

COMMISSION MEETING

September 8, 2026

The Westfield Fire Commission met at the East Street Firehouse, Middletown, CT on September 8, 2026. Chairman Amy opened the meeting at 6:32 p.m. with the following Commissioners present – Peterson, Alderman, Scarrozzo, T. Bysiewicz and Turner; Commissioner Bysiewicz joined at 6:41 pm; Commissioner Balch joined at 7:43 pm; Commissioner Plummer 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. Peterson, all in favor.

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

-On a **MOTION** by Comm. Scarrozzo seconded by Comm. Peterson it was approved to waive the readings of the August 11, 2026 regular meeting and accept as written; all in favor.

The bills for August 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. Alderman, all in favor.

Tax Collector's Report

-On a **MOTION** by Alderman and seconded by Peterson the August tax collector report submitted by Tax Collector Leanna Harris was reviewed and approved, all in favor.
-On a **MOTION** by Alderman and seconded by Peterson it was approved to issue tax refunds to the various taxpayers on the list provided by the Tax Collector in the amount of $ 8.42, all in favor.

Fire Marshal's Report

-The Fire Marshal's (FM) monthly report for August was distributed and accepted on a **MOTION** by Scarrozzo and seconded by Peterson, all in favor. The Chief updated the Board on the note at the end of the report regarding recreational burning and the proposed revision.

Chief's Report

-The Chief shared some operational data: August has been the departments busiest month to date. Response times and participation have been really good.
-The Chief was pleased to share with the Board that based on the application he submitted Westfield members of engine 2 and 4 (Lubee, Connole, Lemay, Arroyo, Brown Fortuna and McGuie) have been selected by the Merits Awards Committee of the CT State FF's Assoc. to receive unit citations for lifesaving efforts at the structure fire at 549 East Street on July 9, 2026. A ceremony will take place on September 19th @ Assoc. annual convention. If available the Board is welcome to attend. Congratulation to the daytime crew.
-The Chief is interested in an app by Tango Tango for radio integration, it is an online app that basically offers the same services as a pager. The best way to connect is direct off of the dispatch console and that technology was completed last week. It will broadcast the tone and all the audio on Westfield frequencies in real time. The Chief's hope is to reduce the number of pagers needed in the future. On a **MOTION** by Amy and seconded

by Scarrozzo it was approved to purchase the annual licensing for unlimited use for members in the amount of $1,500, this will come out of the Chief's budget, all in favor.
-The New England Association of Fire Chiefs (NEAFC) applied for a SAFER grant on behalf of New England departments; they were awarded a $3.38 million federal grant to recruit and retain volunteer and call firefighters through December 2029. The Chief feels based on certain criteria Westfield may be eligible for approx. $31,000 for gear, training, physicals, etc. for members that joined after September 2025. He plans to file an application with NEAFC as soon as possible.
-The Chief is working with Middlesex County Fire School to host a Q endorsement class, he is just waiting on the dates, he believes there are 6 Westfield members interested. The driver training is program is progressing well for officers and members.
-The Chief shared some activity updates:
- September 1st the Chief attended the statewide EOC drill
- The City of Middletown's 250th parade was held on 9/7, all the 3 departments marching together.
- October 1st Dept of Emergency Service & Public Protection hosting an employee safety day – Westfield was invited to attend
- October 10th is the live burn at the Litchfield burn building
- October 24th is the Department Open House and Flu Clinic
- October 27th the Department is sponsoring a blood drive from 1-6pm
- September 20th the Middletown High School girls soccer team is doing a car wash at the station
-The status of training classes for members as reported on the Chief's agenda were reviewed.

Commissioner(s) Report

-The Board was updated that Treasurer, Kim Previti resigned, her last day was August 24th. AR Mazzotta has been contacted to start a search for a replacement.
-District 5 DiCostanzo is requesting to attend the FDCI International Conference in April 2027. The Chief stated this is the fire department instructors conference focusing on instructor methodology, strategy and tactics, officers' classes, etc. On a **MOTION** by Scarrozzo and seconded by Peterson the following was approved; 1) DiCostanzo will attend, the cost would be covered the training budget for the daytime staff; 2) the Chief will extend an offer to one volunteer member with the cost coming from the Chief's training budget, all in favor.
- On a **MOTION** by Alderman and seconded by Turner it was approved to surrender the American National annuity ending in 0823 that will reach maturity on October 31, 2026, all if favor. The LOSAP committee will need to meet with Hometown Benefits and the Charles Schwab rep to review the portfolio for discussion on the reinvestment of funds, this will be scheduled towards the end of October.
-The department had an overrun in costs for the department picnic due to some added rentals and increased attendance. On a **MOTION** by Amy and seconded by Peterson is it was approved to reimburse the department the additional $1,000 for this year, all in favor. Comm. Amy supports the event but would like the department to supply a budget in advance for next year.
-A spreadsheet was presented to the Board with some updated information on the purchase replacement vehicle for the current 2012 Ford medical truck. The custom body has been ordered from Universal Body & Equipment but there is some additional information on the cab & chassis which has not been ordered as of yet.

Old Business – None

New Business – None

MOTION to go into Executive Session by Comm. Alderman seconded by Comm. Turner at 7:17 pm, all in favor of discussions regarding: Personnel – evaluations; 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, Bysiewicz, Alderman, Scarrozzo, T. Bysiewicz, Balch, Turner, Chief Coco and FDA Linda DeManche.

MOTION to come out of Executive Session by Comm. Amy seconded by Comm. Balch @ 8:20 pm, all in favor.

Commissioner Balch made a **MOTION** seconded by Scarrozzo to amend the motion made on 8/11/26 to: 1) purchase the cab & chassis from Monaco Ford off the state bid; 2) the total cost of the apparatus is now $110,072.20 due to an increase in the upfit costs; the cost will come out of CNR-Replacement fund, all in favor.

MOTION to adjourn @ 8:21 pm by Comm. Balch and seconded by Turner. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda DeManche
Fire District Administrator
as Recording Secretary