

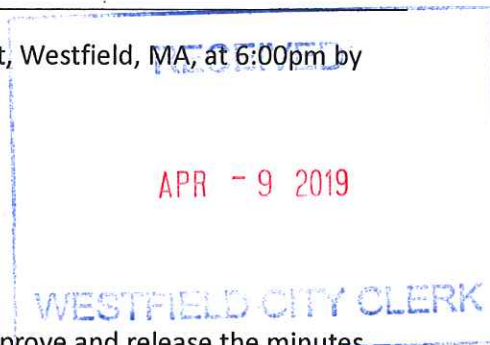
# REGULAR MEETING OF WESTFIELD POLICE COMMISSION

WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

FEBRUARY 11, 2019

The Westfield Police Commission meeting was called to order at 59 Court Street, Westfield, MA, at 6:00pm by Commissioner Hupfer.

Roll Call: Karl Hupfer – Present  
Leonard Osowski – Present  
Felix Otero – Present



Approval and Release of Minutes: Commissioner Osowski made a motion to approve and release the minutes dated January 14, 2019. Commissioner Otero seconded that motion.

Karl Hupfer – Yes - Leonard Osowski – Yes – Felix Otero - Yes

Open Participation: Recording tonight's meeting is Peter Courier of the Westfield Evening News.

## Old Business:

A.) Deadline for Submission of Resumes & Letters of Intent for Chief's Position: Commissioner Hupfer stated, for the record, that the candidates who have submitted a resume and letter of intent are:

- Captain Michael McCabe
- Lieutenant Jerome Pitoniak
- Captain Lawrence Valliere
- Sergeant Jeffrey Baillargeon
- Lieutenant Eric Hall

B.) Resignation of Police Officer Jeffrey Vigneault – Currently in State Police Academy: Commissioner Osowski made a motion to accept the resignation of Jeffrey Vigneault. Commissioner Otero seconded that motion.

Karl Hupfer – Yes - Leonard Osowski – Yes – Felix Otero – Yes

C.) Resignation of Police Officer Timothy Fanion – Currently in State Police Academy: Commissioner Osowski made a motion to accept the resignation of Timothy Fanion. Commissioner Otero seconded that motion.

Karl Hupfer – Yes - Leonard Osowski – Yes – Felix Otero – Yes

D.) SRO Status: Chief Camerota said that as of today, all of the School Resource Officers are back in the schools.

E.) Officer Roxanne Bradley – Medical Retirement: Officer Roxanne Bradley has submitted her paperwork for a medical retirement. They have been signed by her physician and turned into the city. Chief Camerota will meet with the Personnel Director to go over the paperwork.

F.) Officer Zachary Demers – Return to Duty: Officer Demers was struck by a vehicle on Springfield Road. He has returned to duty.

G.) Officer William Ullrich – Return to Duty: Officer Ullrich has returned to duty.

New Business:

A.) Special Police Candidate Brian Kowal: Brian Kowal is currently a Campus Police Officer for Westfield State University. He has been with Westfield State University for 17 years. He is highly recommended as a Special Police Officer. Commissioner Osowski made a motion to appoint Brian Kowal as a Special Police Officer for the City of Westfield effective immediately. Commissioner Otero seconded that motion.

Karl Hupfer – Yes - Leonard Osowski – Yes – Felix Otero – Yes

B.) Interview and Appoint 5 Reserve Police Officers:

