

REGULAR MEETING OF WESTFIELD POLICE COMMISSION

WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

March 9, 2021

RECEIVED

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The Westfield Police Commission meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm on March 9, 2021 via remote participation and broadcast on Channel 15.

Roll Call: Leonard Osowski – Present
Felix Otero – Present
Richard Sypek – Present

Approval and Release of Minutes: Commissioner Sypek made a motion to approve the minutes dated February 12, 2021. Commissioner Otero seconded that motion.

Leonard Osowski – Yes – Felix Otero – Yes - Richard Sypek - Yes

Open Participation: Due to the emergency order by Governor Baker’s office regarding Covid-19, the public participation portion of the meeting will not be held.

Old Business: None

New Business:

A.) Interview eleven candidates for six positions: Reserve Police Officer – Effective start date: March 15, 2021:

Chief Valliere said that a number of years ago the department put together a review board consisting of different ranking officers within the department to review and assess the candidates with a pre-interview. This review board consisted of five officers led by Captain McCabe and Captain Pitoniak. The other members were Lieutenant Bard, Sergeant Florek and Officer Blascak.

Commissioner Osowski said that the candidates have the option to be in the meeting while the others are interviewed, however historically only the candidate being interviewed is present. All candidates agreed that they would rather only the candidate being interviewed to be present.

John Fitzgibbons: Commissioner Osowski asked John why he wants to be a police officer. John said he wants to be a police officer because he wants to help people. He said he also admires and respects the work a police officer does. He said his grandfather was a police officer for the Chicopee police department and unfortunately he passed before John could meet him. He wants to make him proud by following in his footsteps. Commissioner Osowski asked John what his understanding of the duties and responsibilities of a police officer are. John said he believes the duties and responsibilities of a police officer are wide ranged. They should serve and protect their community while making sure both the civilians and the officers get home safely.

Ammar Khawaja: Commissioner Osowski asked Ammar why he wants to be a police officer. Ammar said it has been a dream of his for his whole life. He went on to say being a police officer is about building a relationship with the community and being a public servant. He feels he would be a great asset to the

Westfield Police Department. Commissioner Osowski asked Ammar what his understanding of the duties and responsibilities of a police officer are. Ammar said the biggest responsibility is to uphold the law and being able to make decisions that are good for the community.

Jeff Hockenberry: Commissioner Osowski asked Jeff why he wants to be a police officer. Jeff said that he has a desire to help people and to help the community. He feels being a police officer is a way to do that and to really make a difference. Commissioner Osowski asked Jeff what his understanding of the duties and responsibilities of a police officer are. Jeff said a police officer should serve and protect the community. He also believes a police officer should act ethically correct and follow all policies and procedures.

Joshua Fanion: Commissioner Osowski asked Joshua why he wants to be a police officer. Joshua said that he wants to work with the community and to make it a better place. He also said being a police officer brings something new every day. Commissioner Osowski asked Joshua what his understanding of the duties and responsibilities of a police officer are. Joshua said a police officer is there to answer all calls from the community.

Anthony Liberto: Commissioner Osowski asked Anthony why he wants to be a police officer. Anthony said he has always had an interest in policing. He completed the part time academy and has an associate's degree in criminal justice. He said he feels being a police officer would be a job he would love to do. Commissioner Osowski asked Anthony what his understanding of the duties and responsibilities of a police officer are. Anthony said he believes a police officer should respond to calls, maintain professionalism at all times, and provide service before self.

Brandon Miemiec: Commissioner Osowski asked Brandon why he wants to be a police officer. Brandon said he really wants a career where he could have a positive impact in people's lives. He also wants a career he can enjoy and that will be challenging. He said he was able to do an internship at the Westfield Police Department and he saw the day to day operations. Through doing this, he can definitely see himself becoming a police officer. Commissioner Osowski asked Brandon what his understanding of the duties and responsibilities of a police officer are. Brandon said a police officer should interact and develop relationships within the community. An officer should be there to enforce the laws fairly and protect the public.

Jestyna Peatman: Commissioner Osowski asked Jestyna why she wants to be a police officer. Jestyna said she has wanted to be a police officer her whole life. She wants to serve her community and maintain the safety of Westfield. She had been a part of the cadet program and she absolutely loved it. Commissioner Osowski asked Jestyna what her understanding of the duties and responsibilities of a police officer are. Jestyna said an officer is a part of the community. They are there to resolve issues and help people as much as possible.

