



**WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS  
WESTFIELD FIRE COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 7, 2022**



Fire Commissioner C. Lee Bennett called the meeting of the Westfield Fire Commission (hereinafter WFC) of February 7, 2022 to order.

Location: ZOOM MEETIN ID# 82959847568

Date: February 7, 2022

Time: 17:00 hours

**MINUTES TAKEN:**

Ms. Patricia Breton, Westfield Fire Department (hereinafter 'WFD') Office Manager

Chairman's announcement:

Westfield Fire Commissioner C. Lee Bennett 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 February 7, 2022 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..

Westfield Fire Commissioner C. Lee Bennett 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.

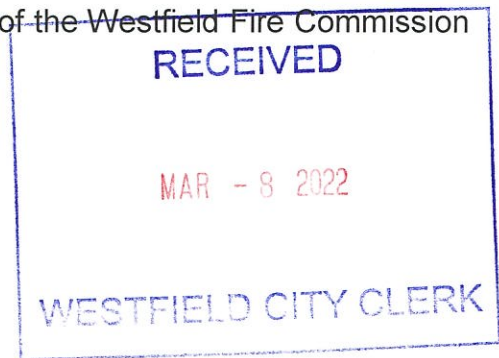
**PRESENT IN ATTENDANCE:**

Westfield Fire Commissioner C. Lee Bennett, Westfield Fire Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel, Fire Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli, Fire Chief Patrick Egloff, Peter Currier Westfield News and Peter Cowles is recording the audio. City Council members Brent Bean and Mike Burns joined the meeting. Deputy Chief Eric Bishop also joined.

**ROLL CALL:**

Commissioner C. Lee Bennett asked for a roll call.

Commissioner C. Lee Bennett – present  
Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel – present  
Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli – present



**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None

**READING OF THE RECORD OF:**

- a. WFC Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes January 03, 2022. Vote to accept.

Commissioner C. Lee Bennett ascertained a motion to accept the Meeting Minutes of January 03, 2022.

Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel seconded the motion.

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli abstained, he had not had a chance to read the minutes yet.

**Roll Call**

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli	abstained
Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel	YES
Commissioner C. Lee Bennett	YES

YES (2)      NO (0)

**Motion Passed**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None

**ROUTINE BUSINESS:**

- a. Introduction – Chief Egloff went right into Letters and Communications.
- b. Letters and Communications – Chief Patrick Egloff read a letter from Nancy Kotowitz owner of Shaker Farms Country Club, thanking the WFD on behalf of the Shriners Hospital for Children and the Children of Westfield, for the Santa’s Ride to Shriner annual Breakfast. The Shriners Hospital for Children was thrilled with the donation we were able to make from this event.

A thank you from Elizabeth Eastman, Deputy Director of the Westfield Food Pantry sent a thank you for the donation of \$935.00. This was due to the generous donations collected during the hockey game between the Westfield Fire Department and the Westfield Police.

Agawam Fire Chief Alan Sirois sent a letter to Chief Egloff acknowledging Firefighter/Paramedic Sean Major along with two other off duty firefighter, who performed CPR on a man, which went into cardiac arrest while playing hockey. Sean willingness to act reflects positively on your fire department and Sean should be commended.

Chief read an email he received from Dan Whalen thanking the WFD for their assistance to him and his wife on January 30, 2022. They were struck broadside by a young man who ran a red light. Our car was push over 30 feet into a chain link fence. The Westfield Police and Fire Department were there within minutes. When the Fire Department arrived we were entangled in the chain link fence, the driver's door was inoperative. My wife and I both obtained injuries, but within five to ten minutes the WFD had disentangled our car from the fence and entered the vehicle. My wife was collared and brought to Noble Hospital, I was trapped between the cars center console and the demolished driver side door. I was instructed not to move and within seconds the driver side door was wide open. I was taken to Baystate Trauma Center. My wife and I are expected to recover fully. I cannot tell you how impressed I was with the deliberate speed and efficiency with which your firefighters performed in such a chaotic and dire situation. Please rely our thanks to all involved. I am sure you are fully aware of what a privilege it is to lead such men and women during such trying times as these. Chief Egloff responded to the email and told him this is the norm for our organization. Even though this is what we do, many of our members feel that being able to do the job is enough recognition for them. I disagree, emails such as this one, give recognition when recognition is due. Thank you for your kind words, the members who were on that call were engine company Captain paramedic Christopher King, firefighter/paramedic Phil Proudly, firefighter Brain McEwan. Ambulance Med 30 who transported you are firefighter/paramedic Christopher Brown and firefighter/paramedic Jacob Conway. Ambulance Med 40 transported your wife were firefighter/paramedic Tyler Garfield and firefighter Colin Burns. This was put in everyone personnel file, and read to the group.

## **REPORTS FROM THE WFD & WFC:**

- a) Chief Egloff to report on status of key areas of the department.

### **Departmental Promotional List:**

Chief stated that he checked with Civil Service and the Deputy Chiefs exam was postponed from last year, and it will happen this May. This has been opened up to the Privates as you voted on last month. This has been posted at all stations and the Public Safety Eligibility form has been updated. Both forms have been uploaded to NeoGov.

### **Organization Status:**

We have two openings that we are not able to fill per Personnel and Law Departments.

Covid is starting to wane, the numbers are coming down and we are seeing that with our men and women. To the public he stressed, you still need to be diligent and still wear your mask where you are told to wear your mask, use hand sanitizer and take care of yourselves and your family.