1.) Nicholas Albert: Commissioner Hupfer asked Nicholas to give the Commission a background on himself since high school. Nicholas said he graduated from Westfield High School in 2012. He enlisted in the Air National Guard at Barnes in September of 2012. He graduated from there in 2013. He has been a guardsmen there ever since. He attended Holyoke Community College for Criminal Justice and received his degree in 2015. He has also taken a semester at Westfield State University for Criminal Justice. After he completed that semester, he accepted a full time position with Barnes Air National Guard Base. He is presently still employed there. Commissioner Hupfer asked Nicholas what skills and qualities he poses' that would make him a good candidate to become a police officer. Nicholas said that he believes he is very mature and fair. He has the upbringing of a military background. His parents and grandparents were in the military. He is respectful. He posses' both follower and leadership skills. Commissioner Hupfer asked Nicholas what traits and weaknesses does he need to improve on. Nicholas said he needs to be less nervous and possibly to communicate better. He said he just became an expediter with his present employer and he feels this will help him with that. Commissioner Hupfer asked Nicholas why he is seeking employment with the Westfield Police Department and also if he has considered any other law enforcement agencies. Nicholas said he has considered multiple other options however he has always wanted to become a Police Officer in Westfield. His family moved around often and finally settled in Westfield. This is the town he has known the longest. He has seen un-justice and wants to be a part of a community that reaches fairness in a positive way. Commissioner Hupfer asked Nicholas what is important to him in a chosen career. Nicholas said the ability to grow and improve as a person is important. Commissioner Hupfer asked Nicholas what he personally expects to receive from a career in law enforcement. Nicholas said he hopes to receive a full career. Commissioner Hupfer asked Nicholas what he understands the duties of a police officer to be. Nicholas said he believes a police officer should help protect the town, help the community achieve goals and to be able to reach out to the community. Commissioner Hupfer asked Nicholas if he intends to pursue any further education. Nicholas said he would like to finish his Bachelor's Degree at Westfield State University. Commissioner Hupfer asked Nicholas if he has considered how the schedule of a police officer will affect a family life. Nicholas said he has. He currently works nights and he can see how working overnight can affect a family.

- 2.) Sean Kelly: Commissioner Hupfer asked Sean to give the commission a background on himself since high school. Sean said he received his Associates Degree in 2010 from Holyoke Community College. He then graduated from Westfield State University with a Bachelor's Degree in 2013. Shortly after that, he attended the Reserve Intermittent Academy. He was Group A 2015. Commissioner Hupfer asked Sean what skills and qualities he poses' that would make him a good candidate to become a police officer. Sean said he has already been through the training. He said he has a good head on his shoulders and a good physical and moral compass. Commissioner Hupfer asked Sean what traits and weaknesses he needs to improve on. Sean said he has a tendency to take the approach of if you want something done right; you need to do it yourself. He said he needs to work on his team work skills. Commissioner Hupfer asked Sean why he is seeking employment with the Westfield Police Department and if he has considered any other law enforcement agencies. Sean said he has considered other agencies. Westfield is his home and would be his first choice. Commissioner Hupfer asked Sean what is important to him in a chosen career. Sean said he likes to be active and have diversity in his career. Commissioner Hupfer asked Sean what he expects to receive as a career in law enforcement. Sean said he is hoping to move from a reserve to a full time officer. Commissioner Hupfer asked Sean what he understands the duties of a police officer to be. Sean said there are so many, but a police officer needs to be able to help people in need and to keep the public safe. Commissioner Hupfer asked Sean if he intends on pursuing any further education. Sean said he has thought about it. He hasn't had the resources to do that as of yet. Commissioner Hupfer asked Sean if he has considered how the schedule of a police officer will affect a family life. Sean said he has and he is willing to put in the work.
- 3.) Nathan Kantor: Commissioner Hupfer asked Nathan to give the commission a background on himself since high school. Nathan said he is 24 years old. He has lived in Westfield his whole life. After graduating from Westfield High School, he went to Springfield College for one year. He realized he wanted to major in Criminal Justice so he transferred to Westfield State University. He graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. He then attended the Reserve Police Academy. He was sponsored by Chief Ricardi from the Southwick Police Department. He graduated in January of 2018. He has since been an Auxiliary Officer for the Westfield Police Department. Throughout his college years he worked at C&S Wholesale in Westfield. He is currently working as a Corrections Officer for the Hampden County House of Corrections. He has worked there for approximately 2 ½ months. Commissioner Hupfer asked Nathan what qualities he posses' that would make him a good candidate to become a police officer. Nathan said he believes he is good with people. He is an Eagle Scout. He enjoys helping people and he believes he can make good decisions in stressful situations. Commissioner Hupfer asked Nathan what traits and weaknesses he needs to improve on. Nathan said he can be impatient. He likes to achieve his goals faster. In law enforcement, you can't always rush everything. Commissioner Hupfer asked Nathan why he is seeking employment with the Westfield Police Department and if he has considered any other law enforcement agencies. Nathan said he has looked at other agencies. He applied in Southwick; however the position was already filled. He also applied in Enfield. He said he is getting experience through the Sherriff's Office. Commissioner Hupfer asked Nathan what is important to him in a chosen career. Nathan said safety, professionalism and consistency are important to him. Commissioner Hupfer asked Nathan what he expects to receive from a career in law enforcement. Nathan said it has always been his dream to be a patrolman. Commissioner Hupfer asked Nathan what he understands the duties of a police officer to be. Nathan said that a police officer should provide assistance to the community, reduce crime and respond promptly. Commissioner Hupfer asked Nathan if he intends to pursue any further education. Nathan said he does. He would like to obtain his Master's Degree. Commissioner Hupfer asked Nathan if he has considered how the schedule of

