

# MEETING OF THE WESTFIELD POLICE COMMISSION RECEIVED

WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

January 12, 2026

FEB 11 2026

The Westfield Police Commission meeting was called to order at City Hall, 59 Court Street, Westfield, MA in Council Chambers at 5:30 pm.

WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

Commissioner Sypek asked for anyone recording the meeting to identify themselves; there were none.

**Roll Call:** Richard Sypek – Present James Irwin – Present Peter Velis – Present

## Approval and Release of Minutes

Commissioner Irwin motioned to approve and release the regular and executive session minutes dated December 8, 2025.

Commissioner Sypek: Yes Commissioner Irwin: Yes Commissioner Velis: Yes

## Open Participation

None

## New Business

### a. Chief's Report

Chief Pitoniak reported that Bill H.3916 allowing Westfield to establish the age limit of 39 for police applicants was signed by the governor on December 17<sup>th</sup> and Civil Service has already updated their website. Civil Service has also approved the MOA for the hybrid model allowing an alternative hiring path. There is a possibility of losing two to three officers to the state police, and the four recent hires have begun to be added to the academy.

Commissioner Irwin inquired if there is any cross-training program between ranks in place. Chief Pitoniak answered that the sergeant to lieutenant is not that big of a change since the sergeants have to sit at the lieutenant's desk at certain times. They train patrol to sergeants, Captain Hall has offered training to lieutenants for the admin captain role, and Captain Dickinson has lieutenant meetings.

The building committee will meet on January 14<sup>th</sup>, and the working group will meet on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. There has been no response yet from federal or state on the body-worn camera grants. The comfort dog program is going great, but the canine program is waiting for new dogs in the spring for the program to start over.

### b. Captain's Reports

Captain Hall reported that he is currently working on the fiscal year 2027 budget with the first round due February 6<sup>th</sup>, but the contracts are not yet settled. The supervisors have an agreement, and hopefully the patrolman will be done before next fiscal year. The city council sets the number of officers for the fiscal year budget and then the mayor can add or cut. The city council set the officers to 70, but the budget is only for 66.

Subscription-based services are increasing with items changing from a one-time capital program to subscription-based requiring budgeting for the yearly cost. He is working with the regional dispatch, fire department, and Southwick police and fire on a new CAD management system with an optional AI module. The current system is very outdated and not supported anymore. The tech center will be hiring a new public safety liaison. The department has completed the CJIS audit. Lastly, a couple traffic control

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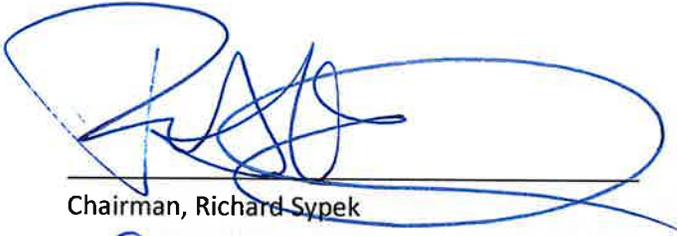
attendants will need to be re-sworn in next month as they did not work the required 40 hours to stay on the list.

Commissioner Irwin mentioned receiving an email this afternoon from Officer Perron asking about how to formally go to step 3 {with his grievance}. Chief Pitoniak replied that he has been contacted by the mayor and HR and that Officer Perron already has gone to step 3. Commissioner Velis reminded the commission that Officer Perron has his own counsel to guide him.

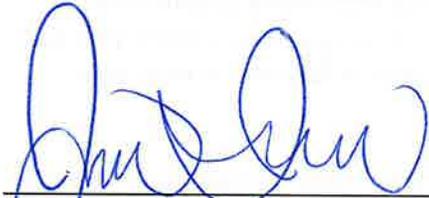
### Announcement of the Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 9, 2026 at 5:30 pm.

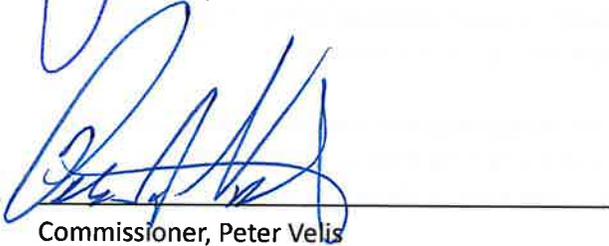
The meeting adjourned at 6:03 pm.



Chairman, Richard Sypek



Commissioner, James Irwin



Commissioner, Peter Velis

APPROVED FOR RELEASE ON 2/9/26