

CITY OF WEST HAVEN, CT
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, February 5, 2019

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 those present rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

Raymond Collins, III, Chairman	present
Paul E. Butler, Vice-Chairman	present
Keith Sweeney	present
Peter BonTempo, Secretary	absent
Deborah B. Wright, Pension Board	present
John Karajanis, Chief of Police	absent
Joseph Perno, Deputy Chief of Police	present
Lee Tiernan, Corporation Counsel	present
Mayor Nancy R. Rossi	present

ADD ONS

Commissioner Wright MOVED to add to the agenda under Executive Session item 10.2 Current Litigation; SECONDED by Commissioner Sweeney. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

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

1. MINUTES

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to accept the minutes of January 22, 2019; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

2. PUBLIC SESSION

Detective Sean Faughnan, President, Local 895

Detective Faughnan congratulated Sergeant Eric Pimer on his retirement on behalf of the Executive Board. He noted that Sergeant Pimer was very instrumental as a fellow member of the Executive Board, and his retirement will be an enormous loss to West Haven Police Department. He wished him the best of luck in his new venture.

Detective Faughnan went on to thank the Police Commissioners for everything they did regarding the promotion process for Detective Sergeant. He felt that all three Sergeants that interviewed were excellent candidates and the choice of Sergeant Pliska was a tremendous choice. He spoke about Sergeant Pliska's service to West Haven PD and congratulated him on his promotion.

He then went on to congratulate Officer Brittany Fink on her swearing-in.

Walter Casey, 40 Harding Avenue

Mr. Casey spoke about Sergeant Eric Pimer and congratulated him on his years of service, and particularly his years as Secretary of the Police Union 895.

Mr. Casey then went on to reiterate the need for a pension plan in the West Haven Police Department.

He congratulated Sergeant Pliska on his promotion to Detective Sergeant.

Commissioner Collins asked three times if any member of the public wished to address the Commission. Being none, he closed the public session at 7:06 p.m.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

The Commission reviewed the following Communication:

- 3.1 Investigative Services Monthly Report – December 2018

4. REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

Deputy Chief Perno reported that along with getting things done in the Police Department, he has been working with the Finance Department on the budget. He put the roster together, the vehicles, and a list of capital non-recurring items such as computers, in the hope of presenting those to the Mayor and Finance Department for funding in the coming fiscal year.

5. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES

No reports.

6. OLD BUSINESS

None presented.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Retirement of Sergeant Eric Pimer

Commissioner Sweeney **MOVED** to accept the retirement of Sergeant Eric Pimer; **SECONDED** by Commissioner Butler.

Deputy Chief Perno stated, "Eric Pimer was appointed Grade B Police Officer for the City of West Haven on February 7, 1995. In February of 1996 he elevated to the rank of Grade A Patrolman. He currently holds over one dozen commendations in his file regarding excellent police work. That does not take into account the tasks that Eric takes on, on his own. Whenever I used to call him about a task from the City, he's say, 'already taken care of,' or 'that's done.' He was a big help to me. In addition to being assigned to Patrol as a patrolman and a patrol sergeant, Traffic as a sergeant, Street Crime as a sergeant, Animal Control as a sergeant, Bike Patrol as an officer, he is very instrumental in the Honor Guard and the Marine Patrol. I personally am going to miss that aspect of being able to go to him for advice and guidance. He does things without being asked to do them, as Sean and Walter were alluding to regarding the Union, and as I said I would call him about any kind of Honor Guard event and he would just have it already done. He also gives back to his community. Eric is a Westie no matter where he lives, and his involvement with West Haven Swimming is second to none. After Katrina he was activated and left us for a short period in the Coast Guard. That was a highlight of this department - to have someone that involved, with Billy Cole, in the Coast Guard, and being activated, I thought that was an honor for the Department as well as him. Personally, it's a big loss to this department and it's a big loss to me. Those are big shoes to fill. We have Sergeant Gado going to Animal Control, and several others for the boat. I'm also going to call Billy and Eric to help. I'll also talk to the Union about allowing the retirees to be in the Honor Guard. That would be a tribute to them as well as the department. Eric, God bless, thank you very much, from me and from the Department."

[Applause rang throughout the forum]

A voice vote was taken and the **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Commissioner Collins congratulated Sergeant Pimer.