a police officer will affect a family life. Nathan said he has. He knows that he will have to be able to leave his work at work as well.

- 4.) Nicholas Liberto: Commissioner Hupfer asked Nicholas to give the commission a background on himself since graduating high school. Nicholas said he attended Westfield High School. He played varsity hockey there for 4 years. He then went on to Westfield State University. He played hockey there as well. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Psychology. He worked student security during his time there. By his junior year, he realized he wanted to be a police officer in Westfield, so he went to the Reserve Academy and became an Auxiliary Police Officer for the City of Westfield. After college, he began working as a mental health counselor. He has also worked as a dispatcher in Westfield for a brief time period. He currently works as a security officer for the Hampden County Sherriff's Office. Commissioner Hupfer asked Nicholas what qualities or skills he posses' that would make him a good police officer. Nicholas said he believes he has good communication skills. He said he works well with others and is diverse. He is good at problem solving. Commissioner Hupfer asked Nicholas what traits or weaknesses he needs to work on. Nicholas said he tends to take on too much at times. He said he leaves himself no down time. He is working on that. Commissioner Hupfer asked Nicholas why he is seeking employment with the Westfield Police Department and if he has considered any other agencies. Nicholas said being an Auxiliary Officer has shown him some of what is done in Westfield and there is no doubt in his mind that he wants to join this team. He has applied to other agencies. Commissioner Hupfer asked if any other agencies offered Nicholas a job, would he take it. Nicholas said being an officer in his home town would be an honor. Commissioner Hupfer asked Nicholas what is important to him in a chosen career. Nicholas said a career that is rewarding and challenging. Commissioner Hupfer asked Nicholas what he expects to receive from a career in law enforcement. Nicholas said he would like to start as a reserve and make his way to full time and hopefully move up from there. Commissioner Hupfer asked Nicholas what he understands the duties of a police officer to be. Nicholas said that he believes a police officer is there to serve and protect the citizens. Proactive policing and being a role model are important. Commissioner Hupfer asked Nicholas if he intends to pursue his education. Nicholas said he would like to get his Master's Degree. Commissioner Hupfer asked Nicholas if he has considered how the schedule of a police officer can affect a family life. Nicholas said he has and he is prepared for it.
- 5.) Lily Ulinici: Commissioner Hupfer asked Lily to give the commission a background on herself since graduating high school. Lily said she is active in her church. She attended college and has a degree in Criminal Justice. Commissioner Hupfer asked Lily what skills and qualities she possesses that would make her a good police officer. Lily said she loves challenges. She said she speaks 4 different languages. She speaks Spanish, Russian, Romanian and English. She has always worked with a diverse group of people and has strong customer service and communication skills. Commissioner Hupfer asked Lily what traits or weaknesses does she need to improve on. Lily said she needs learn to not stress as much about things that are out of her control. Commissioner Hupfer asked Lily why she is seeking employment in the Westfield Police Department and if she has applied with any other agencies. Lily said she was interested in other agencies, however after meeting members of the Westfield Police Department she changed her mind. She knew after that, that she wanted to be a part of it. Commissioner Hupfer asked Lily what is important to her in a chosen career. Lily said the quality and the integrity of the job. Commissioner Hupfer asked Lily what she expects to receive from a career in law enforcement. Lily said she wants to better herself and always be challenged. She said she always wants to be able to help others. Commissioner Hupfer asked Lily what she understands the duties of a police officer to be. Lily said she believes a police officer should serve and help others no matter the circumstances. Commissioner Hupfer asked Lily if she intends to pursue any further education.

Lily said she is currently in college to receive her Bachelor's Degree and from there she would like to go on to receive a Master's Degree. Commissioner Hupfer asked Lily if she has considered how the schedule of a police officer can affect a family life. Lily said that at the moment she can't answer that question because she does not have a family. She said she believes that you have to work around it.

