



WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS WESTFIELD FIRE COMMISSION



MEETING MINUTES Regular Schedule Meeting

Fire Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli called the meeting of the Westfield Fire Commission (hereinafter WFC) of January 18, 2019 to order.

Location: Little River Fire Station
Community Room
366 Little River Road
Westfield, Massachusetts

Date: January 18, 2019

Time: 1300 hours

MINUTES TAKEN:

Ms Patricia Breton, Westfield Fire Department Head Clerk

Chairman's announcement:

The Chairman of the Westfield Fire Commission, 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 Westfield Fire Commission Regular Schedule meeting of January 18, 2019 is being audio recorded and if the Westfield Fire Commission 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 Westfield Fire Commission, 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 Westfield Fire Commission meeting of January 18, 2019, is not being electronically transmitted via TV or via the internet by the City of Westfield.

The Chairman of the WFC, Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli also asked if there is anyone making a video or audio recording of the meeting.

Mr. Peter Currier from the Westfield Evening News was recording (audio) the meeting along with Rebecca Boutin, and Kyle Miltimore. Channel 22 News was also video taping with sound. City Council Member Matthew Emmershy of 36 Fowler Street was doing a live stream of the meeting as he indicated. Mr. Peter Currier of the Westfield News was recording the meeting as he indicated.



PRESENT IN ATTENDANCE:

Westfield Fire Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli and Westfield Fire Commissioner Patrick Olearcek., Temporary Fire Chief Andrew Hart, Deputy Fire Chiefs Eric Bishop, Seth Ellis, Ben Warren, Patrick Kane Jr. and Deputy Fire Chief Patrick Egloff, Fire Captains Chris King, Chris Kane, Mike Szenda, Paul Lentini, Keith Supinski, Acting Captain Lenny Ferst and Rebecca Boutin. Firefighters Tim Black, David Avezzie, Beth Aucoin, Eric Liptak, Matt Marchesi, David Kenney, Kyle Miltimore, Anthony Rogers, Steve Makos. Ben Hogan, Shaun Trant, Mike Feyre, Tom Silva, Kyle Morrissey, Ryan Chenevert, Tyler Richie, David Pleshaw, Roger Bernier, Zachary Florek, Christine Humason and Richard Ponti-Smith . Fire Mechanic Chris Bard. City Solicitor Attorney Jeff Krok, , Mr. Curt Gezotis, Mr. Roger Boutin, Ms. Meghan Murphy, Mrs. Tracy Egloff, and Mr. Peter Currier from the Westfield News. City Council Councilors, Mr. Matthew Emmershay and Mr. Andrew Surprise were in attendance. Mr. Jim Kelly, Personnel Director Ms. Jane Sakiewicz.

READING OF THE RECORDS OF:

Fire Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli ascertained a motion to approve the Fire Commission Meeting Minutes January 7, 2019.

Fire Commissioner Patrick Olearcek made a motion to approve the January 7, 2019 Meeting Minutes.

Fire Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli seconded the motion.

Fire Commissioner Masciadrelli asked if there was any discussion and seeing none asked for an acknowledgement vote by the members of the WFC.

Motion Passed

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: City Councilor Andrew Surprise had a question and a comment about the meeting. He asked whose idea was it to schedule the meeting at 1 pm on a Friday afternoon going into a long holiday weekend. He stated residents want to know what is going on with this situation; this is an issue residents are really concerned about. People are not able to get here at 1300 hours on a Friday, especially when going into a holiday weekend. Again whose idea was it to schedule the meeting? He feels that on issues like this the meeting should be scheduled at a time when people can get to the meeting.

Commissioner Patrick Olearcek asked to be recognized in which he addressed the question. There was no intent to hid anything or do anything. Commissioner Olearcek stated he has a full time job and he is missing his work as well. He explained that he is "traveling next week for business; there are medical reasons why one of the Commissioners will not be able to make it the following week". For the respect of people who have been asking for months, we tried to pick a date, which I think at 1800 hours

a Friday probably would have been more of a hardship for a long weekend. There was no intent at all, to try to make it so that people can't make it. The intent was to have it. We could not get both commissioners for quite a bit (together for a while), and that was the reason for this meeting at 1300 hours.

Councilor Surprise understood the reasoning and accepted the answer, but said he preferred that it was at a regular time and should have been delayed.

Commissioner asked to be recognized in which Commissioner Olearcek stated that the time was of the essence and to be fair this time made more sense.

Commissioner Masciadrelli stated that they really struggled with a time and date to make this acceptable to all parties.

ROUTINE BUSINESS:

- a. Introduction - Commissioner Masciadrelli, on behalf of the WFC, expressed thanks to all that have attended tonight. He and members of the WFC also thanked the members of the Westfield Fire Department (hereinafter 'WFD'), for their extraordinary service since the last meeting was held. He receives many excellent supportive comments from the Community as well as the Hill Town Communities, as he himself travels throughout and wants to pass that along to the members of the WFD, WFC and Community.

