

City of Westfield Massachusetts

Public Health & Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

December 05, 2019 - Time: 6:30 pm - Room 315A



Approved 12.19.19

Committee Members: Mary Ann Babinski, Chair; Daniel Allie; Michael Burns

CALL TO ORDER: 6:31 PM

1. Recording of the meeting:
2. Attendance: X Mary Ann Babinski; ABS Daniel Allie; X Michael Burns
3. Approval of meeting minutes - Jan 3, 2019 (not available); May 30, 2019 motion for approval
Motion made by Councilor Burns, Seconded by Councilor Babinski. Approved 2-0

AGENDA ITEMS

1. From 12/20/18: Upon motion of Councilor Morganelli, it was VOTED: To inquire on the nature of current fire extinguishing product use and composition of the product at Barnes Air Field and to determine if Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations require the discharge of AFFF on Barnes Municipal Airport property for fire equipment testing or for the "live-fire drill" component of FAA re-certification. REFERRED TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE and AIRPORT COMMISSION

Summary & Action Taken:

- Councilor Babinski restated the comments of Airport Manager, Eric Billowitz from 5/30/19 regarding FAA regulations
 - a. The answer to the FAA requirement question is no. In a joint-Use setting, the FAA does not require any discharge demonstration as part of our annual Certification Process
 - b. He had an inquiry into the Air National Guard relative to the question posed. Has not received info as of 5/30/2019
- Councilor Babinski reported comments received from the Airport Manager on November 18, 2019, and the ANG Fire Chief on November 25, 2019.
 - a. Airport Manager reported that in their discussions with the Guard, they have indicated that they do not use AFFF for drill. He suggested I reach out to the ANG Fire Chief, Travis Raby.
 - b. In a Follow-up Conversation with ANG Fire Chief Travis Raby, it was stated that the ANG has been directed to use any other methods besides AFFF when

possible. No training/practice sessions have taken place at the base in at least the last 20 years.

- Councilor Babinski read two quotes found on the website. She suggested that those wishing additional information visit the ANG website:
 - a. "In November 2015, more environmentally responsible AFFF formulas were added to the DOD's qualified products list for firefighting agents. The Air Force began replacing both PFOS-based and other legacy AFFF products with a new, environmentally responsible formula in August 2016. The Air Force completed new foam delivery in August 2017."
 - b. "The Air Force is taking steps to guard against future contamination by replacing legacy AFFF stockpiles with a foam that reduces PFOS/PFOA exposure, Phos-Chek 3 percent, six carbon chain AFFF"
 - c. Links to the website:
<https://www.104fw.ang.af.mil/About/Environmental/>
<https://www.afcec.af.mil/WhatWeDo/Environment/Perfluorinated-Compounds/>

Other comments:

- Councilor Babinski called for a motion to report this item out & remove it from committee.
- Motion made by Councilor Burns to Report Out & Remove from Committee. Seconded by Councilor Babinski. Approved 2-0

Next Meeting Date: December 19, 2019 at 6:40 PM

Motion to Adjourn: 6:40 PM

Motion made by Councilor Burns, Seconded by Councilor Babinski. Approved 2-0

Respectfully submitted,

Councilor Mary Ann Babinski, Chairperson

Attach to 12.05.19 P.H.&S. minutes

From: "Eric Billowitz (ebillowitz@barnesairport.com)" <ebillowitz@barnesairport.com>
To: "Mary Ann Babinski (M.Babinski@cityofwestfield.org)" <M.Babinski@cityofwestfield.org>
Date: Mon, 18 Nov 2019 15:35:00 -0500
Subject: RE: Public Health & Safety Agenda Item

Hi Mary Ann,

In our discussions with the Guard, they have indicated that they do not use AFFF for drills. I would however invite you to reach out directly to the Fire Chief to confirm: Travis Raby at 413.568.9151 x1291

Don't be a stranger!

Eric

From: Mary Ann Babinski (M.Babinski@cityofwestfield.org) [mailto:M.Babinski@cityofwestfield.org]
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2019 1:29 PM
To: ebillowitz@barnesairport.com
Subject: Re: Public Health & Safety Agenda Item

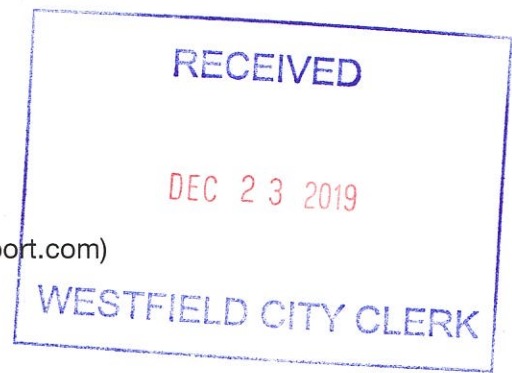
Hi Eric,

I am trying to "clean house" in the Public Health and Safety Committee.

You answered part of the motion below in May and we're going to check with the Air Guard. I have heard by word of mouth that they are not using AFFF for "fire drills". Have you received anything official from them to confirm it?

Thanks,

Mary Ann



On May 30, 2019, at 3:27 PM, Eric Billowitz (ebillowitz@barnesairport.com)
<ebillowitz@barnesairport.com> wrote:

Hi Mary Ann,

Hope all is well with you.

I received your message and thought it better to respond here. I have an inquiry in to the Air National Guard relative to the question posed.

The answer to the FAA requirement question is no. In a joint-Use setting, the FAA does not require any discharge demonstration as part of our annual Certification process.

I will follow up with the Guard's response once received.

Thanks / Eric

From: Mary Ann Babinski (mababinski@comcast.net) [mailto:mababinski@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 11:39 AM
To: Eric Billowitz
Cc: Mary Ann Babinski
Subject: Public Health & Safety Agenda Item

Hi Eric,

Hope you are doing well?

The Public Health & Safety sub-committee is meeting on May 30. The motion below is on the agenda and I was wondering if you had any information that you could share about this item:

12/20/18

Upon motion of Councilor Morganelli, it was

VOTED: To inquire on the nature of current fire extinguishing product use and composition of the product at Barnes Air Field and to determine if Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations require the discharge of AFFF on Barnes Municipal Airport property for fire equipment testing or for the "live-fire drill" component of FAA re-certification be REFERRED TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE and AIRPORT COMMISSION.

Do you recall if the Airport Commission ever discussed this topic during one of their meetings? Does the Commission monitor this activity by the Air Guard? I could not find anything in the minutes. I know this is short notice, if need be, we can keep it in committee without any problem.

Thank you,

Mary Ann

