



COMMISSION MEETING

June 9, 2026

The Westfield Fire Commission met at the East Street Firehouse, Middletown, CT on June 9, 2026. Chairman Amy opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. with the following Commissioners present – Peterson, Plummer, Alderman, Scarrozzo, T. Bysiewicz and Balch; Commissioner Bysiewicz joined at 7:00pm via Zoom; Commissioner Turner was absent.

Others present were: Chief Coco, Deputy Chief Lubee and DA Linda DeManche

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

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

-On a **MOTION** by Comm. Balch seconded by Comm. Plummer it was approved to waive the readings of the May 12, 2026 regular meeting and accept as written; all in favor.

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

Tax Collector's Report

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

Fire Marshal's Report

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

Chief's Report

-The Chief shared some operational data:

- The number of year-to-date (462) calls are pretty much on mark in comparison to last year; the departments mutual aid assistance in the last month has been to South Fire District for a structure fire and approx. 4 calls to Cromwell Fire District.
- The Chief shared how proud he is of the members in their efforts of EMS training, working on their critical skills, etc. which has resulted in life saving outcomes in a couple of very critical incidents in the past year (intersection of Bystrek & East, 300 County Club) department members and the partnering agencies (ie: life star) should be very proud of their participation in these calls as well as all incidents.
- Eight members are currently in phase 3 of the driver program & are actively moving along nicely
- Officer evaluation process is underway, hope to complete over the next month
- Started new program with the day staff called "street of the week" – identify one street to recognize any specific hazards or challenges, whether there is solar, water supply, etc.
- Live burn training in Newington on June 7th, possible Torrington later in the year for a live burn
- Department will participate in the City's 250th parade celebration on July 4th

New Business

Chairman Amy called for a pause in the Chief's agenda so they could conduct new business at this time:

-A ceremony was held for the swearing in for newly appointed Firefighter/EMT Sean Brown and Joseph Fortuna.

-The regular monthly commission meeting reconvened at @ 7:00 pm after the conclusion of the swearing in ceremony.

-The Chief has a quote from Common Cents for the 15 sets of turn-out gear as replacements for existing members and sets for new members. On a **MOTION** by Scarrozzo and seconded by Peterson it was approved; 1) order 7 sets in the amount of \$33,887 allocating the expense in the 2025-26' fiscal year between the Chief's budget and CNR-PPE Equipment; 2) order the remaining 8 sets in the amount of \$38,729 which will come out of the Chiefs' 2026-27' budget, all in favor.

-The committee for the replacement of Westfield 7 is still working on the numbers; there is more work to do on that.

-On a **MOTION** by Balch and seconded by Peterson it was approved to purchase 4 remote speaker mics and 10 portable radio batteries off of the State bid thru Motorola for a total of \$4,239, this will come out of the Chief's budget, all in favor.

-The renovations to the officers' room is close to completion. The Chief would like to add an additional desktop computer for that office. On a **MOTION** by Amy and seconded by Balch it was approved to purchase the Dell PC with a budget of \$1,500 that will come out of CNR-Computer Life Cycle, all in favor.

-On a **MOTION** by Scarrozzo and seconded by Plummer it was approved to move forward hosting a 2 1/2 day pump operator class for approx. 10 to 15 WFD members taught by the Middlesex County Fire School in the amount of \$2,000, the class would take place in August and would come of the Chief's 2026-27 budget, all in favor.

-The status of training classes for members as reported on the Chief's agenda were reviewed.

-The 2025 AFG grant opened on May 19th with a closing deadline of June 22nd. The Chief reviewed the NOFO which indicates the priority list and none of big items the department is looking to replace (fire hose, lucas device, etc.) were on the high high-priority. Just last week the District was notified that their 2024 AFG application for turn-out gear was not considered for an award, the overall age of the all the gear inventory was considered too new. Westfield will not submit an AFG application this year.

