

City of West Haven, CT
Board of Police Commissioners
Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, January 18, 2022

The regular meeting of the West Haven Board of Police Commissioners was called to order at 7:04 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 accept the agenda as presented; SECONDED by Commissioner Carrano. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Minutes

Commissioner Carrano MOVED to accept the previous minutes from December 21st, 2021 as presented; SECONDED by Commissioner Butler. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Public Input

Adam Conlan read a note aloud on behalf of Detective Conlan's father who wasn't able to attend the meeting. He noted Detective Conlan's growth as a policeman as well as his accomplishments over the years in his detective ranking and in the various task forces he has served on.

Sean Faughnan, President of Local 895, spoke to congratulate the new hire at attendance at the meeting as well as to congratulate Detective Conlan and wish him luck. He expressed that Detective Conlan's keen eye, amongst other qualities and skills that have made him a successful policeman and detective, will be greatly missed by the department.

3. Communications

- 3.1 Investigative Services Report – November, 2021
- 3.2 Monthly Attendance Report – December, 2021
- 3.3 Training Division Monthly Report – December, 2021

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John M. Carrano
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4. Report of the Chief – No Report

5. Report of the Deputy Chief – No Report

6. Report of the Committees

Commissioner Carrano provided a summary of a meeting that occurred last Monday as part of the agenda of the City Council meeting, regarding the current state of the police department. Those in attendance at the meeting included himself, Chairman Collins, Commissioner Butler, Sergeant D'Amato, Deputy Chief Flemmig, Chief Perno, and Detective Faughnan.

He explained that they expressed to the City Council that the pay scale is about \$12,000 behind the average of other cities, and that they have lost 22 officers since 2015 leading to a cost of at least \$2.1 million dollars, which is money that could've gone back to the department. The lack of a pension and the lack of an acceptable long term disability plan were also discussed in detail. He noted that the meeting couldn't be live streamed on the YouTube Channel until after the presentation, but there were around 7 to 8 council people who were able to view it and were in favor of the items discussed to help the police department. He explained that progress has been made with coordination between the Mayor, Union President Faughnan, Chief Perno, Attorney Chris Hodgson, and Chip Walsh to come to a conclusion regarding the situation of the department.

Commissioner Carrano also noted that Detective Faughnan had copies of the comments said during the meeting for officers and employees of the department who would like one and mentioned that any questions could be directed towards the Commissioners. He also acknowledged and thanked Councilperson Bruneau for his help and support with the police department.

7. Old Business - None

8. New Business

8.1 Retirement Detective William T. Conlan

Deputy Chief Flemmig offered the following remarks:

“Detective William Conlan began his law enforcement career with the West Haven Police Department on November 5, 1999. He was a highly decorated officer who has received numerous awards and commendations throughout his 22-year career.

Detective Conlan was a dedicated officer who served in numerous special assignments including, the Street Crime Unit, DEA Task Force, Auto Theft Unit and most recently in the New Haven PD Shoot Task Force. He was promoted to the Detective Bureau in 2014 and served in both the Special Victims Unit and Investigative Services Unit. During which time he investigated and solved numerous serious violent felonies including a homicide and a sexual assault with a firearm.

Detective Conlan was well respected by the rank and file and throughout his career. He consistently demonstrated a high level of competency and a commitment to duty, which always reflected positively upon our agency's mission and goals. His excellent investigative skills, experience, and job knowledge was a great asset to our agency and will be missed.

Billy, I want to thank you for your 22 years of hard work and your dedicated service to the West Haven Police Department and the citizens of our community. I wish you and your family happiness and success as you begin this new chapter in your life."

Commissioner Butler **MOVED** to accept Detective Conlan's retirement, effective January 15th, 2022; **SECONDED** by Commissioner Carrano. Motion carried unanimously.

8.2 Resignation Officer Richard Cotto

Deputy Chief Flemmig explained that while the department was hoping to take advantage of the numerous trainings and skills that Officer Cotto had to offer, he unfortunately decided to resign. He thanked Officer Cotto for his time with the department.

Commissioner Butler **MOVED** to accept Officer Cotto's resignation, effective January 15th, 2022; **SECONDED** by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

8.3 Police Candidates

Commissioner Wright **MOVED** to table Item 8.3 until Executive Session; **SECONDED** by Commissioner Butler. Motion carried unanimously.

8.4 Cellini Place

Garrett Latender, one of the developers of Atwood and Parkview in Allingtown, addressed the board regarding the 15-year lease of all the retail space in Parkview by Hartford Healthcare. One lease requirement on the part of the ACORN Development Group in coordination with the Mayor and Chief Perno, is turning the 12 parking spaces on Cellini Place into a designated medical zone only for the retail space. He explained that there have been concerns with the speed of cars driving up Cellini Place, and they would like to implement measures recommend by Chief Perno to slow down the speed of traffic.

He mentioned that there is no need for the 12 parking spaces to be used for those in the upper floors of Parkview because as part of a master lease with the University of New Haven, parking for Parkview residents has been designated behind Atwood.

Chairman Collins asked about the implementation of rumble strips onto Cellini Place to slow the speed of traffic. Chief Perno responded and explained that he has spoken to Public Works and there should be no issues with its implementation.

It was clarified that the 12 parking spaces would remain for medical patients, which would be designated by signage, and that the changes taking place would try to slow down traffic going through Cellini Place. People will still be able to travel and drive through Cellini Place, there will just be measures in place to reduce the speed since it will be a designated medical zone.

Commissioner Wright inquired about the parking in the back of Parkview. Mr. Latender answered that Hartford Health will have 52 parking spaces behind the building and that overflow parking will be across the street.

Commissioner Carrano **MOVED** to create a medical zone along Cellini Place; **SECONDED** by Commissioner Butler. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Pension Board

9.1 Mr. David Moran – Richard James

Commissioner Wright explained that Mr. Moran's presentation will be rescheduled for the first meeting of February, and it will be a review of the last two months of activity and information.

10. Executive Session

Commissioner Carrano **MOVED** to enter Executive Session to discuss the following:

- 10.1 Special Victims & Firearms Report – December, 2021
- 10.2 Street Crime Report – December, 2021
- 10.3 Interview Candidates

Motion was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

The Commissioners entered Executive Session at 7:22 PM.

11. Return to Regular Session/Adjournment

At 8:00 PM, the Commissioners returned to regular session and adjourned by a motion from Commissioner Carrano; **SECONDED** by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Briana Hojo
Recording Clerk