

# City of Westfield Massachusetts

## Public Health & Safety Committee

### Meeting Minutes

Date: February 6, 2019

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: City Hall 59 Court Street - Room: 201

RECEIVED

MAY 31 2019

WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

## Agenda

### 1. Call to Order: 6:00 PM

- A. Recording of the meeting: Peter Currier, reporter for The Westfield News
- B. Roll Call Attendance: X Mary Ann Babinski; X Daniel Allie; X Michael Burns
- C. Public Participation: None ; Vote to Close: 3-0
- D. Approval of meeting minutes for Jan 3, 2019: Minutes were unavailable. Motion by Councilor Allie to postpone vote until the next meeting; second by Councilor Burns; Vote: 3-0 to approve

### 2. Agenda Items:

- A. 1/17/19 Upon motion by Councilor Bean it was voted: That the Police department come in and discuss the plan for school resource officers at the schools for the rest of the academic year.
  - Present to address the issue were Police Chief John Camerota and Councilor Brent Bean.
  - Chief Camerota reported that he had advised the Superintendent that SRO's (school resource officers) would be back in the schools; one on Thursday (2/7/19) and the other two on Monday (2/11/19). The issue arose when up to 18 officers were not available due to injuries, police academy attendance, military leave and a retirement. The shortage required more overtime hours in order to fill some of the shifts. The Chief commented that the officers who do this day in and out stepped up.
  - Councilor Bean commented that he was glad that the details had been worked out and SRO's could be returned to the schools. Councilor Babinski asked if the temporary fix Councilor Bean had worked out in cooperation with the WPD to address the lack of manpower would be used as a backup plan should the issue present itself again. Chief Camerota commented that in his 42 years in the WPD he has never experience this issue and hopes that it would be highly unlikely to happen again. If it did, a plan would be in place to address it.
  - Councilor Emmershy, who was present at the meeting, asked the Chief to address a question he received from a resident (?). Why weren't the Community Police Officers pulled to cover shortages before the SRO's? The Chief responded that as he assesses these situations, many factors come into play in making a decision. This decision was based on evaluating those factors and his experience as chief. Councilor Babinski agreed that in the final analysis it was the chief's call to make. Councilor Burns also agreed.
  - Councilor Babinski shared an email comment from School Superintendent Stefan Czaprowski who could not attend the committee meeting: "The School Department is grateful for the full-time restoration of school resource officers. I would like to thank Chief Camerota for making officers available as needed over the last month and for his timely communication with me as this situation developed and subsequently resolved."

- Councilor Babinski asked Councilor Bean if there were any other issues related to his motion that would require it to remain in committee. He responded, no. If there are other conversations to be had, those can be addressed at a later time.
- Councilor Burns commented that it was good that this all came together. Councilor Allie thanked the officers for stepping up. The committee as a whole expressed gratitude to the Chief and the WPD.

**Motion** by Councilor Burns to remove from committee and report out to the City Council; was Seconded by Councilor Allie; Vote: 3-0 to approve

B. 5/17/18 Upon motion of Councilor Morganelli (Emmershy, and Babinski), it was voted: To review and update the public on the safety of the city's drinking water supply. Referred to Public Health & Safety Committee and Public Works Director Dave Billips. 6/7/18 Remain in Committee; 1/3/19 Remain in Committee

- DPW Director Billips informed the committee that the Granville Reservoir is full and going over the boards. Wells 7&8 are on track to go on-line by early summer or sooner. The filtration vessels have been ordered. The design for the East Mountain Road Water Tank will go out to bid soon. It will be slightly smaller than the existing tank. The new tank will be built next to the old tank which will be dismantled when the new one completed. The design for the filtration plant for wells 1& 2 is progressing and should go out to bid by the end of the year.
- Director Billips presented a Timeline for Temporary Treatment (see attachment) related to the testing of the filter on Well #2 and the private wells with water filtration systems. Well #2 is being tested every 2 or 3 weeks. They are testing more often than necessary. There is ND (non-detect) of the PFAS contaminants at the mid-fluent stage which is a very good sign that the filters are doing the job. Results of testing are posted on the city website. He wants the public to know that the DPW and the water department are going above and beyond to deal with this issue. Mis-information is not helpful.
- Councilor Babinski mentioned that it is re-assuring to note that the city DPW and Water Department were pro-active in dealing with the water contamination issue. Working with the MassDEP and other experts, they have done well in comparison to other communities. Residents can visit the MassDEP website and view items related to PFAS contamination under the *Top Actions & Services* section. They continue to be actively involved in participating in workshops, conferences and panel discussions. Heather Stayton and Fran Cain are not attending this meeting because they are returning from participating in a panel discussion in Maine.
- Director Billips noted that a video done by CDM will be posted on the city website for the public to view. He has a role in the video and suggests it would be worth viewing.
- The committee thanked Director Billips for his presentation. A discussion followed regarding whether or not to leave this item in committee or remove it from committee. Councilors Burns and Babinski discussed the need for having reports made to this committee when the DPW and Water Department already report to the Water Commission. Councilor Allie suggested perhaps a report to PH&S quarterly of every other month as needed would suffice. Director Billips was not opposed to reporting to this committee.

