officer Costanzo's retirement was a great loss for the police department and the city as a whole. He noted that Officer Costanzo cared deeply about everyone in his life and how he is the true embodiment of the definition of what it means to be a policeman.

Commissioner Sweeney extended his congratulations towards Officer Costanzo and stated that it was a pleasure working with him. He thanked Officer Costanzo not only for all the work that he has done for improving the traffic division and the department, but also for the support that Officer Costanzo has shown him during his time on the board.

The Deputy Chief offered the following remarks:

“Master Patrol Officer Vincent Costanzo began his law enforcement career with the West Haven Police Department as a Supernumerary Patrol Officer on August 16, 1977. He was a highly decorated officer who received numerous commendations throughout his 41 year career,

including an award for entering an apartment building that was on fire and waking the residents many of whom were elderly and leading them to safety through smoke and flames.

MPO Costanzo was a dedicated officer who has served in numerous assignments including the Detective Bureau, Street Crime Unit, Auto Theft Task Force, SRT Unit, Marine Patrol Unit, Honor Guard, Training Instructor, K-9 Unit with K-9s Sargent and Sabian and was most recently assigned to the Traffic Unit, where he consistently demonstrated a high level of competency and commitment to duty.

MPO Costanzo was well respected by the rank and file and his positive attitude and hard work always reflected positively upon our department's mission and goals. His experience and vast knowledge was a great asset to our agency and will be missed.

Vinny, I want to thank you for your 41 years of dedicated service to the West Haven Police Department and the citizens of our community and wish you and your family well with all of your future endeavors.”

The Deputy Chief MOVED to accept Officer Costanzo's retirement; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

## **9. Pension Board**

Commissioner Wright addressed Officer Costanzo and thanked him for his service as well as his patience and understanding over the years. She stated that his disability retirement is pending and is awaiting the needed medical documentation.

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to approve the disability retirement pending medical documentation; SECONDED by the Chief.

Commissioner Wright also extended an apology for a glitch that occurred with retirement payments and explained that she will be working on them fervently with city hall to get them processed. She mentioned that August payments for the retirees will also include July payments. She recommended that active personnel review their checks on Friday because the glitch may not have only affected retired officers. She explained that she would not find out if everybody was affected until Friday, but in the case that everyone does become affected by the glitch, she recommended that they be patient and know that they are trying to work through the entire process to correct any errors that may have been made.

## **10. Commissioners Report – No Report**

## **11. Executive Session/Adjournment**

At 7:24 PM the Commissioners adjourned by a motion from Commissioner Sweeney; SECONDED by the Chief. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Briana Hojo, Recording Clerk