6.) Ronald Spafford:

At 6:44pm Commissioner Hupfer entertained a motion under purpose 1 of the open meeting law to discuss complaints and charges brought upon Ronald Spafford that were discovered during the background investigation. Osowski made a motion to go into executive session. Commissioner Otero seconded that motion.

Karl Hupfer – Yes - Leonard Osowski – Yes – Felix Otero – Yes

At 7:03 pm Commissioner Osowski made a motion to go back into regular session. Commissioner Otero seconded that motion.

Karl Hupfer – Yes - Leonard Osowski – Yes – Felix Otero – Yes

Commissioner Osowski made a motion to appoint Nicholas Albert as a Reserve Police Officer for the Westfield Police Department upon the completion of all required training. Commissioner Otero seconded that motion.

Karl Hupfer – Yes - Leonard Osowski – Yes – Felix Otero – Yes

Commissioner Osowski made a motion to appoint Sean Kelly as a Reserve Police Officer for the Westfield Police Department upon the completion of all required training. Commissioner Otero seconded that motion.

Karl Hupfer – Yes - Leonard Osowski – Yes – Felix Otero – Yes

Commissioner Osowski made a motion to appoint Nathan Kantor as a Reserve Police Officer for the Westfield Police Department upon the completion of all required training. Commissioner Otero seconded that motion.

Karl Hupfer – Yes - Leonard Osowski – Yes – Felix Otero – Yes

Commissioner Osowski made a motion to appoint Nicholas Liberto as a Reserve Police Officer for the Westfield Police Department upon the completion of all required training. Commissioner Otero seconded that motion.

Karl Hupfer – Yes - Leonard Osowski – Yes – Felix Otero – Yes

Commissioner Osowski made a motion to appoint Lily Ulinici as a Reserve Police Officer for the Westfield Police Department upon the completion of all required training. Commissioner Otero seconded that motion.

Karl Hupfer – Yes - Leonard Osowski – Yes – Felix Otero – Yes

Chiefs Report:


- A.) Motor Vehicle Report: The motor vehicle fleet is in excellent condition.
- B.) Sick & Injury Report: Chief Camerota said there are still 5 officers out on injured on duty status. Three officers should be returning to duty soon.
- C.) Building Maintenance Report: Overall the building is in good shape.

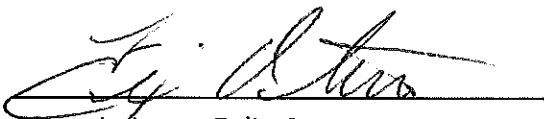
Announcement of Next Regular Meeting: The next meeting of the Westfield Police Commission will be Monday, March 11, 2019.

Motion to Adjourn: At 7:10pm Commissioner Osowski mad a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Otero seconded that motion.

Karl Hupfer – Yes - Leonard Osowski – Yes – Felix Otero - Yes

  
Commissioner, Karl Hupfer

  
Commissioner, Leonard Osowski

  
Commissioner, Felix Otero

APPROVED FOR RELEASE ON

4/8/19

# EXECUTIVE MEETING OF WESTFIELD POLICE COMMISSION

WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

February 11, 2019

---

The Westfield Police Commission executive meeting was called to order at 59 Court Street, Westfield, MA, at 6:44 pm by Commissioner Hupfer.

Roll Call: Karl Hupfer – Present  
Leonard Osowski – Present  
Felix Otero – Present

Present for this executive session are Chief John Camerota, Captain Michael McCabe and Captain Lawrence Valliere.

Ronald Spafford – Background Check: At 6:44 pm Commissioner Osowski made a motion to go into executive session. Commissioner Otero seconded that motion.