-Two quotes have been obtained for the comprehensive upgrades needed for the existing building alarm system. Linda was verbally informed by the City there may be LoCIP funds available for this project after July 1st. On a **MOTION** Balch and seconded by Peterson it was approved to submit a resolution to the City, first for Finance & Government approval and then on to Common Council for final approval; if approved this project will move forward, all in favor.

-The Chief has previously shared some of the proposed State legislation on statewide fire protection and the State involvement in municipal fire protection, he has been tracking those bills and share that the legislation has passed. There may some changes for Westfield that will come from this but he would keep everyone informed.

Commissioner(s) Report

-Linda update the Board on the cost for the crack sealing of the parking lots. Northeast Crack Filling will schedule Westfield when they are in the area for the various City streets, therefore reducing the cost to \$750.

-On a **MOTION** by Balch and seconded by Peterson it was approved to extend the warranty on the Dell server one more year in the amount \$659; all in favor.

-Wireless access has been experiencing low signal in a few areas in station, additional AP's made need to be installed in those areas, such as the downstairs gym.

-The annual 2026 LOSAP actuarial report is available for those who wish to review it.

-The District received group health insurance renewal rates for the 2026/2027 fiscal year. The existing plan under Anthem BCBS is still being offered, the overall benefits remained the same with an overall premium increase of 12%. On a **MOTION** by Balch and seconded by Peterson the following was approved;

1) the primary health insurance plan will remain with Anthem BCBS, as the Gold Pathway CT PPO 2000 and; 2) the employees will contribute a cost share of 14.5% towards the premium which is a ½ percent increase over last year and; 3) employees have the option to upgrade to the Platinum Pathway PPO if they wish but will pay 100% of the difference in additional premium between the Gold & the Platinum or new this year they can also elect the Silver Century Preferred which would offer a lower premium but higher deductibles and; 4) the Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) will remain at a \$1,000 total reimbursement rate towards the deductible of the employee or an insured family member and; 5) the reimbursement guidelines for employees that have alternative coverage will remain the same but does not include reimbursement of any HSA premium they have, all in favor.

-As the Board does not meet in July, on a **MOTION** by Plummer and seconded by Balch it was approved to pay the June bills, all in favor.

-On a **MOTION** by Plummer and seconded by Peterson it was approved to purchase a “Celebrating America’s 250th” banner for the front of the building, cost not to exceed \$499, all in favor.

-It was reported the emergency cylinder outrigger repair on W6 has been completed and the apparatus is back in service. The cost of the repair thru First Line Emergency Service was \$4,900.

Old Business – None

MOTION to go into Executive Session by Comm. Amy seconded by Comm. Balch at 7:44 pm, all in favor of discussions regarding: Personnel – probation & compensation; Acquisition matter 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, Plummer, Bysiewicz, Alderman, Scarrozzo, T. Bysiewicz, Balch, Chief Coco and FDA Linda DeManche.

MOTION to come out of Executive Session by Comm. Amy seconded by Comm. Alderman @ 8:40 pm, all in favor.

On a **MOTION** by Balch and seconded by Scarrozzo it was approved to increase the salary of Leanna Harris to \$30.00 per hour effective immediately after the successful completion of CCMC tax courses making her a certified Tax Collector, all in favor. On behalf of the Board members Chairman Amy wished to congratulate Ms. Harris.

On a **MOTION** by Balch and seconded by Peterson it was approved to take FF Patrick McGuire off probation effective June 9, 2026, the next salary adjustment will coincide with the timeline of current paid personnel, all in favor.

On a **MOTION** by Balch and seconded by Peterson the following was approved; 1) proceed with the action to purchase 32 Miner Street for the benefit of the Westfield Fire District subject to the sellers’ review and comment of the letter of intent and; 2) satisfactory Environmental and Phase 1 study, all in favor.

On a **MOTION** by Balch and seconded by Alderman it was approved to pay the fee of \$2,500 for the appraisal of 32 Miner in the amount of \$2,500, this will go under the contingency line item, all in favor.

MOTION to adjourn @ 8:43 pm by Comm. Balch and seconded by Peterson. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda DeManche
Fire District Administrator
as Recording Secretary