



WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

WESTFIELD FIRE COMMISSION

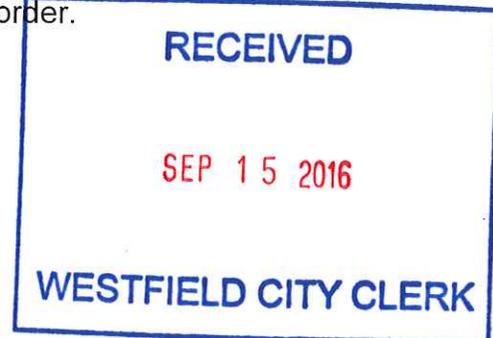
MEETING MINUTES



Date July 11, 2016

Fire Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli called the meeting of the Westfield Fire Commission (hereinafter "WFC") of July 11, 2016 to order.

Location: Westfield City Hall
59 Court Street
Westfield, Massachusetts
Room 315
18:00 hours



Chairman's announcement:

The Chairman of the WFC, Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli in accordance with the Open Meeting Law Changes (Reference Memorandum dated June 18, 2010 'Open Meeting Law Changes' from the Office of the City Solicitor) made the following announcement to all participants and attendees that the WFC Regular Schedule meeting of July 11, 2016 is being audio recorded and if the WFC meeting at any time goes into executive session all audio equipment will be turned off to include all recording devices of audio and video and any transmission of video and or audio..

The Chairman of the WFC, Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli also made the following inquiry that if there is anyone making a video or audio recording of the meeting please indicate this to the Chair, and also announced that this WFC meeting of July 11, 2016 is not being electronically transmitted via TV or via the internet by the City of Westfield.

PRESENT:

Westfield Fire Commissioners Albert Masciadrelli and Commissioner Patrick Olearcek
Fire Chief Mary Regan, Deputy Fire Chief Mark Devine and Deputy Fire Chief Eric Bishop, Union Local 1111 Representatives Fire Captain Chris Kane {President and Firefighter Joseph Szenda, and Temporary Fire Captain Michael Szenda.

NOTE: Commissioner Bonavita has a work scheduling conflict and will not be present.

MINUTES TAKEN:

Ms. Patricia Breton, Westfield Fire Department (hereinafter "WFD") Head Clerk.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Commissioner Masciadrelli stated seeing no one was present he closed public participation.

READING OF THE RECORD OF:

- a) WFC June 06, 2016 Regular Session Minutes – *Fire Commission*

Note: Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli stated that “*the minutes from the June 06, 2016 meeting was not completed as of this date 11 July 2016.* The approval for said minutes will take place during the August 2016 meeting if completed by that time. The reason given is vacation and upgrades to AmbuPro software which is time consuming by the secretary

ROUTINE BUSINESS:

- a. Introduction: Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli wished to thank the men and women of the WFD for extraordinary services that they have done in the past month. He made note to the fire that accrued on Meadow Street, he stated from feedback he received it was handled very well. He quoted “the group that was there in charge operated like a basketball team in unison”. The team effort was tremendous from what he understands.
- b. Late Communications – Chief Regan had a phone call from someone involved in a bicycle/vehicle accident to say thank you and that he was very happy with the service he received. This was Andy Kaufmann and Joseph Coach. Chief also had a letter to thank for quick response at around 2 a.m. to Prospect Street. My mother rolled onto her alert button and triggered it, she was surprised but was very grateful that the paramedic took their time and calmed her down. The son was happy to see that the system worked, and that the lock box was assessable and that they were able to gain access. He also followed up with a phone call. The two paramedics were Jenn Daley and Aaron Lafrenaye.
- c. Letter & Communications – None

SPECIAL BUSINESS:

- a. Local 1111 Grievance Number 61416A – Commissioner Masciadrelli state the employee who started the grievance was Captain Christopher Kane who is the President of the Union. The description is see attached article XX1X a. violations. The Commission received this on June 30, 2016 with all the attachments attached to the cover sheet. Commissioner Masciadrelli made a motion.

Motion:

Due to the complexity of the Contractual Language and SOGs and intricacies the past practices, I would like to ascertain for a motion to have the Commission, in full body, elevate this grievance {Grievance Number 61416A to Step 3.

Discussion:

This matter {as stated by WFC Chairman Albert Masciadrelli, deserve the full attention of the City (full time) representative as well as the Union representatives and thus the move to directly go to Step 3 seems prudent.

Also; WFC Chairman Albert Masciadrelli continued with his statement, the WFC member are cognizant as to what the Fire Chief has gone through in putting her response to the 'Step 1' process and believing it is extremely time consuming and overwhelming as a well as her consultation with the City Law and the some of the WFD 1st Core Management team namely the Deputy Fire Chiefs.

