



**WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
WESTFIELD FIRE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 9, 2026**



Fire Commissioner Chairperson Jeffrey Trant called the meeting of the Westfield Fire Commission (hereinafter WFC) of February 9, 2026 to order.

Location: Westfield Fire Department Station 2
Community Room
366 Little River Road
Westfield, MA

RECEIVED

MAR 17 2026

Date: Monday, February 9, 2026

Time: 18:01 hours

WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

MINUTES TAKEN:

Christie Fillion, Westfield Fire Department (hereinafter 'WFD') Office Manager

Chairman's announcement:

Westfield Fire Commissioner Chairperson Jeffrey Trant 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 meeting of February 9, 2026, is being audio-recorded.

Westfield Fire Commissioner Chairperson Jeffrey Trant also made the following inquiry. If there is anyone making a video or audio recording of the meeting, please provide your names and addresses to the Commission. No one else was recording the meeting.

PRESENT IN ATTENDANCE:

Fire Commissioners Jeffrey Trant, Jeffrey Siegel and Brian Sutton. Deputy Chiefs Eric Bishop, Pat Kane Jr, and Chris King. Fire Captain Mike Hawthorne. Firefighters Jack Bacis, Aidan King, Willard Kopatz, Travis Lucia, Sean Major, Kyle Morrissey, Devun Nadeau, Clarke Robinson, Kyle Roy, and Erika Rubner. Personnel Director Anne Larkham. City Councilor Dan Knapik. Candidates Nawfal Alitbi, Tyler Barker, James Greene, Brayden Kukucka, Colby Nadeau, Michael Neilsen and Austin Senfleben. Retired Firefighter Ray Neilsen.

Commissioner Trant requested a roll call.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel Present

Commissioner Brian Sutton	Absent/Tardy
Commissioner Jeffrey Trant	Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

READING OF THE RECORD OF:

a. WFC Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2026. Vote to accept.

Motion: Fire Commissioner Trant ascertained a motion to accept the WFD Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2026.

Commissioner Siegel made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of January 12, 2026.

Fire Commissioner Trant seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel	YES
Commissioner Jeffrey Trant	YES
Commissioner Brian Sutton	Absent/Tardy

YES (2) NO (0)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Deputy Bishop mentioned the two recent fires suppressed by A and C Group. One fire was on Washington St which was a basement fire. The other was at Westfield Electroplating where multiple agencies were called in including the MA Hazmat Team. Deputy Bishop wanted to congratulate everyone who responded to those fires.

Firefighter Devun Nadeau spoke in support in the potential hiring of Colby Nadeau as he feels Colby will be of great benefit to the department with his experience in heights and dangerous situations. Firefighter Devun Nadeau requested the Commission’s consideration.

Firefighter Aidan King seconded Devun Nadeau’s comments.

ROUTINE BUSINESS:

a. Introduction – Introductions were made by the two Fire Commissioners. Fire Commissioner Trant apologized that he will need to leave the meeting early due to an emergency at approximately 18:55 hours and the interviews will be handled by the other two Commissioners.

b. Letters and Communications – Deputy Chief Chris King read one letter received by Chief Egloff dated January 20, 2026. The gentleman thanked the Fire Department for the

quick response and the competence and compassion exhibited by the EMTs. The EMTs on this call were Firefighter/Paramedic Sean Major and Firefighter/EMT Jacob Montalvo.

Fire Commissioner Brian Sutton arrived at the meeting at 18:05 hours.

REPORTS FROM THE WFD & WFC:

- a. Chief Egloff to report on the status of key areas of the department. This item did not occur at tonight's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Discussion and report on the monthly committee meeting to implement the recommendations from the MRI review.

Firefighter Clarke Robinson provided the update:

1. Training Ground: Willard Kopatz and Devun Nadeau found a solid location to pursue. They also identified a Conex box company to begin building a structure if the location is acquired.
2. Recognition Ceremony: They are working on acquiring a budget and a location. The location will probably be one of the Westfield schools.
3. Labor Management Committee: The committee is progressing and continuing the recruiting of candidates. The first meeting is scheduled for May. Deputy Bishop, several privates and Captain Chris Kane are on this committee.
4. Other updates: Updates on learning systems and a few other smaller items.
5. The next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2026 at 2 p.m.

- b. Updates to the Fire Chief job description, as presented by Personnel Director Larkham at the November, December 2025 and January 2026 meetings.

