



WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
WESTFIELD FIRE COMMISSION
SCHEDULED MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 7, 2022



Fire Commissioner C. Lee Bennett called the meeting of the Westfield Fire Commission (hereinafter WFC) of March 7, 2022 to order.

Location: 366 Little River Road
Little River Substation



Date: March 7, 2022

Time: 18:00 hours (6:00pm)

MINUTES TAKEN:

Ms. Patricia Breton, Westfield Fire Department (hereinafter 'WFD') Office Manager

Chairman's announcement:

Westfield Fire Commissioner C. Lee Bennett 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 March 7, 2022 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..

Westfield Fire Commissioner C. Lee Bennett 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.

PRESENT IN ATTENDANCE:

Westfield Fire Commissioner C. Lee Bennett, Westfield Fire Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel, Fire Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli, Fire Chief Patrick Egloff, Deputy Chief Eric Bishop, WFD EMS Supervisor David Avezzie, Firefighter Travis Lucia, Firefighter Matthew Potter, Firefighter John Camerota and Attorney Thomas Kenefick III P.C.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioner C. Lee Bennett asked for a roll call.

Commissioner C. Lee Bennett – present
Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel – present
Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli – present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner C. Lee Bennett asked for a moment of silence for the people of Ukraine

READING OF THE RECORD OF:

- a. WFC Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes January 03, 2022. Vote to accept.

Commissioner C. Lee Bennett ascertained a motion to accept the Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2022.

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli made the motion to accept the Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2022.

Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli	YES
Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel	YES
Commissioner C. Lee Bennett	YES

YES (3) NO (0)

Motion Passed**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli Commissioner was invited to the West Springfield Fire Department to participate in the awarding of Firefighter Sean Major, for his save at an ice hockey game. He said there was four departments with representatives there at the Mayor's office. Senator Velis and Mayor Michael McCabe also attended, the Mayor gave a citation to Firefighter Major. He feels that the Commission should send a letter to Firefighter Major. Commissioner Bennett agreed that a letter is well in order.

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli also wanted to acknowledge the wife of past Chief Gerald Fouche who served from 1964 to 1988, Clair passed away. This is Deputy Hart's Mother-in-law and also the mother of a retired firefighter William Fouche. He would like to express on behalf of the Commission their condolence to the family.

ROUTINE BUSINESS:

- a. Introduction – Chief Egloff went right into Letters and Communications.

- b. Letters and Communications – Chief Patrick Egloff read a card from Samuel and Jacquelyn Booher asking the Fire Department to accept a donation to the Fire Department in memory of Henry Wertelet. A \$50.00 donation was made in his name, a thank you note was sent and acknowledged that this would be put into our Ambulance Gift Account

Chief Egloff read an email he received from Mr. Dave Moquin, commending the department on the way they handled the fire inspections on his properties. I deal with receptionist all the time and Pat was a breath of fresh air, using her skills to give me a wonderful experience accomplishing a normally mundane task. The officers Ben Warren and Andy Hart also represented the Westfield Fire Department in an exemplified manner. Ben and Andy were patient with me and exerted every effort to help me comply with the regulations. Andy Hart went well beyond expectations. My key would not unlock one unit of my duplex, so he told me to call him back when all the tenants came home. He came over at the time and not only coached me on some changes, but literally installed some units for me. He was friendly to my tenants and really put a shining star on the service of the Westfield Fire Department. I am sure they reflect the leadership and expectations of the Fire Chief, namely you. Know that I am proud to live in Westfield with your Fire Department.

REPORTS FROM THE WFD & WFC:

- a) Chief Egloff to report on status of key areas of the department.

Departmental Promotional List:

Chief stated that the Captains exam was updated on March 1st, Congratulations to Christopher Brown, Kyle Morrissey and Michael Feyre who successfully passed the exam.

Organization Status:

We currently have two openings that we can fill and the Chief will be asking permission later on in the meeting to pull a requisition once the new list is established on March 15th. The new list will be merged with the existing list.

Covid is waning, the infection numbers have come way down and we are seeing that with our men and women. We currently do not have anyone out sick Covid related.

There are two members who are IOD, one of which has been long term. We have one person out FMLA.

Chief has received one Firefighter progress report for Colin Burns, This is his five month review, it was favorable, and he will have another one done at the 10 month mark. He is currently attending Paramedic school.

Acquisition of 2022 Apparatus/Equipment:

Mayor McCabe has approved the funds to secure our buildings, this was put forward to City Council. The fire equipment was turned down, seeing we have not ordered the truck yet. He said come back once the truck is order and closer to delivery date.

The current waiting time for new apparatuses has doubled to two years. Chief has sat with the purchasing director and has discussed how to handle the delay. When he meets with the Mayor, this will be one of the many topics.

The lead time on an Ambulance is two years. If we want to stay with the same process as getting an ambulance every two years, we need to put in for the chassis in August or September of this year, in order to get it in two years.

FY2023 Budget:

A level funded budget was submitted to the Mayor per his request. I will be sitting down with the Mayor and Auditor this Wednesday for our first official meeting of the budget cycle and going over the wants and needs of the Fire Department. Contract negotiations will start towards the end of March, which may affect the budget process.

Grant Processes:

The Mass DFS FY22 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Program has been signed by both the Mayor and the Fire Marshal. We will be getting an extra pair of gloves and nomex hood for each fire department member and will be purchasing an SCBA fit tester that will allow us to make sure that everyone issuing the correct mask every year and is required under NFPA guidelines. The Grant passed the City Council vote on February 3rd.

Update on the Annual Report:

Chief Egloff emailed the Fire Commission this afternoon for their review over the next month. Please look it over and get back to me with any additions or charges that you would like to see. I would like to get it voted on at the April meeting. Commissioner Masciadrelli had suggested that he may be able to get it put into a hard copy format for City Council submission.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a) Potential Transfer of a Paramedic Firefighter from a local Fire Department to Westfield Fire

Chief Egloff was contacted by the Holyoke Fire Chief and Christopher D'Angelo who updated him on the potential transfer. The Holyoke Commission held the February meeting and voted under advisement of the Fire Chief to turn down our request for a lateral transfer.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Discussion and vote on calling for a requisition for a Paramedic/Firefighter.

Chief Egloff indicated there were two openings, and that the list will be merged on March 15, 2022. We will have a new list and there should be paramedics on that list. He asked the Commission, to allow him to pull a requisition for Firefighter/Paramedic

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli made a motion as soon as possible to call for a requisition.

Commissioner C. Lee Bennett seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli	YES
Commissioner C. Lee Bennett	YES
Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel	YES

YES (3) NO (0)

Motion Passed

b. Motion: Ascertain a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of is as follows:

- Executive Session pursuant to **M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Sec. 21** to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than the professional competence, of an individual and/or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual.

a. Grievance Number 02012022

Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel ascertained a motion.

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli	YES
Commissioner C. Lee Bennett	YES
Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel	YES

YES (3) NO (0)

Motion Passed

NOTE: IT is **not** the intent of the Commission to return /reconvene into open session at the conclusion of the executive session.

Commissioner C. Lee Bennett indicated that anyone filing a grievance has a choice if they do not want it in Executive Session.

The party indicated they wanted Executive Session.

Time 18:21 hours Commission went into Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,



C. Lee Bennett, Chair
Westfield Fire Commission
pab