Recognized (for input) by WFC Chairman Albert Masciadrelli:

Union Representative Captain Christopher Kane stated *"that in some of the rebuttals the Officers are included in the count, so when a Deputy hires it usually 15 privates"*. Commissioner Masciadrelli asked what the rebuttal refers too. Fire Captain Christopher Kane stated, *"to the Chiefs letter in response to the Unions Grievance"*. Commissioner Masciadrelli stated, *"that he has a benign copy with no notes on it"*. Fire Captain C. Kane stated, *"number of Firefighter working 18 worked the day, but 17 worked the night"*. Fire Captain Kane also stated, *"that on the 15th and 19th they had a full shift, but on the 14, 16, 17, 18, they worked short either the day or during the night"*.

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli (Chairman) stated that *"if this passes we can have a discussion; right now he did not want any discussion at this point"*.

Fire Captain Chris Kane asked if it could be amended if going to Personnel, he said *"they do not argue or present their case to Personnel"*. He said the document source speaks for its self. Fire Captain Chris Kane stated *"once I get your reply {Fire Commission, "I will make an amendment or type something up and attached it to it, and forward it"*.

Commissioner Patrick Olearcek asked if they could just make the motion.

Commissioner Patrick Olearcek made the above motion

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli seconded this motion.

Fire Commission Chairman asked if there was any discussion.

Seeing none the Fire Commission Chairman asked for an acknowledgement vote of yes or no.

Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Masciadrelli Yes

Commissioner Olearcek Yes

Commissioner Bonavita {Was absent do to a work schedule conflict.

Yes (2) No (0)

Motion Passed

- b. Local 1111 Grievance Number 61416B- Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli read the grievance. Grievance 61416B submitted by Captain Christopher Kane President of the Local 1111. The descriptions of the grievance states see attachment, past practice violation.

Motion:

Due to the complexity of the Contractual Language and SOGs and intricacies the past practices, I would like to ascertain for a motion to have the Commission, in full body, elevate this grievance 61416B to Step 3.

Discussion:

This matter {as stated by WFC Chairman Albert Masciadrelli, deserve the full attention of the City (full time) representative as well as the Union representatives and thus the move to directly go to Step 3 seems prudent.

Also; likewise as Grievance 61416 A; WFC Chairman Albert Masciadrelli continued with his statement; the WFC member are cognizant as to what the Fire Chief has gone through in putting her response to the 'Step 1' process and believing it is extremely time consuming and overwhelming as a well as her consultation with the City Law and the some of the WFD 1st Core Management team namely the Deputy Fire Chiefs.

Commissioner Patrick Olearcek made the above motion.

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli seconded the motion.

Fire Commission Chairman asked if there was any discussion.

Seeing none the Fire Commission Chairman asked for an acknowledgement vote of yes or no.

Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Masciadrelli Yes

Commissioner Olearcek Yes

Commissioner Bonavita {Was absent do to a work schedule conflict.

Yes (2) No (0)

Motion Passed

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Contract agreement between the City and the Firefighter Local 1111:

Chief Regan stated that this has come to impasse and is moving to mediation. Commissioner Olearcek wanted to know the timing on this. The Law Department has filed papers, but there is no date set.

b. Contract agreements between the City and the WFD Supervisors:

Chief Regan stated that this has been settled and signed by the Mayor and went to Council on July 7, 2016.

c. WFD Little River Fire Station 2:

Commissioner Masciadrelli wanted to thank the entire team members that were in meetings, WFD Chief Mechanic Mr. Christopher Bard and Chief Mary Regan.

Chief Regan was briefing the Commission that there was a trailer hooked up behind the Station for the crew and that the Station will not be closed. The crew will be staying in the trailer and the ambulance and fire truck will be outside during the summer.

The hope is to have the bays done by mid fall to get the apparatus back into the bays. They had the kick off meeting; Kurtz Inc. is the general contractor and will have a supervisor who will oversee the project and all the contractors. The fence is up and it seems to be moving right along. We will be cleaning out the station over the next few weeks of all our stuff.

Firefighter Joseph Szenda asked about storage, Chief Regan stated that; "Mr. Christopher Bard is working on that". "Some items may have to go to Station 3 and some to Sackett Street facilities". Chief told Firefighter Joe Szenda "that she thought that new furnishings will be included in the remodel". "The target completion date is 9 months".

d. Status and Info regarding FY17 Budget final update

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli congratulated the Chief and team on the FY17 budget. Chief did a great job at the meetings. Chief stated she "thought overall everything went well". "The hard part is that the Mayor pulled the Engine out of the budget, so there will be no new engine". The Fire Chief explained that "*she hopes to go back and make another pitch for it sometime this year*". "*Engine 6 is in tough shape, it is 29 years old*". The Chief explained that she "*will put together a committee together this summer to work on what is needed and design*".

