



# COMMISSION MEETING

May 13, 2025

The Westfield Fire Commission met at the East Street Firehouse, Middletown, CT on May 13, 2025. Vice Chairman Peterson opened the meeting at 6:38 p.m. with the following Commissioners present – Bysiewicz, Alderman, T. Bysiewicz and Commissioners Plummer and Turner initially joining via Zoom but then joined the meeting in person at 7:07 pm; Commissioner Balch joined at 7:25 pm; Commissioners Amy and Scarozzo were absent.

Others present were: Chief Ponzio, Deputy Chief Jason Lube, FDA Linda DeManche, Tax Collector Leanna Harris and Ross Andrew.

Vice Chairman Peterson made a **MOTION** to open the public session, with no public comment closed on a **MOTION** by Comm. Alderman, all in favor.

-On a **MOTION** by Comm. Alderman seconded by Comm. Peterson it was approved to accept the agenda as presented, all in favor.

-On a **MOTION** by Comm. T. Bysiewicz seconded by Comm. Alderman it was approved to waive the readings of the April 8, 2025 regular meeting minutes; and on a **MOTION** by Comm. Alderman seconded by Comm. Bysiewicz for the May 5, 2025 special meeting minutes and accept as written; all in favor.

The bills for April 2025, including the detailed Liberty statement was reviewed; after all questions were answered, the bills were approved on a **MOTION** by Comm. Bysiewicz and seconded by Comm. T. Bysiewicz, all in favor.

## **Tax Collector's Report**

-On a **MOTION** by Alderman and seconded by Bysiewicz the April tax collector report submitted by Tax Collector Leanna Harris was reviewed and approved, all in favor.

-On a **MOTION** by Alderman and seconded by Bysiewicz it was approved to issue tax refunds to the various taxpayers on the list provided by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$ 150.24, all in favor.

-The Tax Collector requests to suspend the following; 1) uncollectible motor vehicle and supplemental motor vehicle taxes for the 2020 Grand List in the amount of \$5,500.74; 2) uncollectible personal property for the 2020 Grand List in the amount of \$954.88 (both are based on total tax & interest as of 5/06/2025) – these amounts are subject to change if any accounts are paid prior to the posting of the suspense list, this was approved on a **MOTION** by Alderman and seconded by T. Bysiewicz, all in favor.

-The Tax Collector presented a list of the eight delinquent taxpayer accounts (8 properties) currently totaling \$9,364.42 that meet the criteria for collection/foreclosure. On a **MOTION** by Bysiewicz and seconded by Alderman it was approved to turn the accounts over to the attorney for collection, all in favor.

## **Fire Marshal's Report**

-The Fire Marshal's (FM) monthly report for April was distributed and accepted on a **MOTION** by Alderman and seconded by Peterson, all in favor.

## **Chief's Report**

- The Chief reported a volunteer sustained a workers compensation injury at a training drill on April, 29<sup>th</sup>. He was transported to Middlesex Hospital and was later released. He is reported to currently be back in service.
- The State of CT held a ceremony acknowledging those that responded to Hawthorne Fire in Berlin last Fall; Westfield Fire Department received a proclamation signed by the Governor for their participation.
- For the Boards awareness the Chief stated he will be out of state from July 11<sup>th</sup> thru 27<sup>th</sup>.
- The status of training classes for members was reported as follows: FFI-Initial – member Albert passed his haz-mat written and is now FFI certified; Fire Service Instructor III – (1) members is in class; FFII –member Henry passed and is FFII certified; Fire Service Instructor I – (1) member is in class thru June; Q Endorsement – member Sylvester passed and (1) member in starting class in June; Fire Officer I – (1) member is in class starting in June; Fire Officer III for AC Coco starts in June.
- The Chief shared a proposal on the replacement of the Chief's vehicle. He presented a quote from Blasius Chevrolet, Waterbury for a new 2024 Tahoe special services vehicle (SSV), specifically made for police/fire and is considered a fleet purchase at cost of \$57,202. If a new 2025' Tahoe was purchased it would have to be from what is available on the lot; based on inventory the cost would be approx. \$64k; a 2026' would have to be ordered and would not be in until January. The dealership was asked to quote a trade-in of the 2015 Tahoe. The Carfax report that was obtained had erroneous information regarding the mileage on the vehicle which the Chief is attempting to have rectified. On a **MOTION** by Bysiewicz and seconded by Peterson it was approved to purchase the 2024 Chevy Tahoe at a cost of \$57,202; funding would come from the CNR Apparatus Replacement fund; there will be no trade at this point, all in favor. The Chief will have quotes for other components to finish outfitting the vehicle (ie: lighting, console, lettering, etc.) at the June meeting. The plans are to transfer the communication equipment from the existing vehicle.
- The departments live burn is scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup> along with TECC training for the same weekend.

## **Commissioner(s) Report**

- On a **MOTION** by Alderman and seconded by Bysiewicz the following was approved; anything within a 10-mile radius is not compensable; if travel exceeds the 10 miles the reimbursement rate will be .55 per mile; this would apply to employees & volunteers, all in favor.
- The reimbursement of fees for continuing education classes for fire marshal training was presented for Arthur Higgins, this was tabled until next month.
- On a **MOTION** by Balch and seconded by Plummer it was approved to add Linda DeManche as a trustee to the Flushing checking/savings account for when transfer is required, etc. all in favor.
- It was previously reported the Aetna dental policy for the district employees is expiring and is no longer available to renew. On a **MOTION** by Balch and seconded by Plummer it was approved to enroll in the Anthem group dental program with an annual max benefit of \$1,500 which is an enhanced benefit from the previously policy, all in favor.
- The Board was presented with the vehicle schedule for the auto policy. The agreed values will be reviewed by the Chief and Dana for the apparatus and if there are suggested increases a new quote will be obtained from the agent so it can be reviewed in June prior to the July 1<sup>st</sup> renewal.

## **Old Business** – None

**New Business** – Commissioner Peterson would like to see the training tower in the rear of the firehouse be taken down and a concrete pad installed. The department will be starting vehicle training soon and does not want to see those vehicles in the newly paved parking lot. Cost relative to the concrete pad will be obtained.

**MOTION** to go into Executive Session by Comm. Peterson seconded by Comm. Balch at 7:41 pm, all in favor for discussions regarding: Personnel – New hires for FF/EMT and staff evaluations pursuant to Statutes Section 1-200(6)(A) and Section 1-225(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended. In attendance at the Executive Session were Commissioners Peterson, Plummer, Bysiewicz, Alderman, T. Bysiewicz, Balch, Turner and FDA Linda DeManche.

On a **MOTION** by Peterson and seconded by Balch the executive session at the monthly meeting was suspended @ 7:53 pm to attend the annual Budget Meeting scheduled for 8:00 pm, all in favor.

On a **MOTION** by Peterson and seconded by Balch the Commission meeting reconvened at @ 8:06 pm after the conclusion of the Annual Budget Meeting. The Board continued the executive session that was suspended for attendance at the annual budget meeting.

**MOTION** to come out of Executive Session by Comm. Alderman seconded by Comm. Balch @ 8:44 pm, all in favor.

-On a **MOTION** by Comm. Balch and seconded by Plummer it was approved allocate \$3,000 for the rental of dumpster for the disposal of the training tower, the funds will come out of the unassigned fund balance, all in favor.

**MOTION** to adjourn @ 8:45 pm by Comm. Alderman and seconded by Balch. Unanimously approved.  
Respectfully submitted,

Linda DeManche  
Fire District Administrator  
as Recording Secretary