

**City of West Haven, CT**  
**Board of Police Commissioners**  
Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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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**

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 11.5 regarding contract negotiations under Executive Session; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Butler MOVED to add item 8.2 under new business regarding the closure of Cellini Place on December 4<sup>th</sup> for the tree lighting ceremony on the Allingtown Green; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Collins MOVED to add item 8.3 under new business regarding the new tow policy; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. Motion carried unanimously

Commissioner Butler MOVED to accept the agenda as amended; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright.

**1. Minutes**

There were no minutes from November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 since it was cancelled.

**2. Public Input**

Walter Casey referenced a discussion brought up during the city council meeting regarding the pension plan where people will be put into the fine benefit, but they will pay social security and the 401K too. He expressed that he had an issue with that plan and that he hoped the issue with the pension can be resolved at the meeting.

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Russ Kniehl, President of West Haven Retired Officers Association, 200 Sawmill Road, first recognized the passing of William Dorgan, a retired West Haven police officer. He then discussed the issue with the escalation clause of the police pension plan regarding how hires prior to July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1993 received a benefit, but those hired after that date did not receive it. He emphasized that the West Haven Retired Officers Association represents about 80 members that have dedicated over 2,000 years of cumulative service to the department. He explained that he has advocated on behalf of the members affected by the pension plan many times and that he formally made a claim back on September 6<sup>th</sup>. He said that after much waiting, patience is running thin for many members. He expressed his hope that the matter will be resolved and that it will be on a timely basis.

Bill Conlan, retired deputy chief and treasurer of the West Haven Retired Officers Association, reiterated the notes that he had mentioned at a previous meeting regarding issues with the pension plan a couple of months ago. He emphasized that almost after around five months of some officers receiving the benefit, those twenty-four individuals who are affected by the plan still haven't received it. He expressed his frustration with the prolonged wait time for a decision to be made by the commissioners and the union president. He explained that in Section C of the pension adjustment for retirement benefits, the wording does not express that those hired after July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1993 would not receive any general wage increase. He further highlighted that it is currently a difficult time to hire and retain police officers, and that it is important that the officers are shown support. He also mentioned that he has percentage figures supporting his argument that we would be open to sharing and reviewing upon request.

### **3. Communications**

- 3.1 Animal Control Report – October 2022.
- 3.2 Training Division Report – September & October 2022.
- 3.3 Attendance Report – October 2022.
- 3.4 Traffic Management Report – October 2022.

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

Chief Perno informed the board of the passing of retired sergeant William Dorgan. He explained that he was a lifelong resident of West Haven and he retired from the department in the late 1990s.

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

Deputy Chief Flemmig offered the following report:

“We are currently staffed at 111 Officers. We are minus 9 Officers in Police Academy, 1 Officer on FTO, 3 Sergeants and 5 Officers Injured/Light Duty, which leaves us a total of 93 available Officers. We have 4 recruits graduating from POSTC on December 9<sup>th</sup> and 3 graduating from Milford Academy on December 15<sup>th</sup>. We have 4 seats for POSTC Academic starting at the beginning of January '23. Ofc. Victor DeSimone and Ofc. Ronald Rossomondo will both be resigning, due to work related injuries, by the end of January '23.”

Chairman Collins asked when they will meet with the candidates. Deputy Chief Flemmig answered that they will meet with them hopefully in the meeting at the beginning or middle of December.

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

**7. Old Business - None**

**8. New Business**

**8.1 Christmas Tree Lighting – November 26, 2022.**

Commissioner Butler MOVED to accept the plans for the Christmas Tree Lighting on November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

**8.2 Closure of Cellini Place for Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony – December 4, 2022**

Commissioner Wright MOVED to accept the closure of Cellini Place for the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 from 5:30-8:00 pm; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. Motion carried unanimously.

**8.3 New Tow Policy**

Item 8.3 was tabled until after Executive Session.

**9. Pension Board**

**9.1 Dave Moran – Raymond James**

Mr. Moran gave a brief update on the status of the police pension.

Commissioner Wright asked if they are still trying to keep cash. Mr. Moran answered that they still have cash, which is still a little bit high. He explained that if the bucket of fixed income is looked at, a very decent portion of it is short-term fixed income funds that come close to cash.

Mr. Casey asked if the city contribution is around \$1.2 million. Mr. Moran answered that the city contribution is instead about \$2.1 million.

**10. Commissioners Report – No Report**

**11. Executive Session**

Commissioner Butler MOVED to enter Executive Session to discuss the following:

**11.1 Street Crime Report – September 2022.**

- 11.2 Street Crime Report – October 2022.
- 11.3 WHPD Tow Policy
- 11.4 Union Grievances – Local #895

Motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Suggs. Motion carried unanimously.

The Commissioners entered Executive Session at 7:23 PM.

**12. Return to Regular Session**

At 8:28 PM, the Commissioners returned to regular session.

**13. Item 8.3 – New Tow Policy**

Commissioner Butler MOVED to accept the new tow policy; SECONDED by Commissioner Carrano. Motion carried unanimously.

**14. Adjournment**

At 8:30 PM, the Commissioners adjourned by a motion from Commissioner Butler; SECONDED by Commissioner Carrano. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Briana Hojo  
*Recording Clerk*