



**WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS  
WESTFIELD FIRE COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 05, 2023**



Fire Commissioner C. Lee Bennett called the meeting of the Westfield Fire Commission (hereinafter WFC) of June 5, 2023 to order.

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

Date: June 05, 2023

Time: 18:00 hours



**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 meeting of June 05, 2023 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 Jeffery Siegel, Westfield Fire Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli, Fire Chief Patrick Egloff, Deputy Chief Eric Bishop Deputy Chief Seth Ellis. Fire Captain Christopher King, Firefighter Dan Lorenzatti, Firefighter Travis Lucia and Firefighter Clarke Robinson. Candidates Nicholas Black, Joseph Lords, Jake Antosz, Jonathan Dole, Joshua Mitchell, Erick Randel and Jeffrey Tykot.

Commissioner C. Lee Bennett asked for a roll call.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**READING OF THE RECORD OF:**

- a. WFC Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes April 03, 2023 Vote to accept.

Commissioner C. Lee Bennett ascertained a motion to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 03, 2023.

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli made a motion to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes for April 03, 2023.

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 C. Lee Bennett thanked the applicants and the Firefighters who were present for all the work they do every day.

Commissioner C. Lee Bennett requested that a discussion of an award ceremony be put on next month agenda. This would be something we could do once a year. She feels that they rise above just doing their job, many times. She feels this should be recognized. She would like something in either the Rules and Regs or some kind of procedure that they can formalize and do it once a year, to recognize the firefighter and to say thank you to your families. They also sacrifice a lot.

**ROUTINE BUSINESS:**

- a. Introduction – Commissioner C. Lee Bennett introduced herself and the other Commissioner to the candidates.
- b. Letter and Communications - Chief Patrick Egloff read a statement to the Commission and the firefighters that were present.

Chief Egloff read a letter from Firefighter Steve Makos as requested.

*Dear Chief,*

*It is with the deepest gratitude that I would like to recognize the kindness, compassion, and love that was shown to me by members of the Westfield Fire Dept, office staff, and Fire Commission regarding the recent loss of my mom.*

*Whether it was people checking in on me through countless text messages, phone calls, letters, or physically showing up at my mom's service which was over an hour away to honor her.*

*I didn't have to go through the toughest, most trying time of my life alone. I was held up by my fellow Fire Fighters and friends on the days I didn't have the strength to do it on my own.*

*I am honored, proud, and blessed to work with some of the most amazing people I've ever met, but more importantly to call my friends. My mom would continue to take comfort in knowing the company I keep.*

*Sincerely,  
Fire Fighter Steve Makos*

Chief had another letter from Major Patrick Lafond of the 104-fighter wing.

*This letter is in regard to the Barnes Air National Guard Bas Air Sow on May 13-14, 2023, during which, the base hosted more than 75, 000 attendees. Westfield Fire Ambulance assisted with the medical coverage of the show on both days, along with back-up medical support on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to the actions of your medics, in partnership with the Mercy Medical ER team, we were able to provide prompt, appropriate and professional care to all patients we encountered. It is truly appreciated by the entire wing, as medical support from community partners like you are vital to the safety and success of such a large-scale Air Show!*

**REPORTS FROM THE WFD & WFC:**

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

### **Memorial Day Parade**

Chief thanked all of the members who marched in the Memorial Day Parade as well as the members of B-Group who stood out-front at attention while the parade marched by, everyone looked very professional. I also wanted to thank the members of C and D group who made sure the antique was properly running and who waxed it and polished the brass, it looked beautiful.

### **Department Promotional Lists**

The Deputies List will expire a year from September, so Chief will have that on the agenda for Septembers Fire Commission Meeting.

### **Organization Status**

Dustin Russo and Erika Rubner both had their 10-month review with both of their Deputies recommending continued employment.

We will be having the fuel tanks located at Station 3 and HQ removed this week. Chief wanted to thank the City's Procurement Officer, Tammy Tefft for helping to get this accomplished as well as Chief Mechanic Christopher Bard who oversaw these tanks for the last ten plus years on a weekly basis to make sure that they were sound.

We have two members going to the Fire Academy at the end of August, Jackie O'Brien and Nicholas Hope. Both Jackie and Nick have been in Paramedic school, Jackie has obtained her Paramedic credentials and Nick should have his soon.

The budget process continues, the Mayor cut the Fire budget by two members and it has been presented to the City Council, the next step is to go in front of the Finance Committee later this week. These cuts do not affect the positions that we are hiring for today.

