

# REGULAR MEETING OF WESTFIELD POLICE COMMISSION

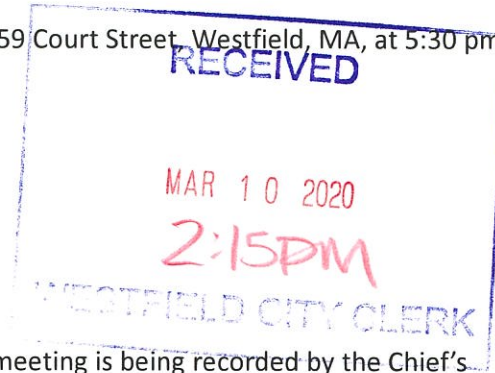
WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

January 13, 2020

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The Westfield Police Commission meeting was called to order at 59 Court Street, Westfield, MA, at 5:30 pm by Commissioner Osowski.

Roll Call: Leonard Osowski – Present  
Felix Otero – Present  
Richard Sypek – Present



Commissioner Osowski notified everyone present that tonight's meeting is being recorded by the Chief's Secretary. Peter Carrier from the Westfield Evening News is also recording tonight's meeting.

Approval and Release of Minutes: Commissioner Otero made a motion to approve and release the minutes dated December 9, 2019. Commissioner Sypek seconded that motion.

Leonard Osowski – Yes – Felix Otero – Yes – Richard Sypek - Yes

Open Participation: None

Old Business: None

New Business:

- A.) Recognize the Westfield Police Department Cadets for being selected as Westfield's 2019 Volunteers of the Year by former Mayor Brian Sullivan. Certificates to be presented by Officer Coach and Detective Mazza: Officer Coach said that due to an injury Officer Mazza is unable to attend. Officer Coach will be presenting the certificates tonight. Officer Coach said that the Westfield Police Department Cadets have been selected as Westfield's 2019 volunteers of the year by former Mayor Brian Sullivan. He said that the department currently has 26 cadets and in 2019 the cadets put in over 1,100 volunteer hours. They are a great asset to have. Officer Coach presented certificates to all of the following cadets:

Zachary Adam  
Alexis Bradley  
Andrew Morris  
Tucker Carey  
Destin Craven  
James Coach  
Garratt Collis  
Cameron Cusack  
Morgan Dixon  
Christopher Gage  
Dacota Durkee  
Michael Durkee Jr

Troy Hevey  
Dylan St. Onge  
Jestyne Peatman  
Jonathon Malo  
Reiley Ledoux  
Meghan Lucas  
Michael Siegal  
Heaven Timmerman  
Miquel Vazquez  
Theodore Woods

B.) Police Commission to vote on commission member to assume roll of primary signatory to approve schedule of bills payable. Commission will also vote on back-up signatory should primary be unavailable:

Commissioner Otero made a motion to appoint Commissioner Osowski as primary signatory to approve the schedule of bills payable. Commissioner Sypek seconded that motion.

Leonard Osowski – Yes – Felix Otero – Yes – Richard Sypek - Yes

Commissioner Sypek made a motion to appoint Commissioner Otero as secondary signatory to approve the schedule of bills payable should the primary signatory be unavailable. Commissioner Otero seconded that motion.

Leonard Osowski – Yes – Felix Otero – Yes – Richard Sypek - Yes

C.) Interview and appoint one full time officer from the certification list:

1.) Thomas Pepek: Commissioner Osowski asked Thomas what he has been involved in within the Westfield Police Department since becoming a reserve officer. Thomas said it has been a long process. The last time he sat before the commission was in 2018. He said from there, he went to the reserve academy. After he graduated, he started field training with Officer Cavanaugh. They did 10 shifts. He saw every major crime except for a sex crime during those shifts. His last shift of field training included a homicide. He said that crime showed him the professionalism of the department. He said he was also in the process of applying for the state police, but after that call, he knew there was nowhere else he wanted to be. He said once he started working on his own, it was a wake-up call. He said one call in particular stood out to him. It was one of his first calls while working on his own. The call was for an unresponsive female. He said he knew that he needed to block out his emotions, to be able to make good decisions. He said that the patient's 5 year old granddaughter was present and obviously emotional and he realized that he needed to change his focus and assist the granddaughter to get her outside to her mother. He said to him, that's what being a police officer is about. It's about helping people. He knew right then, that he made the

right decision by choosing to be a police officer for the Westfield Police Department. This is exactly where he wants to be. He said he will be here forever.

- 2.) Sean Kelly: Commissioner Osowski asked Sean what he has been involved in within the Westfield Police Department since becoming a reserve officer. Sean said that he completed his field training as quickly as he could. He works a full time job during the week so he picked up about 2 field training shifts a week when a field training officer was available. Since then, it has been hard for him to take more shifts. He said his schedule at his full time job has been unpredictable, but he does try to take shifts whenever he can.
- 3.) Nathan Kantor: Commissioner Osowski asked Nathan what he has been involved in within the Westfield Police Department since becoming a reserve officer. Nathan said he had the opportunity to work with his field training officer. He was able to learn a lot from him. He does work 40 hours a week with the Hampden County Sherriff's Office plus overtime. On top of that he tries to pick up 3-4 shifts a week with the Westfield Police Department. It has made him really have to buckle down and learn to manage his time. He is able to tie both jobs together and he has learned a lot. He feels very confident working with the men and women in the Westfield Police Department. He believes he is ready to take his training to the next level. He has attended the Sherriff's academy which is structured similarly to the police academy. He feels ready to progress within the department.

Chief Valliere said that all 3 candidates would make excellent police officers. The department has a great group of reserves. He sees no reason to bypass anyone. He said his recommendation is to hire according to the order of the reserve list. Captain McCabe and Captain Pitoniak said they agreed with Chief Valliere. Commissioner Otero made a motion to hire Thomas Pepek as a full time police officer for the Westfield Police Department effective April 11, 2020. Commissioner Sypek seconded that motion.

Leonard Osowski – Yes – Felix Otero – Yes – Richard Sypek - Yes

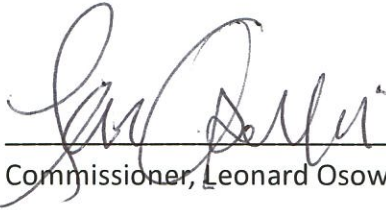
Chief's Report:


- A.) Motor Vehicle Reports: Chief Valliere said that the department's motor vehicle fleet is in good shape.
- B.) Sick & Injury Report: Chief Valliere said there are some new officers out on medical leave. These officers are in bureaus so it is not creating any overtime. There are also some officers who are out on the 8-4 shift with serious medical issues. He will need to get some more information regarding their conditions.

Announcement of Next Regular Meeting: The next meeting of the Westfield Police Commission will be Monday, February 10, 2020.

Motion to Adjourn: At 6:00 pm Commissioner Sypek made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Otero seconded that motion.

Leonard Osowski – Yes – Felix Otero – Yes – Richard Sypek - Yes

  
Commissioner, Leonard Osowski

  
Commissioner, Felix Otero

  
Commissioner, Richard Sypek

APPROVED FOR RELEASE ON  
3/9/20