

CITY OF WEST HAVEN, CT
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, March 19, 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	present
Deborah B. Wright, Pension Board	present
John Karajanis, Chief of Police	absent
Joseph Perno, Deputy Chief of Police	present
Lee Tiernan, Corporation Counsel	present

ADD-ONS

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to add the following items to the agenda:

Under Executive Session:

- 10.3 Discussion regarding Chief John Karajanis
- 10.4 Interview presentation of Investigative Services Unit candidates
- 10.5 Interview of New Hire – Patrol Officer Jeffrey Suchy

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Item 10.3 – Discussion regarding Chief Karajanis

At 7:02 p.m., Commissioner Butler MOVED to enter Executive Session to discuss Item 10.3 only; SECONDED by Commissioner Sweeney. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Deputy Chief Perno and Corporation Counsel Tiernan joined the Commissioners in the Executive Session. Deputy Chief Perno left the Session at 7:07 p.m.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

At 7:36 p.m. the Commission returned to Regular Session.

1. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

Commissioner Butler MOVED to accept the minutes of March 5, 2019 as presented; SECONDED by Commissioner Sweeney. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

2. PUBLIC SESSION

Shawn Brown, 56 Highview Avenue

Mr. Brown addressed the Commission in regard to Chief Karajanis' medical leave. He specifically wanted to know how long the leave will continue, and what the leave is for.

Richard Hunt, 27 Barbara Lane

Mr. Hunt explained that he is having a neighbor problem and feels the Department has been unresponsive.

Commissioner Wright explained that the Department is able to set up neighbor mediation between Mr. Hunt and the alleged offending neighbors. Mr. Hunt was agreeable to this concept, and gave Deputy Chief Perno his contact information so that neighbor mediation can be arranged.

Commissioner Collins asked three times if any member of the public wished to address the Commission. Being none, he declared the public session closed.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

The Commission reviewed the following Communications:

- 3.1 Investigative Services Report – February 2019
- 3.2 Overtime Report – February 2019
- 3.3 Attendance Report – February 2019
- 3.4 Animal Control Division Report – February 2019
- 3.5 K-9 Activity Report – Sgt. Bloom/Ike – February 2019
- 3.6 K-9 Activity Report – Ofc. Standish/Cody – February 2019
- 3.7 K-9 Activity Report – Ofc. Marchitto/Ado – February 2019
- 3.8 Support Services Report – February 2019
- 3.9 Traffic Management Unit Report – February 2019
- 3.10 Training Division Report – February 2019

4. REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

Deputy Chief Perno reported, with 7.1 on the agenda tonight we will be at 110 officers. An expected lateral hire on 4/2 will offset an anticipated resignation of an officer expected on

4/15. As of 3/29 I have assigned a sergeant to Professional Standards under the guidance of Captain Fleming to update and revise the General Order Book. The Department has several grants where funding has just been released and/or approved, dating back to 2016. I have to work with the City Grant Writer and the Finance Department to reconfigure these grant expenditures to address current needs of the Department. There is no cost associated with the grants to the City. During the meeting of the Command Staff, the request was made to recognize two officers who have met the requirements of the rank of Master Police Officer. We are planning to do this tentatively on 4/16.

Commissioner Wright asked if any changes have been made to the proposed budget in regard to cars.

Deputy Chief Perno noted that he has not been made aware of any changes in the proposed budget that he submitted, in which he asked for five vehicles and a prisoner van.

5. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES

None presented.

6. OLD BUSINESS

None presented.

7. NEW BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 7.1 New Hire – Patrol Officer Jeffrey Suchy

At approximately 7:47 p.m., Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to enter Executive Session; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Sergeant Kleinknecht, Captain Fleming, Deputy Chief Perno and Mr. Suchy joined the Commissioners in the Executive Session.

At approximately 7:50, Sergeant Kleinknecht, Captain Fleming and Deputy Chief Perno left the Executive Session, leaving the Commissioners and Mr. Suchy.

At 7:56 p.m. the Commission returned to Regular Session.

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to hire Jeffrey Suchy as a Patrol Officer with a starting date of March 22, 2019; SECONDED by Commissioner Bon Tempo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously. [Applause rang throughout the forum]

Deputy Chief Perno stated, there will be a formal swearing-in at 3 p.m. on Friday.

8. PENSION BOARD

Commissioner Wright handed out a status sheet of the Pension Fund to the Commissioners. The fund has a 9.34 percent return right now, so far so good.

9. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Wright stated, we just want to keep Bridgeport in our prayers. They have a lot going on; they've just had a couple of officers that have committed suicide. I just want to make sure that our folks are open to EAP. I need everybody to know and understand that the people at this table are here for you. A lot of people call us; we want you to continue to call us. If you have to, if you don't think you have to, please know – keep a check on your brothers and sisters and make sure everybody that looks like they're okay may not be okay. I need everybody to stay safe and have a healthy mental attitude. We're all going through stuff but we will all get through this. I just need everybody to stay focused, because we care about you.

Lieutenant Flavin stated, I just took over a Peer Support Team, so we're going to have some upcoming training.

The Commissioners thanked Lieutenant Flavin.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8 p.m., Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to enter Executive Session to discuss the following:

- 10.1 ISD – Special Victims Unit Activity Report – February 2019
- 10.2 ISD – Street Crime Unit Activity Report – February 2019

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

11. RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

At approximately 8:20 p.m., Commissioner Bon Tempo MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia M. Bruder
Secretary