There is a plan in place to hire the third office staff person temporarily so that we can have a smooth transition for when Pat Breton retires. This plan was discussed with the Mayor, the HR Director and the Chief. Once the Chief received notice from Pat, he will put this on the Commissions agenda, so that we can post the position (30 days) and fill it after the new fiscal year. This person would be potentially taking Christies position when Christie potentially takes Pats, once she retires.

### **Grant Processes**

The grant the Chief wrote from the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services for safety equipment that was received in the amount of \$24,920, has been acted upon and we measured individuals with the highest need and ordered 10 full sets, we are up to 12 now.

There is a three month wait on structural firefighting gear, so we anticipate having the gear by the end of July.

### **Air Show**

The Air Show detail at the Micro Abrasives parking lot was a success. We didn't have any major calls, but we were ready for anything if they did come up. Chief Egloff wants to thank the Airshow team consisting of the Police Chief Larry Valliere, the new Emergency Management Director Ronny Gibbons, Dispatch Director Nina Barszca, Deputy Chief Patrick Kane Jr. And Firefighter/Paramedic Randy Quarles and himself. He also wanted to thank the Department of Fire Services led by Marshal Ostrowski and all of the DFS employees.

Lastly, he wanted to thank the men and women of the WFD who gave up part of their Mother's Day weekend to keep everyone safe.

### **Replacement Equipment**

Chief Egloff has put funds into the ambulance budget to replace two of the ambulances. He is anticipating having them by this time next year. He also anticipates receiving the new Pierce Velocity pumper next year as well, these are all being funded through the ambulance enterprise account and not taxpayer moneys.

The new Airboat will have both river search and rescue capabilities as well as ice rescue operations. This has a new anticipated delivery date of November of 2023. This Airboat was purchased with ARPA funds.

### **Hiring Process**

Chief Egloff is anticipating another retirement within the first three months of FY24.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### a. Discussion and Potential Vote on the anticipated Fire Chiefs exam for Fall of 2023.

Chief Patrick Egloff said he watched the City Council Meeting and this all went back to committee. He said that the reason is that the City did not bargain with the Deputy's Association on having it come out. He feels the intention is to still have the job come out of Civil Service once he retires.

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli states that the City's goal is to have it come out of Civil Service. His recommendation is to move forward and call for the Chief's Exam. He indicated that the list will expire next month. Chief was asked to check to see if this will automatically be extended or if the Commission needs to write a letter to extend the exam. Commission Masciadrelli showed the Commission a notice and it states that this list should go until next May.

Fire Fighter Union President Travis Lucia spoke to the Commission. Travis stated he feels that the City needs to bargain with the Local 1111 as well. This is due to the language being the exact same as the Supervisors Association. Travis stated that there were times in the past where Captains have been promoted. He said he did go to City Council and express his opinions and views. He said the Union wants to be bring it to the table and have a discussion. He said Civil Service is not ideal but at least it is a process, the process is on the weight of the Deputy's or who ever wants to take the test. They need to study, buy the books and to pay for the test. When this comes out of Civil Serve the tax payer will occur a cost as well. The City will be responsible to hire an outside group to administer the test. He said there are a lot more questions that need to be answered. Travis asked why the Fire Chief was never taken out of Civil Service when everything else did. He also stated that when there is an opening for Fire Chief, it is pretty frequent that the State Union normally puts out that no one need to apply outside the Fire Department.

Commissioner C. Lee Bennett asked Travis why they did not negotiate this in the contract.

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli indicated that City Council is well aware that they have to have the Unions involved. Promotions affect all levels of the Union.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Discussion and vote on calling for a Fire Captains exam for fall of 2023.

Chief Egloff recommends the Commission call for the exam, this will give everyone a good ten months to study and get ready for it.

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli made a motion to call for the Fire Captains exam.

Commissioner C. Lee Bennett seconded the motion.

#### **Roll Call**

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

Yes (3) No (0)

#### **Motion Passed**

- b. Discussion and vote for contract signature form.

Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel made a motion to accept the document signed by all three Commissioners.

Commissioner C. Lee Bennett seconded the motion.

**Roll Call**

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

Yes (3) No (0)

**Motion Passed**

- c. Review of the City’s Master Plan, Discussion and potential vote to endorse the City of Westfield’s Mast Plan document.

Chief Egloff said that they were all emailed the Master Plan from City Hall.

