



# 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 June 3, 2019 to order.

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

Date: June 3, 2019

Time: 1800 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 June 3, 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 June 3, 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.

Fire Captain Rebecca Boutin was recording the meeting. Mr. Peter Carrier of the Westfield News was recording the meeting.

All Commissioners are present.

### **PRESENT IN ATTENDANCE:**

Westfield Fire Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli, Westfield Fire Commissioner Jeffery Siegel, Fire Commissioner C. Lee Bennett, Fire Chief Patrick Egloff, Deputy Fire Chief Andrew Hart, Fire Captain Chris King, Fire Captain Keith Supinski, Fire Captain Rebecca Boutin, Temporary Fire Captain Michael Hawthorne, Temporary Fire Captain Joseph Szenda, Firefighter Kyle Miltimore, Firefighter Jon Starr, Firefighter David Kennedy, Firefighter Travis Lucia, Firefighter Nicholas Gezotis, City Councilor Michael Burns and City Councilor Matthew Emmershy, Mr. Peter Currier from the Westfield News.

**READING OF THE RECORDS OF:**

Fire Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli ascertained a motion to approve the Fire Commission Meeting Minutes April 09, 2018.

Fire Commissioner C. Lee Bennett made a motion to approve the April 09, 2018 Meeting Minutes.

Fire Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel 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**

Fire Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli ascertained a motion to approve the Fire Commission Meeting Minutes May 06, 2019.

Fire Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel made a motion to approve the May 06, 2019 Meeting Minutes.

Fire Commissioner C. Lee Bennett 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:** Commissioner Masciadrelli closed public participation.

**ROUTINE BUSINESS:**

- a. Introduction - Commissioner Masciadrelli, on behalf of the WFC, expressed thanks to all that have attended tonight.

The Chairman 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.

The Commissioner would like to express their condolences to the family of Firefighter John Edward McKay from the Southwick Fire Department. He spent 32.5 years serving as a volunteer firefighter for the Southwick Fire Department. He retired with the honor of holding badge # 1 as a senior member of the Southwick Department.

b. Letters & Communications –

Fire Chief Patrick Egloff indicated that a donation was made to the Fire Department from Barbara Braem-Jenson in the amount of \$100.00. Barbara is from Southwick. Firefighters Matthew Potter and Beth Aucoin transported her from her home.

Fire Chief Patrick Egloff read a thank you note to E4 for helping at the 350 birthday with filling up their dunk tank. This was from Boy Scouts of America troop 821. The Engine crew was Captain Chris Kane, Firefighters Randy Quarles, Eric Liptak and Chrissy Humason.

c. Dialog –

Fire Chief Patrick Egloff stated right after the May meeting they had finished up the TECC training. AJ from North Adams Ambulance came down to train, and this was through a FEMA grant. We still have money left in the grant, we are looking at doing some additional training and getting some gear.

Negotiations with the Local 1111 we have a tentative agreement with them that was signed this week, this needs to be ratified by the Union.

Chief Egloff extended a thank you to the Men and Women of the Westfield Fire Department, that they made him proud and the City of Westfield proud, with the amount of people that showed up for the 350th which was over 40 people and the Memorial Day. Commissioner Masciadrelli also said they looked sharp and it was also noted by Post 124.

Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel said he had never marched in the parade before and that it is quite an experience. He said it was a pleasure walking with all of you.

- *Continued after Special Business as forgotten in the 'Dialog' as follows:*

Chief Patrick Egloff wanted to acknowledge some firefighter, both paramedic and Emt basic that were awarded 2018 SAVE AWARDS by OMES.

Firefighter Mike Sedlak, Temporary Captain Joseph Szenda and Firefighter Willard Kopatz received an award for September 10, 2018 they responded to Noble Hospital for a "Code Stemi" transport. While transporting, the patient went into a cardiac arrest. Chest compressions were started and the patient was defibrillated once. After approximately one minute of chest compressions the patient woke up. Upon arrival at Baystate he was promptly taken to the cardiac cath lab where she was found to have a significant disease in her right coronary artery requiring two stents. On September 13<sup>th</sup> she was discharged home with no deficits.