7.2 Promotion to Detective Sergeant – Sergeant Stanley Pliska

Commissioner Sweeney **MOVED** to approve the promotion of Sergeant Stanley Pliska to the rank of Detective Sergeant; **SECONDED** by Commissioner Butler.

Deputy Chief Perno stated, "Stanley started in 1991 as a Grade B Officer, and in 1992 he was elevated to the rank of Grade A Officer. He served in Patrol, Traffic, Investigative Services, and Records. He is extremely involved in our Marine Patrol, with our boat, and our Honor Guard. When you say 'Stan' to people, their response is, 'good

cop, does the right thing, good family man, good dad, good hockey dad.' I say all of the above, and good supervisor. Stanley, it is a long time coming. God bless and good luck."

[Applause rang throughout the forum]

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Commissioner Collins congratulated Sergeant Pliska. He was then sworn to the rank of Detective Sergeant by Deputy Chief Perno. His start date will be Friday, February 8.

7.3 Swearing in of Officer Brittany Fink

Deputy Chief Perno stated, "Officer Brittany Fink was hired several years ago and was injured while in the Police Academy. She has been serving in the Training Division on a daily basis. She has mended and has completed all of her POSTC qualifications. We can finally put her on the road where she belongs."

[Applause rang throughout the forum]

Officer Fink was then sworn in by Deputy Chief Perno.

7.4 Karli Mae Foundation 7th Annual Motorcycle Benefit Ride

Commissioner Sheehan MOVED to approve the Karli Mae Foundation's 7th Annual Motorcycle Benefit Ride; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

7.5 Ordinance Violation – 907 First Avenue (Blight)

Corporation Counsel Tiernan reported that the City has asked them to move the car. They didn't move the car so he is asking that the violation be upheld.

Commissioner Sweeney inspected the property on Thursday and again today and it has not been resolved. Commissioner Collins saw it yesterday and the ticket is still in the windshield.

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to uphold the ticket; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

7.6 Ordinance Violation – 82 Annawon Avenue (Animal complaint)

Mr. Kirschner, the dog's owner, was present. Animal Control Officer Denise Lord was present.

Mr. Kirschner explained that since the complaint, he took the dog for its rabies shot and had the dog licensed. He made arrangements to make sure the dog can no longer get out of the house, and the dog always has a basket muzzle on. He is making an appointment for the dog to be spayed as well, and has hired a trainer for the dog.

ACO Lord has issued a State Restraint Order which enables her to have the owner arrested when another violation occurs. She spoke with the dog's owner about this and he understood. She recommended letting the ticket go due to his corrective actions, and noted that he has been very communicative with Animal Control.

Commissioner Sweeney asked to be recused from this vote as he knows both parties involved in this matter.

Commissioner Butler MOVED to waive the ticket and have Mr. Kirschner make a donation of \$50 to the West Haven Animal Shelter; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

7.7 Cellini Place Abandonment

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to abandon Cellini Place; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler.

Corporation Counsel Tiernan explained that this is a very important part of the Alarcon Development – a stated task by the developers. They have assured that they will preserve all the city items on the city piece of property, such as the monuments, the clock. They own the all of the surrounding property and feel they need this. It shouldn't impact traffic – you just won't have the cut. The matter goes before Planning and Zoning on the 12th and then on to the City Council.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

8. PENSION BOARD

8.1 Retirement of Sergeant Eric Pimer

Commissioner Wright explained that we have not been able to receive the numbers to present Sergeant Pimer's retirement tonight.

Commissioner Wright MOVED to table Sergeant Pimer's pension to the next meeting; SECONDED by Commissioner Sweeney. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

9. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Sweeney thanked the Traffic Division for every time they do a funeral escort. He noted that he was with the Dargan family today and they were most appreciative. The Traffic Division does an excellent job every time they're asked.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At approximately 7:30 p.m., Commissioner Butler MOVED to enter Executive Session to discuss the following:

- 10.1 ISD – Special Victims Unit Monthly Activity Report – December 2018
- 10.2 Current Litigation

and invited Deputy Chief Perno to remain in the Executive Session; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

A five-minute recess was observed to clear the room.

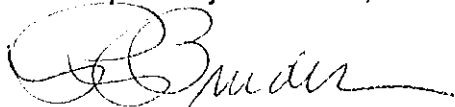
11. RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

At approximately 8:15 p.m., Commissioner Sweeney 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.

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia M. Bruder
Secretary