Karl Hupfer – Yes - Leonard Osowski – Yes – Felix Otero – Yes

Commissioner Hupfer said that it was discovered during Ronald's background check that he has had some difficulties. Chief Camerota said that Ronald listed as failing a drug test while in the military. Ronald said when he first got back from Afghanistan he had some trouble with substance abuse; specifically cocaine. He did test positive for drug use while in the Army National Guard. This led to him being discharged. Chief Camerota asked Ronald when this happened. Ronald said it was in January of 2009 and he was discharged in May of 2013. He failed the test in the summer of 2012. Commissioner Hupfer asked Ronald if he has had any problems since then. Ronald said he has not. Ronald said when he first got home he was having trouble reintegrating into the community. He said he was taking chances and parting (for lack of a better word). He said he thinks it was his way of coping at the time. It did not help his life or lead to anything good. He was arrested and after that he took a step back and reassessed things. He went on to become an EMT and has tried to change his life around. Commissioner Hupfer noted Ronald was charged with a domestic. Ronald said he was no longer living with the person at the time, however there was an argument and there was an assault that occurred on his part. That is when he was charged. Commissioner Otero asked Ronald what steps he took to address his substance issues. Ronald said he went to see a therapist at the VA and started taking medication for depression and anxiety. He is no longer on those medications because he has learned to live with PTSD. He has a 70% rating as having PTSD. Commissioner Osowski noted being a Police Officer comes with a lot of stress. He asked Ronald if he thinks he can handle that. Ronald said as an EMT supervisor in Holyoke, he encounters stress every day. Chief Camerota thanked Ronald for his service. He said that Ronald said in the summer of 2012 he failed a drug test, but he was arrested in December of 2012. The report is very detailed. Chief Camerota said it is pretty shocking to him to read this report. He said that Ronald has to know why the Commission would not want to bring him on board. Ronald said he understands and knows this is a long shot. Chief Camerota said he doesn't think it would work. Ronald says he just wants to serve his community. He said he feels being a Police Officer would be an honor and a privilege. Commissioner Otero said he is a former Police Officer himself. He said that Ronald had an opportunity to clean himself up and he got back into it again. Ronald said he may have some of his dates wrong. He said he knows he was still in the service when he was arrested. Commissioner Hupfer asked Ronald if the arrest is why he was discharged. Ronald said he was discharged after the last drug test. The military wanted him to go to a rehab facility that deals with substance abuse and PTSD issues. He

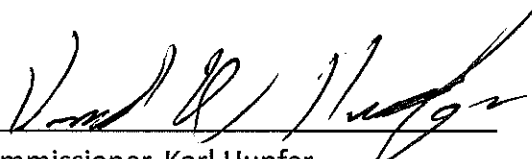
was living with his grandmother at the time and could not leave her for the time period they wanted him to. His grandmother would have been without someone to financially help and care for her. Instead, he chose to use the VA therapy services. Captain McCabe said he is not sure he sees things the same way Ronald does. He said Ronald had difficulties before the service. It is his belief that Ronald went into the service to get away from things that were occurring in his life. However, it appears he found himself in the same situations. There are 3 items on Ronald's record. Captain McCabe said Police Officer's do not charge individuals without reason. Ronald also suffers from a 10% hearing loss in one ear. Captain McCabe said that he doesn't want to discourage Ronald, but he doesn't feel he is ready to be a Police Officer. Ronald said he knows he has made mistakes, but since then he has tried to turn his life around and serve his community.

Commissioner Hupfer said he agrees with Chief Camerota and Captain McCabe. He said he would be very leery of appointing Ronald. He said it is his opinion that Ronald not be appointed. Commissioner Osowski said he agrees as well. He feels Ronald is on the right path, but he does not think he would be a good fit for the Westfield Police Department. Commissioner Hupfer entertained a motion not to appoint Ronald Spafford as a Reserve Police Officer because of the discussions this evening. Commissioner Osowski seconded that motion. Commissioner Otero seconded that motion.

Karl Hupfer – Yes - Leonard Osowski – Yes – Felix Otero – Yes

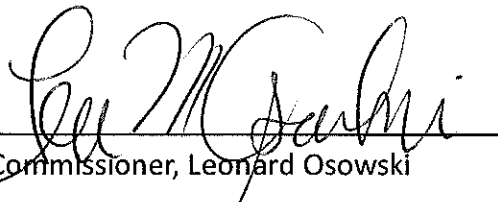
At 7:03 pm Commissioner Osowski made a motion to go back into Regular Session. Commissioner Otero seconded that motion.

Karl Hupfer – Yes - Leonard Osowski – Yes – Felix Otero – Yes



---

Commissioner, Karl Hupfer



---

Commissioner, Leonard Osowski



---

Commissioner, Felix Otero

APPROVED FOR RELEASE ON

4/8/19