Firefighter Richard Paul, Firefighter Ryan Chenevert, Firefighter Willard Kopatz and Firefighter Travis Lucia received an award for June 6 2018. They responded to Southwick for an unresponsive male. The patient was in cardiac arrest the Deputy responded with a second paramedic to assist. Southwick Police started CPR and delivered one shock which restored the patient's pulse and he began breathing. The Westfield crew intercepted Southwick. During transport the patient re-arrested. One shock was delivered restoring the patients pulse. Further post-resuscitative care was provided with no other incidents and care was delivered to the awaiting Baystate team. On June 16, 2018 the patient was discharged home. He is reportedly doing well.

Firefighter Cody Chatterton, Firefighter Sean Major and Firefighter Michael Albert received an award on September 9, 2018. They were called to Southwick for a patient who went into Cardiac Arrest. He was defibrillated and the chest compressions were continued until patent woke up and began pushing them away. They did a 12 lead ECG and found the patient to be having a heart attack. He was taken to the catheterization lab were he was found to have 100% occlusion in one of his coronary arteries and had a stent placed. On September 13<sup>th</sup> he was discharged home with no deficits. -----

### **SPECIAL BUSINESS:**

- a. Change requested in language, "Rules & Regulation for the Government and Discipline of the Westfield Fire Department" 'Articles XIX Uniform & Insignia' by the Fire Chief Patrick Egloff –
  1. Articles XIX Uniform & Insignia
    - 1) Fire Chief's - Hat
    - 2) Deputy Fire Chief's – Hat
    - 3) Fire Captain's – Hat
    - 4) Firefighter's (Privates) - Hat
    - 5) 'Helmet Shield' designation new Firefighter

- I. 'WESTFIELD P' {designation}
- II. Probationary Firefighter only

Commissioner Masciadrelli explained that this will be presented by Fire Chief Patrick Egloff, and that this was a team effort. He stated that the first core management team along with the supervisors are all in agreement. Captain Christopher King, the training officer, had a lot to do with this and Commissioner Masciadrelli wanted to commend him on this.

Chief Egloff explained about the bell style hat, and that what we have now is an 8 point hat. The 8 point style hat is what the police and bus driver's tend to wear. He feels the Department should go more traditional, which is a bell style hat. What he is asking you to vote on is the same exact language except the 8 point style hat is replaced with the bell style hat.

Chief Egloff said he spoke with Fire Captain Keith Supinski who is president of the local 1111 and he is in agreement with this.

Commissioner Lee Bennett asked who was going to pay for the new hats and the Chief let her know that the Firefighter will be. Commissioner Bennett asked if they get a clothing allowance for these things. Chief indicated that yes they do, new hires will receive one with their uniforms.

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli said they would move onto the Shield subject and then take a vote on both items.

The new helmet shield would be designated for new firefighters. This has been designed by Firefighter Travis Lucia. It is orange in color and the purpose is to make probationary firefighters more readily visible at the fire scene.

Chief Patrick Egloff read the rules and regulations for the helmet shield for probationary firefighters. This is to make the firefighters more readily visible at the fire scene and within a limited visibility incident. All firefighters under probation will wear an orange and white leather shield. The orange shield with a prominent letter P will be worn until the end of their probationary period. At the end of their probationary period the firefighter will write their initial on the back of the shield. This will be carved in. This will be a new tradition that will be handed down. Once handed into the Clerk or designee, then will be handed a fire department helmet front.

This idea came from Fire Captain Keith Supinski and C group. This shield was designed by Firefighter Travis Lucia and Fire Captain Chris King. This was paid for by the Local 1111 Union and money from Captain King, because it was more than the maximum you can ask for. The shield was made by Travis Lucia.

Chief Patrick Egloff thanked everyone for the idea and stated he was 100% behind it.

Chief Patrick Egloff explained right now the only way to distinguish anyone at a fire scene is the color of their helmet, or by the name on the back of their coats.

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli ascertained a motion to approve the change of the design of the hats for all personnel to include a helmet design change for probationary firefighters.

Commissioner Lee Bennett made the motion to approve the change to the probationary firefighter shield and to change to the bell style hat for all personnel.

Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel seconded the motion.

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli asked if there was any discussion.