Chase LaPorte: Commissioner Osowski asked Chase why he wants to be a police officer. Chase said he grew up in Westfield. One of the best memories he has is walking home from school with his friends and never having any concerns like other communities have. The law enforcement in Westfield strives to make sure this is a safe community. He wants to continue that and give back to the community. Commissioner Osowski asked Chase what his understanding of the duties and responsibilities of a police officer are. Chase said the duties of a police officer are to respond to calls and interact with people on a daily basis. They also have to build trust within the community.

Kyle Murphy: Commissioner Osowski asked Kyle why he wants to be a police officer. Kyle said he wants to be a police officer to give back to a city he has lived in his entire life. He feels the reputation of law enforcement has taken a toll and to get back the reputation it once had, it starts within the community. He knows the Westfield police have done a great job and it would be an honor to him to be able to represent the Westfield Police Department and join an already well respected department. Commissioner Osowski asked Kyle what his understanding of the duties and responsibilities of a police officer are. Kyle said a police officer should enforce the law and follow the policies of the department.

Samuel Evans: Commissioner Osowski asked Samuel why he wants to be a police officer. Samuel said it has always been a dream of his. He said he wants to be able to help people and serve his community. Commissioner Osowski asked Samuel what his understanding of the duties and responsibilities of a police officer are. Samuel said he believes there is a lot of self-sacrifice and to uphold the law.

Stephen Baptiste: Commissioner Osowski asked Stephen why he wants to be a police officer. Stephen said he believes his skill set can bring a lot to the force. He also has a lot of respect for members of law enforcement and wants to make an impact in the community. Commissioner Osowski asked Stephen what he believes the duties and responsibilities of a police officer are. Stephen said he knows patrolling the neighborhood is important and meeting with members of the community to address issues.

Chief Valliere said that all of the candidates did a great job. He also noted how appreciative he is that there are so many candidates interested in joining the Westfield Police Department. He said the commission has the recommendations from the review board and he is going to leave it to the commission to decide. Commissioner Osowski asked Chief Valliere how many candidates the commission can appoint. Chief Valliere said the commission can appoint up to seven candidates tonight. Commissioner Otero said he would like to appoint seven candidates. Commissioner Sypek said he agrees with appointing seven reserves tonight. Chief Valliere said he was impressed with Ammar Khawaja's interview this evening and he would like to see him appointed as the seventh candidate.

Commissioner Osowski said he agrees with the recommendations of the review board. Commissioner Otero said he also agrees with the recommendations of the review board. Commissioner Sypek said all of the candidates who are here tonight would make a great addition to the department. He urged the candidates who are not selected this evening to not give up and to continue to pursue this career.

Commissioner Sypek made a motion to appoint the following candidates to the position of Reserve Police Officer for the Westfield Police Department effective March 15, 2021:

Kyle Murphy
Samuel Evans
Jestyna Peatman
Brandon Miemiec
Joshua Fanion
John Fitzgibbons
Ammar Khawaja

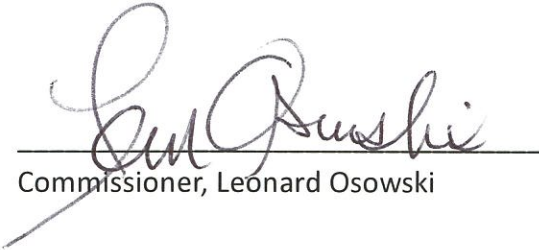
Commissioner Otero seconded this motion.

Leonard Osowski – Yes – Felix Otero – Yes - Richard Sypek - Yes

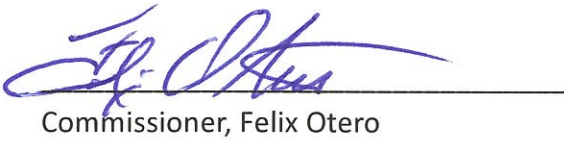
Announcement of Next Regular Meeting: The next meeting of the Westfield Police Commission will be held on Tuesday, April 13, 2021.

Motion to Adjourn: At 6:34 pm Commissioner Otero made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Sypek seconded that motion.

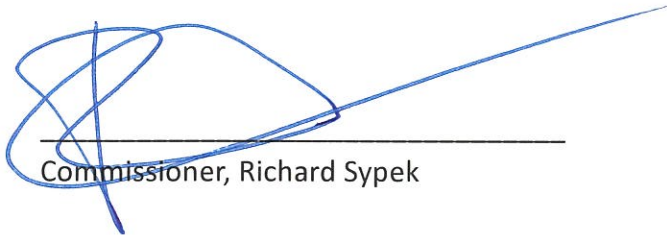
Leonard Osowski – Yes – Felix Otero – Yes - Richard Sypek - Yes



Commissioner, Leonard Osowski



Commissioner, Felix Otero



Commissioner, Richard Sypek

APPROVED FOR RELEASE ON

4/13/21