

**CITY OF WEST HAVEN, CT**  
**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**  
*Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, May 7, 2019*

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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**

<b>Raymond Collins, III, Chairman</b>	Present
<b>Paul E. Butler, Vice-Chairman</b>	Present
<b>Keith Sweeney</b>	Present
<b>Peter BonTempo, Secretary</b>	Present
<b>Deborah B. Wright, Pension Board</b>	Present
<b>Joseph Perno, Interim Chief of Police</b>	Present
<b>Carl Flemmig, Interim Deputy Chief</b>	Present
<b>Lee Tiernan, Corporation Counsel</b>	Absent
<b>Mayor Nancy Rossi</b>	Present

**ADD-ON**

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

- Item 7.4 – Resignation of Officer Minh Pham
- Item 10 – Public Session

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

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

**1. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to accept the minutes of the April 16, 2019 Regular Meeting; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

**2. PUBLIC SESSION**

Commissioner Collins asked if any member of the public wished to address the Commission on any items that are listed on the agenda. He noted that a second Public Session will be held at the end of this meeting.

Mayor Nancy Rossi

Mayor Rossi came to tonight's meeting to congratulate the retirees, wish both of them well, and offer her congratulations on behalf of the City. She thanked them for their years of service and looking out for the City of West Haven.

Walter Casey, 40 Harding Avenue

Mr. Casey wished Robert Jankovsky congratulations on his retirement, and noted his prayers are with him.

He then noted that although nobody wants to retire under the circumstances of Officer Doyle's tragic accident, thank God he was hired in 2008 while the West Haven Police Department still had a pension plan. He noted the Department has been without a pension plan for 10 years come November.

Mr. Casey then talked about his working experience with Officer Doyle.

Detective Sean Faughnan, President, Local 895

Det. Faughnan spoke regarding the two retirees – that usually people want to retire when they are ready to leave, and other officers that have injuries can't wait to get out of the door. Sgt. Rob Jankovsky unfortunately became very ill. He recognized and congratulated Sgt. Jankovsky for everything he accomplished at West Haven PD in the nearly 21 years of his career.

Det. Faughnan recalled the details of the day of Officer Doyle's accident. The Police Department came together, drove to New York and stood alongside Officer Doyle and his wife and family. Det. Faughnan feels that it made a difference in his life and brought the Department together. He expressed his deep respect for Officer Doyle as someone who so badly wanted to come back to work and who now doesn't want to leave. He thanked Officer Doyle for everything he has done for the Department.

POSTC Training Officer Brian Reilly

Officer Reilly noted that he worked at the West Haven Police Department for 29 years prior to his current position at POSTC. In his duties there training new recruits, he advises them of what their future careers may be like. He uses words such as "honor, determination, brotherhood," and frequently gives them examples. Officer Reilly gives examples of the West Haven Police Department and what they can do when they come together. He uses Officer Doyle's tragic accident as an example – how the Union mobilized very quickly, he thanked some Commissioners who beat him to the hospital. He thanked and commended Officer Doyle for his strength, sheer determination and will that got him through those days. He noted that when he talks about bravery, determination, honor, brotherhood, he talks about Officer Doyle. [Applause rang throughout the forum]

Chairman Collins asked three times if any other person wished to speak. Being none, he declared the public session closed.

### **3. COMMUNICATIONS**

The Commissioners reviewed the following monthly reports for April, 2019:

- 3.1 Overtime Report
- 3.2 Animal Control Division Report
- 3.3 Traffic Management Unit Report
- 3.4 Attendance Report

### **4. REPORT OF THE CHIEF**

Chief Perno reported, as you are aware, the West Haven Police are now enforcing parking violations at the Metro North station. At first it was determined that the Police Department and the City were collecting the fines, now it's going to the State of Connecticut where the vendor who is waiting for COLLECT certification and licenses is now hiring off-duty officers.

I met with the Finance Department and the federal grant money from 2016, 2017 and 2018 has been cleared for disbursement. The Command Staff and I have begun planning for the fireworks security detail. Yesterday I met with Representative Charlie Ferraro regarding the groups of illegal quad and dirt bike riders. He's going to come back to me with some suggestions and some things from Hartford, and get my opinion and the department's opinion because we deal with this frequently.

Commissioner Wright asked about the grant money and Chief Perno replied that he would show her what it's been spent on.

Commissioner Sweeney asked if any of the Command Staff has met to collaborate with New Haven PD regarding the quads and dirt bikes.

Commissioner Wright added that they come through Milford and Orange as well and suggested that they meet with all the surrounding towns as well.

Lt. Urrata added that one of the recent incidents happened on his shift. They made two arrests the last night, Street Crime was assisting with that. There is a search warrant and another arrest warrant pending for that. They have leads on where they're actually staging now.

Chief Perno stated, we met with other departments last year; it has not started again this year.