Commissioner Siegel and Commissioner Bennett added what a nice job they did on this and they commended those involved.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Commissioner Siegel	Yes
Commissioner Bennett	Yes
Commissioner Masciadrelli	Yes

YES (3)      NO (0)

MOTION PASSED

OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli explained to the other Commissioners about the Personnel Department and the procedures. He explained that Personnel is still without a Personnel Director and that the two employees in there are doing the best that they can do. The interim Personnel Director is doing the best she can, she is the Payroll Director helping out with Personnel. The Commissioner has been in Personnel helping them and he said they are doing a very good job of getting us on track.

a. Westfield Fire Chief position –

1. Certified Civil Service List 05600 – this has been sent to HRD this is closed.

b. Westfield Deputy Fire Chief position –

1. Certified Civil Service List 04274 – this has been sent to HRD this is closed.

c. HRD Certification Civil Service List 06322 'Firefighter' vacancy up-date-

1. Working Title : Firefighter {Paramedic}

We had a vacancy for one position since then with the process of appointing of the Chief and Deputy Chief, the Westfield Fire Commission sent the letter to HRD asking to extend the vacancy to two more positions.

2. Vacancy : One (1)

- 1) WFC state update to increase vacancy to two (2) with same 'Working Title'.

This list has a vacancy population of three. To the Commissioners knowledge three people have signed the list. This is the Paramedic state wide list, which is 36 pages long.

d. HRD Certification Civil Service List 05591 – Fire Commission/Fire Chief

1. Working Title: Fire Captain (TYP) – this in our NEOGOV account for two vacancies.

2. Vacancy: Two (2)

1. WFC status discussion update. The letter went out on Friday from Personnel. They have a list that needs to be signed whether they will accept the position. There are six candidates on this list. They will be interviewing all six. The commissioner is hoping to do this this month with the pre interviews. There is a lot of work to do within the next three weeks, but the Commissioner will try to wrap it up by the end of the month.

e. WFD Local 1111 'Tabled' Grievances requested by the Union President Fire Captain Keith Supinski, to pull back, eliminate, the following four (4) grievances via Email request 05.28.2019 – Fire Commission.

1. Grievance Number 081318
  - 1) Motion to take off table
  - I Motion to return to Local 1111

2. Grievance Number 081318A
  - 1). Motion to take off table
  - I. Motion to return to Local 1111

- 3 Grievance Number 081318B
  - 1) Motion to take off table
    - I. Motion to return to Local 1111
- 4 Grievance Number 081318C
  - 1) Motion to take off table
    - I. Motion to return to Local 1111

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli ascertained a motion to take the Grievance off the table and immediately ascertain a motion to return them to the Local 1111.

Commissioner C. Lee Bennett asked the question. "What are the rights of the individuals who originally filed the grievance?"

- Captain Keith Supinski Union President wanted to make it clear to everyone that this is because Judge Sweeney did null and void to the day before everyone was put on administrative leave, so because they were not put on administrative leave in the eyes of the Judge, these grievances do not exist. It's not that we are not saying this was not a wrong doing, we are saying that this never happened according to the Judge. That is why we are asking to have them off. These have been hanging over the Commissions head for almost a year now. Now that everything is done with the Judge, we can have this removed and it is gone. Captain Supinski again stressed that it not that we want to take them back and everyone is copasetic with them, it's just that this never happened. Because this did not happen, we do not have a grievance.

Commissioner Jeffery Siegel made the motion.

Commissioner Lee Bennett seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Commissioner Siegel	Yes
Commissioner Bennett	Yes
Commissioner Masciadrelli	Yes

YES (3)      NO (0)

MOTION PASSED

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli made a motion to return the Local 1111 grievances back to Local 1111.

ROLL CALL VOTE:



Westfield Fire Commission

06/03/2019

Page 9 of 9

Commissioner Siegel	Yes
Commissioner Bennett	Yes
Commissioner Masciadrelli	Yes

YES (3)      NO (0)

MOTION PASSED

NEW BUSINESS:    None

Adjournment:

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli ascertained a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

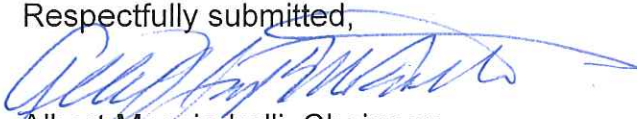
Commissioner C. Lee Bennett seconded the motion.

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

MOTION PASSED

Time: 1930 hours

Respectfully submitted,



Albert Masciadrelli, Chairman  
Westfield Fire Commission  
AJM/ajm/pab