**Motion** by Councilor Allie to report out to City Council and to remain in committee, leaving the frequency open-ended. Seconded by Councilor Burns; Vote: 3-0 to approve

C. 5/17/18 Upon motion of Councilor Morganelli, it was voted: That the city's trash pickup routes be reviewed and be Referred to Public Health & Safety Committee and Public Works Director Dave Billips 6/7/18 Remain in Committee and Referred to Dave Billips DPW Director; 1/3/19 Remain in Committee

- Director Billips informed the committee that the DPW is in the process of doing an inventory on the number of barrels in the city. This is a necessary first step. It may take a few months or more. After this step, they will review the routes.
- Residents who need additional barrels are required to pay for them. When they find unaccounted for extra barrels in some areas, they remove them.
- Councilor Babinski mentioned a discussion regarding a recommendation to have barrels placed on one-side of the street. Is this still a part of this discussion? It was agreed that this should not be recommended .
- Routes will eventually be looked at. For now it was considered that this item could be removed from the PH&S committee.

**Motion** by Councilor Burns to report out to the City Council and remove from committee;  
 Second by Councilor Allie; Vote: 3-0 to approve

D. 8/16/18 Upon motion of Councilor Babinski, it was voted: That the need for a sidewalk extending from Southampton Road along Arch Road and Lockhouse to Twiss Street be reviewed and assessed.  
 1/3/19 Remain in Committee

- Councilor Babinski noted that the residents who made this request were not present. She had contacted them and left v/m but had not heard back from them.
- City Engineer Mark Cressotti was in attendance to address this motion. He described the issues that would be involved in putting such a sidewalk in place. There would be issues with gaining rights of way, the PVRR presence, brook crossings, narrowness of sections of the roadway etc. Even if possible, the cost could run up to \$150,000 to \$200,000. Resources would be needed. There are no resources now.
- Councilor Babinski mentioned, it was projected that the Cabot Road/ Tpks Industrial Park development has the potential of bringing in 3000 to 3500 additional vehicle traffic to the area.
- Mr. Cressottii mentioned that they and the state are investigating changes to the Turnpike interchange and Southampton Rd. They will possibly be looking at work/alterations that may be needed on Arch Road. If this effort moves forward, we can only hope that monies may be made available.
- It will be kept on the radar should any future possibility become viable.
- Councilor Babinski will share the decision with the residents.

**Motion** by Councilor Burns to report out to the City Council and remove from committee;  
 Second by Councilor Allie; Vote: 3-0 to approve

3. **Next Meeting Date: TBD**

4. **Motion to Adjourn: 7:06 PM** by Councilor Burns; Seconded by Councilor Allie; 3-0 to approve

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Councilor Mary Ann Babinski, Chairperson

**Approved 5/30/19**



PHIS 2/4/19  
Report Date Bill

### Timeline for Temporary Treatment

- Well tested on October 24, 2018
- Test results received November 13 and showed no contamination or breakthrough
- November 14, well put into operation but ran sparingly due to low demand
- December 20, well tested again, non detect
- January 17, well tested again, non detect
- February 5, well tested, awaiting results
- Private wells with systems put in by DEP running over a year and a half with no breakthrough
- There has never been arsenic detected in any of the drinking water sources including the Shaker Road treatment plant that has been running carbon filtration units for over 20 years