The Personnel Action Committee reviewed the job description, and the City Council approved the updated the Fire Chief job description at last Thursday's meeting (February 5, 2026).

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Discussion and vote on the Chair position of the Fire Commission. This item was tabled to next month.

Motion:

Fire Commissioner Trant ascertained a motion to table this item for next month's meeting.

Fire Commissioner Sutton made a motion to table this until the next meeting.

Fire Commissioner Siegel seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel	YES
Commissioner Jeffrey Trant	YES
Commissioner Brian Sutton	YES

YES (3)	NO (0)
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Motion Passed

- b. Discussion with Fire Prevention Deputy King and potential vote on changing the permit and code fee structure of the Westfield Fire Department.

Deputy Fire Chief Chris King supplied documents to the Commissioners regarding our current fees, the proposed fees along with a fee schedule from Northampton and Charlton.

Our current fees have been at the current rate of \$40 since prior to 2009. Mass General Laws dictates that some of these permit and code fees are maxed at \$50. The proposal is to raise certain permits from \$40 to \$50 per the allowance by MGL. There are two fees he wanted to focus on, and they would be fees for the smoke detector inspections and plan reviews for fire protection systems.

Currently we are charging \$40 for a single-family home and adding \$10 for each additional unit in the building. The MGL allows a two-family to be charged \$100, 3-to-6 unit \$150 and 7 or more units \$500.

In 2016, there was a shift for plan reviews of fire protection systems (sprinkler and alarms systems) from the Fire Department to the Building Department. However, the Building Dept still has the plans reviewed by the Fire Department. Deputy Chief King proposes a commercial plan review be priced as \$125 for buildings between 0–5,000 square feet, \$175 for 5,001-7,500 square feet and \$200 for 7,501 square feet and above. These plan reviews do take time and he feels the department should be compensated for that time.

Commissioner Trant asked about the approximate volume of projects in the last year. Deputy C. King listed several different addresses.

Motion:

Fire Commissioner Trant ascertained a motion to approve the permit and code fee structure presented by Deputy C. King *“and to send this fee structure on to the Mayor”*.

Fire Commissioner Siegel made a motion to approve this fee structure.

Fire Commissioner Sutton seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Commissioner Sutton asked if these were one-time fees for the residential fees. Deputy C. King responded that the residential fees were for residential homes for purchase of sale.

Christie Fillion, Office Manager, asked for clarification as to the cost of residential smoke and carbon monoxide re-inspections. The fee would be \$50. She also clarified to Deputy King and the Commissioners the current cost of a quarterly inspection is \$20 for a total of \$80 for the year as it was listed in the document as \$40.

Roll Call

Commissioner Brian Sutton	YES
Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel	YES
Commissioner Jeffrey Trant	YES

YES (3) NO (0)

Motion Passed

Deputy C. King added one last item. M.G.L. 148 states that any time the fees are raised above \$25 in a municipality, the approval also needs to come from the mayor.

An Amendment was made to the motion: Commissioner Trant made a friendly amendment to the motion "to be sent to the Mayor". This amendment is noted above in quotes and italicized.

- c. Interview seven candidates for four open positions, discussion and vote to conditionally hire to the position of:
Firefighter/Basic EMT.
Effective start date: Per Chief Egloff

1. Nawfal Alitbi
2. Michael Neilsen
3. Austin Senfleben
4. Tyler Barker
5. Colby Nadeau
6. James Greene (Tied for 6th)
7. Brayden Kukucka (Tied for 6th)

Christie Fillion distributed the interview question/score sheets to the three Fire Commissioners.

Deputy C. King informed the Fire Commission regarding what the process consisted of for the hiring from the hybrid model. A policy was created and it included how the job

openings were going to be advertised for the hybrid model. The openings were advertised on social media and the City of Westfield's Fire Department webpage. Deputy King thanked Firefighter Travis Lucia for creating the flyer, Christie Fillion for updating the Fire Department City's webpage and Firefighter Katie Verrochi for editing information submitted to the webpage.

There were eight people interested in applying and seven returned their packets to the Fire Department. Internally, the seven candidates were ranked as a stepping point for the Fire Commissioners. Within the Civil Service Hybrid Model, there isn't a limit to the order of hiring any of these candidates. There isn't a rule that the first hired must come from the top three as with the standard Civil Service hiring rules.