We have two members who are currently IOD one of which has been long term. We have one member out FMLA long term status, which is unknown and would refer that to Personnel, if you have any questions.

Chief received three firefighter progress reports, one for Tyler Garfield, one for Nicholas Hope and one for Timothy Gavrilov. These two are for five months and Garfield's is for 10 months. They are all meeting the expected performance standards. Hope has just started paramedic school in November and Gavrilov is coming to the end of his training and should test out this spring. Garfield came to us as a paramedic.

Chief spoke to Chris D'Angelo about the update on a potential transfer. Chief explained that it preliminarily appears, that Holyoke may not let him go. He anticipates that the request will be turned down by their Commission. There is two weeks before their meeting, if they do not let him go then we will have to look into hiring someone. We have received through the proper channels to hire a paramedic. He is hoping to hire Chris D'Angelo, if not they will have to call for another requisition.

Chief Egloff recognize Sean Major for his heroics during a hockey game, where he and other off duty firefighter noticed a person's become unconscious and provided CPR and defibrillator, saving the person's life. There will be a ceremony at 1:00 on February 16, 2022 in West Springfield's Mayors office, where he will be recognized with a citation. This information will be forwarded to Mayor McCabe.

This is a really good story, Sean's mother has put defibrillator throughout our City. This has come full circle with Sean being where he was, his calling in life and saving a human life. I am extremely proud of Sean Major and all the Men and Woman of the Westfield Fire Department. Chief said Sean told him I was just doing my job. Sean was doing his job, he did not hesitate, he did the right thing.

Commissioner C. Lee Bennett stated she thought he went above and beyond. Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli said he received many phone calls and Sean was on his way out and did not hesitate to stop and help. He was glad Chief was recognizing him.

Commissioner C. Lee Bennett asked that the Chief extend their thanks to him.

#### **Acquisition of 2022 Apparatus/Equipment:**

Last month the Chief informed the Commission that he wrote a letter to Mayor McCabe requesting funding for fire equipment and securing our buildings. He has approved both and it was presented to the City Council and sent to the Finance

Committee. Chief Egloff said that Mayor McCabe understands what we are looking for and what we are trying to do. I appreciated that from Mayor McCabe.

### **FY2023 Budget:**

The FY 2023 budget process update, Chief met with the Mayor Elect to discuss path going forward, level funded budget was submitted to the Mayor. The next steps will entail sitting down with the Mayor and Auditor and going over the wants and needs of the Fire Department. Contract negotiations will start toward the end of February which may affect the budget process.

### **Grant Processes:**

Chief Egloff went in front of the Finance Committee on Monday January 31 to talk about the Mass DFS FY22 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Program. He would like to get an extra pair of gloves and a nomex hood for each Fire Department member and to purchase a SCBA fit tester that would allow us; to make sure that everyone was using the correct mask every year and is required under NFPA guidelines. The grant passed the City Council vote on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Chief Egloff wrote the grant for a little over \$20,000.00 and received almost \$18,000.00. Once the contract is signed by the Mayor, I will be purchasing all of that equipment. A little over \$2,000.00 will be coming out of the existing Fire Department supply budget.

### **Update on the Annual Report:**

Chief Egloff received letters from the Commission and they are being put in the same format, so it all looks the same. His hopes are to present it to the Commission at the next meeting in March.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### a) Potential Transfer of a Paramedic Firefighter from a local Fire Department:

This was discussed earlier, but Chief Egloff said after talking to his Chief he has had other people transfer, so he is not looking at any other transfers in the future. Chief spoke to Christopher D'Angelo and he is still going to go talk to his Chief. Right now we are in limbo with him. When you look at New Business you will see why we have an opening.

Commission Masciadrelli asked if the new list has come out. Chief Egloff said it has not. They have given the test two years in a row due to Covid and they are now going to merge the two tests. We are hoping the new list has more Paramedics on it. We have not received a list yet, nor have we received the Captains marks.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

a. Vote to accept Jacob Conway's Resignation.

Commissioner C. Lee Bennett made a motion to accept Jacob Conway's resignation.

Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel made the motion to accept Jacob Conway's resignation

Commissioner C. Lee Bennett seconded the motion.

Any Discussion

Commissioner Masciadrelli asked if there was a letter given. Chief Egloff said yes there was. Without prejudice. Yes

**Roll Call**

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli	YES
Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel	YES
Commissioner C. Lee Bennett	YES

YES (3)      NO (0)

**Motion Passed**

b. Vote to elect the Fire commission Chair.

Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel made a motion to appoint C. Lee Bennett as Chair of the Commission.

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli seconded the motion.

Any Discussion

Commissioner Masciadrelli asked if it was true it had to be rotated. Commissioner Bennett said no it does not have to be rotated, but has to be voted on each year.

**Roll Call**

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli	YES
Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel	YES
Commissioner C. Lee Bennett	YES

YES (3)      NO (0)

**Motion Passed**

Commissioner C. Lee Bennett ascertained a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli made a motion to adjourn

Commissioner C. Lee Bennett seconded the motion.

Next Commission meeting will be March 7, 2022. Time will be announced

**Roll Call**

Commissioner Albert Masciadrelli	YES
Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel	YES
Commissioner C. Lee Bennett	YES

YES (3)      NO (0)

**Motion Passed**

Time 17:50 hours

Respectfully submitted,



C. Lee Bennett, Chair  
Westfield Fire Commission  
pab

