



COMMISSION MEETING

March 10, 2026

The Westfield Fire Commission met at the East Street Firehouse, Middletown, CT on March 10, 2026. Chairman Amy opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. with the following Commissioners present – Peterson, Alderman, Scarrozzo, Turner and T. Bysiewicz; Commissioner Bysiewicz joined at 6:50 pm; Commissioners Plummer and Balch were absent.

Others present were: Chief Coco, DA Linda DeManche and Ross Andrew.

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

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

-On a **MOTION** by Comm. Scarrozzo seconded by Comm. T. Bysiewicz it was approved to waive the readings of the February 3, 2026, regular meeting minutes and accept as written; all in favor.

The bills for February 2026, including the detailed Liberty & Lowes statements were reviewed; after all questions were answered, the bills were approved on a **MOTION** by Comm. Scarrozzo and seconded by Comm. Peterson, all in favor.

Tax Collector's Report

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

-On a **MOTION** by Alderman and seconded by Tuner it was approved to issue tax refunds to the various taxpayers on the list provided by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$ 128.33, all in favor.

Fire Marshal's Report

-The Fire Marshal's (FM) monthly report for January and February were distributed and accepted on a **MOTION** by Scarrozzo and seconded by Peterson, all in favor.

Chief's Report

-On a **MOTION** by Scarrozzo and seconded by Turner it was approved to continue with the preventative maintenance for testing and aligning of 14 mobile radios and approximately 64 portable radios to ensure they are operating within manufacturer's specifications with Norcom CT in the amount of \$3,276, all in favor. This will come out of the Chief's budget.

-A committee which includes the Chief along with several members have been in discussions regarding the water supply in some of Westfield's non-hydrant areas. On of the areas of concern was Old Road Drive which was identified as area that could be considered for an underground water supply tank. The exploring information on a potential tank location, contractor costs, etc. The Chairman recognizes the benefit for the safety of the community but would have to explore the costs to the District. It was his understanding that some time ago another water storage tank was installed in the area of Scarborough Lane but that was put in by the developer of the subdivision. The committee will continue their research and report back to the Board.

-At the recommendation of the mechanic it was suggested the Board start considering replacement of W7, a 2012 Ford used for the majority of medical calls. The Chief will put a committee together to work on costs to be considered in the upcoming 2026/2027' budget.

-The Chief reported the recommended replacement of fire hose is 12 to 15 years. The current 5" hose is reaching that threshold, and he would like to start a schedule for replacement. On a **MOTION** by Alderman seconded by Turner it was approved to start with the recommended replacement of approx. 1800' on W2 at a value not to exceed \$19,000, the cost will come out of CNR-Fire Dept. Operations, all in favor. The remaining 5" hose line needed for W5 & W4 will be replaced over the next two budget years. They are in the process of obtaining some additional competitive quotes.

-On a **MOTION** by Alderman and seconded by Turner it was approved to; 1) purchase 2 lengths of 5" hose line to replace what failed during hose testing; 2) purchase approx. 550' of new 1 3/4" attack line hose for W2 in a different color identifying it from the other hose lines as one longer run length is for properties in the District that require that much hose line. The amount is quoted at \$3,536 and will come out of CNR-Fire Dept. Operations, all in favor.

-The Chief would like to move forward on the renovation of the Officers' room that was previously approved, but the project was not started. The footprint of the office will remain the same, but they are proposing new sheetrock, ceiling tile replacement, painting and minor electrical work. They were fortunate to get a donation of some office furniture arranged through Darrell Ponzio. On a **MOTION** by Scarrozzo and seconded by Peterson the quote was approved for A. Kohl to perform the construction work in the amount of \$3,344.36, all in favor. The original motion that was made in August 2024 for these renovations at a cost not to exceed \$6,500 that was to come from the unassigned fund balance is still in place.

-CT Governor Lamont is proposing Bill No. 5046, An Act Supporting Firefighter and Police Office Recruitment and Retention; legislation to offer new benefits for those who are members of a public safety agency. Chief Coco, along with many of public safety leaders around the State, attended a press conference held on 2/17/26 to offer support of this bill. He will keep track of the progress of this bill and hopes this passes.

-The status of training classes for members was reported as follows: Q Endorsement – (1) member finished the classroom portion and is working on their driving hours to complete the course; FFI/FFII Combo – (3) members will be in the class that is hosted at WFD from Dec-June; and (1) member participating in a course offered at Watertown FD from Feb-May; FFII – (1) member in class (Feb-April); Fire Officer II – Officers Lemay & Velardi are in class (Jan-Feb); Fire Service Instructor I – Chiefs Lubee & Trevisan are scheduled (May).

-The Chief reported the Apparatus Driver Training program is complete and in place, he presented the outline of the 3-phase process overview to the Board.

-The SCBA confidence weekend class with United Fire Training Hog Wall System is scheduled for April 25th & 26th, volunteer and career members are scheduled to participate.

-The Chief was able to schedule the burn trailer through the Middlesex Country Fire School (MCFA) May 18th thru June 26th, it will be at the WFD station for approx. 6 weeks. The Officers have planned a great deal of live fire training for members to make the most of the time they have use of this trailer.

-The Chief reported that most, if not all, Officers are scheduled for training classes as part of the officer training goal initiative.

-The Chief shared a recruitment flyer that was drafted by members, they intend to distribute those in the Westlake condo area.

Commissioner(s) Report

-Linda reported that there were two new construction projects, 1201 Middle Street and 75 Philmack Drive that are still under construction. These projects did increase the real estate 2025 grand list but there was a significant decrease in personal property, therefore the net result for Westfield was a slight increase (0.072%) over last year's 2024 G/L. It was shared that a pickleball facility is scheduled to start construction sometime this year, located at 100 Centerpoint Drive. The City's Economic Development Committee approved an eight-year tax agreement, allowing for deferred assessment on taxes for a period of time. Linda will get more details as it gets closer.

-Linda made the Board aware of a proposed bill (house bill 5253), the Act Concerning Voting Procedures for and State Elections Enforcement Commission Oversight of Fire Districts. Reading through the proposed act it is thought that Westfield is already in compliance with most, if not all, of the legislation proposed. If the bill

passes all the rules and regulations will be reviewed in the event any changes need to be made by the effective date.

-Quotes were received for the 2026 lawn fertilization program. On a **MOTION** by Scarrozzo and seconded by Alderman it was approved to renew the lawn fertilization program thru Plummer All Season Landscaping with the applied discount for an amount of \$2,308.03 for the 6-step program, all in favor. The Board is holding off on the other recommended services of fall aeration & insect spray at this time.

-The Board reviewed the calculations for the 2025 PPC Bonus Incentive, 12 members qualified.

-The two newly hired firefighters (Brown & Fortuna) started March 9th. The swearing-in is scheduled for May 12th during the Commission meeting.

- A budget committee meeting is scheduled for March 24th @ 4:30 pm.

Old Business – None

New Business – None

MOTION to go into Executive Session by Comm. Amy seconded by Comm. Peterson at 7:40 pm, all in favor of discussions regarding: Salaries - 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 Amy, Peterson, Bysiewicz, Alderman, Scarrozzo, Turner, T. Bysiewicz, Chief Coco and FDA Linda DeManche.

MOTION to come out of Executive Session by Comm. Amy seconded by Comm. Peterson @ 8:11 pm, all in favor.

MOTION to adjourn @ 8:11 pm by Comm. Scarrozzo and seconded by Alderman. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda DeManche
Fire District Administrator
as Recording Secretary