- b. Late Communications –

Temporary Fire Chief Andrew Hart passed out new progress reports for Firefighters Camerota, Feyre, Wailgum, Major and Morrissey. He stated that they are all doing well, that they are very good progress reports from their officers. He recognized Firefighter Anthony Rogers who will be retiring soon, he started on the reserves in 1987; he thanked him for his service. He also recognized Fire Captain Christopher King, Fire Captain Christopher King has been working with some high school interns; he is doing a great job. This is a program that Fire Captain Christopher King has been overseeing and brings kids in from the High School, and showing them what the fire service is about. He thanked Firefighter Steve Makos for the painting he has been doing around the fire station. He is going a great job.

Temporary Fire Chief Andrew Hart received a note from a Southwick resident thanking the Southwick EMT's and Westfield's Ambulance 'Med 40' Firefighters/Paramedics Kyle Morrissey and Dave Albert. They were intensive and caring with excellent clinical skills. Good job guys!

Temporary Fire Chief Andrew Hart received another thank you from a City Employee whose mother was transported and they said she received excellent care. Temporary Fire Chief Hart did not have the names of the WFD firefighters.

Two members will be going to the Fire Academy in Springfield starting January 28, 2019. This will be Firefighter Michael Wailgum and Firefighter Sean Major, Temporary Fire Chief Hart wished them luck during the Academy.

Commissioner Masciadrelli thanked the Temporary Fire Chief and congratulated all the individuals mentioned.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION:

The Fire Commission Chairman Albert Masciadrelli ascertained a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing the character and reputation as opposed to professional competency and or complaint or charges brought against Deputy Fire Chief Patrick Egloff, for the purpose of determining liability for either temporary or permanent promotion to Chief of the Fire Department.

We do intend to return to open session.

Westfield Fire Commissioner Patrick Olearcek made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing the character and reputation as opposed to professional competency and or complaint or charges brought against Deputy Fire Chief Patrick Egloff, for the purpose of determining liability for either temporary or permanent promotion to Chief of the Fire Department, with the intent to return to open session.

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli seconded the motion.

Commissioner Masciadrelli asked if there was any discussion and seeing none asked for a roll call vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Commissioner Masciadrelli	Yes
Commissioner Olearcek	Yes

YES (2) NO (0)

MOTION PASSED

TIME: Commission went into executive session at 1318 hours.

TIME: Commission came out of executive session at 1353 hours.

Commissioner Patrick Olearcek again explained to Westfield's City Councilor Surprise that there were work related and other reasons why they had the meeting on a Friday at 1300 hours. He appreciates that everyone stayed during the executive session. He

it is important to many people. There was no ill will they just needed to hear this as soon as possible, that is the main reason for the 1300 hour time slot.

Commissioner Masciadrelli stated he had a letter of resignation from Temporary Fire Chief Andrew Hart, this is in pursuant to a letter to the Mayor on October 15, 2018, with a meeting with the Mayor, Personnel, Law and Commission Chairman. This letter stated that Deputy Chief Andrew Hart would be returning to his position on January 21, 2019 as a Westfield Fire Department's Deputy Fire Chief.

MOTION:

With this Commissioner Masciadrelli ascertained a motion to accept the letter of resignation from the Temporary Fire Chief Andrew Hart.

Commissioner Patrick Olearcek thanked Temporary Fire Chief Andrew Hart; he went a little bit longer then anticipated. On behalf of the Commission he thanked Andy for stepping up and for everything he had done.

Commissioner Patrick Olearcek made a motion accept the letter of Temporary Fire Chief Andrew Hart resignation as Temporary Fire Chief stepping down for the Temporary Fire Chief slot position. Everything is signed dated, everything is good.

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli seconded the motion.

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli asked if there was any discussion and preceded to state as follows:

- Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli again thanked Temporary Fire Chief Andy Hart for stepping up to the plate, and fulfilling this position as the Temporary Fire Chief.

Seeing no more discussion Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli asked for a roll call vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Commissioner Masciadrelli	Yes
Commissioner Olearcek	Yes

YES (2) NO (0)

MOTION PASSED

MOTION:

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli ascertained a motion to fill the vacant Fire Chief, with a Temporary promotion to Deputy Chief Patrick Egloff.

Commissioner Patrick Olearcek made a motion on behalf of the Westfield Fire Commission for Deputy Chief Patrick Egloff to become the Temporary Fire Chief of the Westfield Fire Department, per the collective bargaining agreement language. On behalf of the Commission we want to make the motion for Temporary Chief of the Westfield Fire Department to Deputy Patrick Egloff.

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli seconded the motion.

Commissioner Masciadrelli asked if there was any discussion and proceeded to state that this Motion will be effective as of 1201 hours January 21, 2019.

Seeing no more discussion Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli asked for a roll call vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Commissioner Masciadrelli	Yes
Commissioner Olearcek	Yes

YES (2) NO (0)

MOTION PASSED

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli ascertained a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Patrick Olearcek made a motion adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli seconded the motion.

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli asked if there was any discussion and seeing none asked for a acknowledgement vote.

MOTION PASSED

Time: 1400 hours

Respectfully submitted,

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