The ranking was based on operational needs as follows:

1. Paramedics or those in Paramedic school
2. Fire Experience (volunteer, full-time fire department service, or Firefighter Certification I & II)
3. Education (Associate's or Bachelor's Degree in applicable majors)
4. Military Time
5. Residency

At this time, the interview process began for the seven candidates. They were interviewed in the order listed above.

The completed application packets were provided to the Commissioners for their review at the start of each candidate's interview.

Commissioner Trant left the meeting at 18:45. This was at the conclusion of the first interview with the first candidate.

At the conclusion of the seven interviews, a recess was taken.

Motion:

Fire Commissioner Sutton made a motion for a brief recess.

Fire Commissioner Siegel seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel	YES
Commissioner Brian Sutton	YES
Commissioner Jeffrey Trant	Absent

YES (2) NO (0)

Recess at 20:00 hours.

Back in Session at 20:15 hours.

The two Fire Commissioners reviewed their score sheets and their rankings.

Commissioner Sutton spoke to the candidates and told them if they are not hired tonight, more opportunities will come.

Deputy King also mentioned that we know there are retirements pending in the next couple of months and the department is expecting to hire for 3 more positions by summer.

Motion:

Fire Commissioner Siegel ascertained a motion to offer the **first** Firefighter/Basic EMT position to **Austin Senfleben** for a conditional offer of employment. Conditions of this offer include a successful full department physical, a positive psychological evaluation, passing of the background check, passing of the Massachusetts Physical Abilities Test (PAT), the completion of the Career Recruit Massachusetts Fire Academy Program and obtaining Paramedic certification with 28 months of hire.

Fire Commissioner Sutton made a motion to offer the conditional offer of employment.

Fire Commissioner Siegel seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel	YES
Commissioner Brian Sutton	YES
Commissioner Jeffrey Trant	Absent

YES (2) NO (0)

Motion Passed

Motion:

Fire Commissioner Siegel ascertained a motion to offer the **second** Firefighter/Basic EMT position to **Nawfal Alitbi** for a conditional offer of employment. Conditions of this offer include a successful full department physical, a positive psychological evaluation, passing of the background check, passing of the Massachusetts Physical Abilities Test (PAT), the completion of the Career Recruit Massachusetts Fire Academy Program and obtaining Paramedic certification within 28 months of hire.

Fire Commissioner Sutton made a motion to offer the conditional offer of employment.

Fire Commissioner Siegel seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel	YES
Commissioner Brian Sutton	YES
Commissioner Jeffrey Trant	Absent

YES (2) NO (0)

Motion Passed**Motion:**

Fire Commissioner Siegel ascertained a motion to offer the **third** Firefighter/Basic EMT position to **Colby Nadeau** for a conditional offer of employment. Conditions of this offer include a successful full department physical, a positive psychological evaluation, passing of the background check, passing of the Massachusetts Physical Abilities Test (PAT), the completion of the Career Recruit Massachusetts Fire Academy Program and obtaining Paramedic certification within 28 months of hire.

Fire Commissioner Sutton made a motion to offer a conditional offer of employment.

Fire Commissioner Siegel seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel	YES
Commissioner Brian Sutton	YES
Commissioner Jeffrey Trant	Absent

YES (2) NO (0)

Motion Passed**Motion:**

Fire Commissioner Siegel ascertained a motion to offer the **fourth** Firefighter/Basic EMT position to **Michael Neilsen** for a conditional offer of employment. Conditions of this offer include a successful full department physical, a positive psychological evaluation, passing of the background check, passing of the Massachusetts Physical Abilities Test (PAT), the completion of the Career Recruit Massachusetts Fire Academy Program and obtaining Paramedic certification within 28 months of hire.

Fire Commissioner Sutton made a motion to offer a conditional offer of employment.

Fire Commissioner Siegel seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel	YES
Commissioner Brian Sutton	YES
Commissioner Jeffrey Trant	Absent

YES (2) NO (0)

Motion Passed

Motion: Fire Commissioner Siegel ascertained a motion to adjourn.

Fire Commissioner Sutton made the motion.

Fire Commissioner Siegel the motion.

Roll Call

Commissioner Jeffrey Siegel	YES
Commissioner Brian Sutton	YES
Commissioner Jeffrey Trant	Absent

YES (2) NO (0)

Time: 20:24 hours

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey Siegel, Commissioner
Westfield Fire Commission
caf