Also per the Fire Chief; "the City Council also cut \$25,000.00 from the Fire Service Account and \$10,000.00 from the Building Fund". We, "the department

was hoping to use the Building Fund money to help with the insulation after our sprinkler project". "*When it got really cold last year we had to dump the sprinkler system*".

e. Discussion on all open positions:

Fire Chief Regan stated; "we have 2 open positions". "*There is a paramedic and a basic list that is being signed now in Personnel*". Fire Chief as stated: "*is hoping to start the prescreening sometime in the next month*". "*If we do not get enough we will have to call for an extension*".

Fire Captain Kane, was recognized by the WFC Chairman whom proceeded to asked about the time line on the vacant Captain's opening.

Fire Chief stated; "*that she is still waiting for the results of the investigation*".

The Fire Chief explained "*that to her understanding is that the City Personnel Director is done with it and has sent it up to the City Law Department*". "*The City Law Department will review it and then send it over; if it is not ok they will send it back to the Personnel Director*".

The Fire Chief stated; "*that it doesn't cost any more to have the temporary Fire Captains*". The Fire Chief stated that she "*will forward the investigation letter to the Commission as well*" when appropriate.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Massachusetts 'Fire Chief's State Wide Series' Exam:

Commissioner Masciadrelli stated; "that the WFC have been requested to call for the '2017 Fire Chiefs Series Exam'".

Commissioner Masciadrelli ascertained a motion to call for the '2017 Fire Chiefs Series Exam'. Chief stated this exam would be in May 2017. This would be for

both the Fire Chief and Deputy Chief as promulgated by HRD's Fire Chiefs Series Exam .

Commissioner Patrick Olearcek made a motion to call for the '2017 Fire Chief's Series Exam'.

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli seconded the motion.

Fire Commission Chairman asked if there was any discussion.

Seeing none the Fire Commission Chairman asked for an acknowledgement vote of yes or no.

Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Masciadrelli Yes

Commissioner Olearcek Yes

Commissioner Bonavita {Was absent do to a work schedule conflict.

Yes (2) No (0)

Motion Passed

REPORTS FROM THE WFD & WFC:

a. Apparatus/Ambulance/Vehicle Integrity, Support Equipment, Facility & Communication Integrity Status/ Report –

Fire Chief Regan stated; that "*Med 20 has a break problem and has been repaired. Engine 6 is at repair now; there are a few lights that are out. Med 60 was in an accident, it is out of service. We are waiting for the insurance company to come in and look at it.*

The two EMTs were Firefighter Ray Neilsen and Firefighter David Kennedy (PP) they were both brought to the hospital. Ray is back to work and David is still having issues. Firefighter David Kennedy (PP) will be out a little bit longer".

b. Personnel Out of Work Report – Chief Regan indicated that there is one out IOD with a back, not sure when they will be back to work.

Two Firefighters that were in the accident,

- One that is out with a shoulder but is very close to coming back.

Then we have one out sick with a knee injury and will not be back for another couple months.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Fire Commission/Fire Chief:

Fire Chief Regan stated that *"the Department received grant money from MEMA \$6927.00 about \$5000.00 of that will be used for training for videos, books and powerpoints for classes". "Our tapes are outdated"*. She stated; that she has submitted a letter to the Mayor about accepting the grant. Also the Fire Chief explained that she; *"also received the reimbursement from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Office of Medicare for 2015 transports in the amount of \$178,943.00"*.

One person is still out on Military, Chief spoke to him today he will be returning to work on July 27, 2016.

Over time last year showed a saving of just under \$200,000.00. She stated that we spent about \$69,000.00 on training of that overtime money.

Commissioner Masciadrelli (Chairman) indicated that they may postpone next month's meeting {August 04, 2016 because of vacation scheduling.

- If we have an opportunity to fill any of the positions we will address that ASAP.

Commissioner Masciadrelli ascertained a motion to adjourn

Commissioner Olearcek made a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Masciadrelli seconded the motion.

Fire Commission Chairman asked if there was any discussion.

Seeing none, the Fire Commission Chairman asked for an acknowledgement vote of yes or no.

Yes (2) No (0)

Adjourn 18:32

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Olearcek
Secretary, Westfield Fire Commissions
PO/ajm/pab