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli asked if it was still open for editing. Chief Egloff did not know if it was or not. Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli indicated there is a part on the Fire Department where it explains about the Fire Commission (it is indicated in the Police area of the report) that has been left out of the report. Chief said that the ordinance of the Police Department and the Fire Department are not identical. Chief Egloff said it is written in the ordinance and Commissioner Masciadrelli would like to see that. Commissioner C. Lee Bennett asked if the Commission would like to table this. Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli indicated yes, he would like to see it tabled, so he had a chance to read it. Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel abstained.

Commissioner C. Lee Bennett made a motion to table the City’s Mast Plan until next month meeting.

Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel seconded the motion.

**Roll Call**

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

Yes (3) No (0)

**Motion Passed**

d. Interview Seven candidates for Two open position, discuss and potentially vote to conditionally hire to the position of: Full-Time Firefighter/EMT effective start date: per Fire Chief, pending successful completion of all aspects of the Conditional offer of Employment.

1. EMT Basic Nicholas Black
2. EMT Basic Joseph Lords
3. EMT Basic Jake Antosz
4. (Tied) EMT Jonathan Dole  
(Tied) EMT Joshua Mitchell  
(Tied) EMT Eric Randell  
(Tied) EMT Jeffrey Tykot

Commissioner C. Lee Bennett explained the process of the interviewing. She is requesting that those candidates not interviewing leave the room to make it fair for all those interviewing this evening. The interviews will be in the order of above. All questions will be the same for all the Candidates.

Each candidate was interviewed, Commissioner C. Lee Bennett indicated that she was very impressed with every single one of the candidates. Commissioner C. Lee Bennett asked Chief Patrick Egloff for his recommendation.

Chief Egloff indicated that he would hire Nicholas Black, Nicolas is a Westfield resident and is number one on the list. Second, he would recommend Joseph Lords he is currently in Paramedic school and is number two on the list. If you were to do a bypass you would have to give a reason.

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli agreed with Chief Patrick Egloff, and indicated that doing a bypass is very difficult.

Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel wanted the candidates to realize that they all did a fine job, but with Civil Service the Commissions hands are limited by the order that they can consider.

Chief Patrick Egloff stressed that this is a very good experience for all of them. This is how Civil Service interviews are done. The next interview you have you will have had this experience. He wanted to congratulate everyone tonight on their interview, because they all did very well.

Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel stressed to the candidates that the Commission does not have to say these things.

Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel made a motion to offer the #1 position to Nicholas Black.

Commissioner C. Lee Bennett ascertained a motion to offer the #1 position to Nicholas Black for a conditional offer of employment. Conditions of this offer includes a successful full department physical, a positive psychological evaluation, passing of the Massachusetts physical abilities test (PAT), the completion of the Career Recruit Massachusetts Fire Academy Program and if not currently a Paramedic, obtaining your Paramedic credentials within 28 months of hire and passing of the background check.



Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli seconded the motion.

**Roll Call**

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

Yes (3) No (0)

**Motion Passed**

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli made a motion to offer the #2 position to Joseph Lords.

Commissioner C. Lee Bennett ascertained a motion to offer the #2 to Joseph Lords for a conditional offer of employment. Conditions of this offer includes a successful full department physical, a positive psychological evaluation, passing of the Massachusetts physical abilities test (PAT), the completion of the Career Recruit Massachusetts Fire Academy Program and if not currently a Paramedic, obtaining your Paramedic credentials within 28 months of hire and passing of the background check.

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**

If the Commission would like to nominate a third position should the first or second applicant not pass all the initial requirements of the conditional offer of employment, or an opening becomes available due to retirement or other means the Fire Chief can offer the position on or before July 18<sup>th</sup> 2023.

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli made a motion to nominate Jake Antosz to that position.

Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel seconded the motion.

Commissioner C. Lee Bennett ascertained a motion to a possible 3rd position to Jake Antosz for a conditional offer of employment. Conditions of this offer includes a successful full department physical, a positive psychological evaluation, passing of the Massachusetts physical abilities test (PAT), the completion of the Career Recruit Massachusetts Fire Academy Program and if not

currently a Paramedic, obtaining your Paramedic credentials within 28 months of hire and passing of the background check.

**Roll Call**

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

Yes (3) No (0)

**Motion Passed**

Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel made a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner C. Lee Bennett seconded the motion.

**Roll Call**

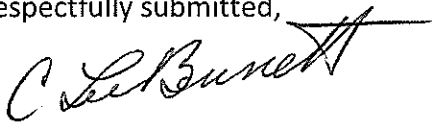
Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli	YES
Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel	YES
Commissioner C. Lee Bennett	YES

Yes (3) No (0)

**Motion Passed**

Time: 20:25 hours

Respectfully submitted,



C. Lee Bennett, Chair  
Westfield Fire Commission  
pab