### **REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF REPORT**

Deputy Chief Flemmig reported that with tonight's retirements and the resignation of Officer Pham the department is at 110 officers, 11 of whom are in the Academy. Six will be graduating at the end of June and beginning of July. They will be on the road for mid-

September. There is one lateral we sent to a polygraph today and we're hoping to have the medicals done by the end of the week and before this Commission for approval at the May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

**5. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES**

None presented.

**6. OLD BUSINESS**

None presented.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**7.1 Retirement of Robert Jankovsky**

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to accept, with regret, the retirement of Sergeant Robert Jankovsky; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler.

Chief Perno stated, I would like to take this time to publicly thank Rob Jankovsky, "Sergeant Jank," for his 20 years, 9 months career with the West Haven Police Department. I ask all of you to keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

**7.2 Retirement of Michael Doyle**

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to accept, with regret, the retirement of Officer Michael Doyle; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright.

Chief Perno stated, Mike started at the West Haven Police Department in August, 2008 and advanced to Grade A in August, 2013. This is a bittersweet night – bitter because Mike is retiring; sweet because he came through a horrific accident and is able to retire. As many of you know, I too will not forget that June day – we heard about it, we jumped into our cars, lights & sirens up the Merritt Parkway. We were told to expect the worst. We were very happy when we finally were able to see you, even in the condition that you were in we were very happy to see you. You proved the doctors wrong, you were transported to Gaylord for treatment. He made it back to the PD - light duty, but he made it back. It was just the same Mike. He is one of the bravest fighters I've ever met in my life that could put on that uniform. There are not many people that would come back.

Chief Perno stated, Mike, you are a special breed. You'll succeed in anything and everything that you do. I know that from my heart from seeing you fight back to get to this place in your life. You will always be a member of the West Haven Police Department, no matter where you are. We are all better and stronger for knowing you. God bless you and thank you.

Commissioner Collins stated, Officer Doyle, when tragedy struck that day, instead of packing it in as most would have, and as you would have been expected to, you chose to fight back. Your perseverance and attitude through it all is an inspiration to us all. You, sir, are a warrior. Many years from now, you have earned your place in Valhalla. Godspeed, sir. We salute you. Congratulations. [Applause rang throughout the forum]

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

### **7.3 Memorial Day Parade – Monday, May 27, 2019**

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to approve the plans for the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 27, 2019; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

### **7.4 Resignation of Officer Minh Pham**

Commissioner Butler MOVED to accept the resignation of Officer Minh Pham, effective May 16, 2019; SECONDED by Commissioner BonTempo.

Chief Perno stated, Officer Pham is a newer officer that has chosen to leave for another department. We have nothing but the best to say about him and we wish him the best. Good luck and stay safe. [Applause]

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

## **8. PENSION BOARD**

### **8.1 Retirement of Robert Jankovsky**

Commissioner Wright noted that all of the paperwork is in order, the numbers are correct.

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to approve the disability retirement pension for Sergeant Robert Jankovsky; SECONDED by Commissioner Bon Tempo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

### **8.2 Retirement of Michael Doyle**

Commissioner Wright stated, please know, Michael, that all the words said tonight about your bravery, determination, unmitigated will to be here – I also remember that night and I went into deep prayer. I know it is nothing but the power of prayer along with your will, strength, determination and bravery, for you to be where you are today. Please know we are proud of you. Eyes have not seen where you will be tomorrow but we know it will be somewhere great. You are destined to do great things and we are here for you, we will always have you in our hearts.

Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to approve the disability retirement pension for Officer Michael Doyle; SECONDED by Commissioner Bon Tempo. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

**9. COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

None presented.

**10. PUBLIC SESSION**

Walter Casey, 40 Harding Avenue

Mr. Casey noted that at the last meeting we had all the promotions and he didn't get up to say anything. He wants to thank and congratulate Deputy Chief Flemmig, Captain Sal D'Amato, Lieutenant Scott Kleinknecht, and Sergeant Craig Thompson.

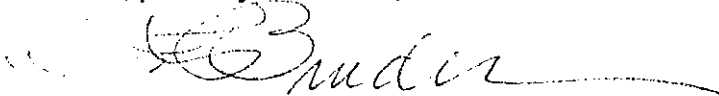
He especially wants to congratulate Sergeant Thompson not just because of his promotion, but because he is still here. When he was hired, he was in the pension plan – it was July 9, 2010, and 25 days later, August 2, 2010, the arbitration came down retroactive back to November and they threw him out of the pension plan. Since that time, how many officers have left West Haven PD. Mr. Casey gives him credit for staying – for 10 years with no pension.

He continued, in November 2019 it will be 10 years with no pension – three different administrations and nothing is being done to restore it. They want to spend \$25,000 on a study that in his opinion is a stall tactic, a waste of money. It's an election year and they don't want to do anything.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:30 p.m., Commissioner Sweeney MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Commissioner Wright. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia M. Bruder  
Secretary