

MEETING OF PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Wednesday, February 10, 2016

The Public Safety Communications Commission meeting was called to order at 59 Court Street, Westfield, MA, at 6:02p.m. by Chief Camerota.

Roll Call: Lenore Bernashe – Present
Chief John Camerota – Present
Richard Emmings – Present
Chief Mary Regan – Absent

Open Participation: No one from the public was present.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: Chief Camerota made a motion to approve minutes from the 12-9-15 meeting. That motion was seconded by Lenore.

Chief Camerota – Yes / Lenore Bernashe – Yes / Chief Regan – Absent / Richard Emmings - Yes

Old Business: There is still an open position on the PSC Commission. Awaiting new Mayor for appointment.

Directors Report:

a. Staffing Update:

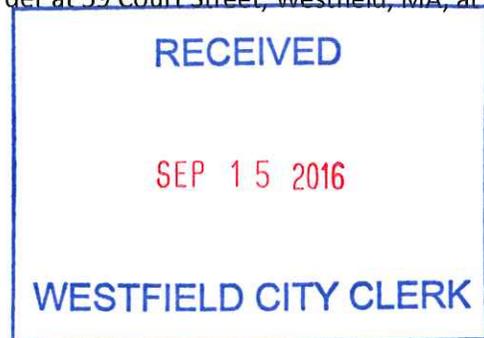
Selina Ortega resigned less than two weeks after starting stating family issues. Krystle, who was hired at the last special meeting has completed her required State 911 training and is progressing well with her on the job training.

John stated that testing is scheduled for this week to fill the open vacancy. There may be a need for a special meeting to approve a new hire.

Overtime costs were discussed. Chief Camerota suggested moving forward with three additional hires to alleviate the overtime openings and mitigate overtime costs. Lenore discussed the use of per diems and/or part timers. John stated that all options are on the table, but the current contract dictates the placement of additional ETDs (Emergency Telecommunications Dispatchers). Any ETD's hired beyond the core staffing of nine will fill open ETD slots vacated by senior dispatcher moving into the Lead Dispatcher Role. However, once the Lead Dispatcher is assigned, per contract language, they will not cover opens shifts unless it is necessary to avoid forced overtime. In the event an ETD resigns after a Lead is assigned, the shifts associated with that vacancy will be filled with overtime. With this current language, additional staffing may not equal a corresponding reduction in overtime costs. This will be an issue to be discussed during the next negotiation process set to start in the next month.

The contract also only allows per diems to be used when an ETD is on extended medical leave. There are no ETDs on medical leave, thus preventing the use of per diems. This will also be discussed as part of the next round of negotiations.

- b. Capital Improvement Meeting: The finance committee has scheduled a Capital Improvement Meeting that includes Police, Fire and dispatch. It is scheduled for February 17th. John discussed the capital improvements he submitted included new dispatch console furniture.



- c. Grant Approvals: The Support and Incentive Grant and Training Grant applications were approved by the City Council.
- d. Upcoming Negotiations: John requested that Commissioners forward him any issues or concerns regarding the ETD contract so they can be added to the negotiation agenda.

In addition to issues discussed under staffing, it was requested that language be added to the contract that requires new hires to commit to a certain time frame or be required to reimburse the department for training costs if they resign before that time commitment is met.

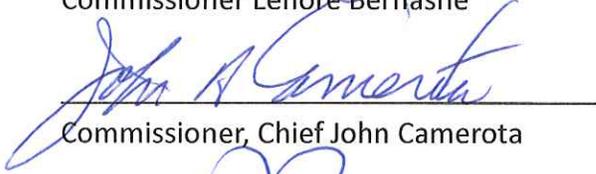
- e. Invoices signed

Announcement of Next Regular Meeting: The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on April 13, 2016 at 6pm.

At 6:20 pm Chief Camerota made a motion to adjourn. Lenore seconded that motion. Motion passed, meeting adjourned.



Commissioner Lenore Bernashe



Commissioner, Chief John Camerota



Commissioner, Chief Mary Regan

Commissioner, Richard Emmings