



South Worcester County Communications Center

357 Main Street • Webster, MA 01570 • 508-943-1212
Serving the Towns of Webster and Dudley, Massachusetts



Gregory Lynskey, Communications Center Director

SWCCC Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes for April 11, 2019 – Regular Session

Board Members Present: Chairman Greg Balukonis, Doug Willardson, Peter Fox (Representing Paul Joseph), Randy Becker
Others Present: Gregory Lynskey, Chief Steven Wojnar

- Meeting called to order by Chairman Balukonis at 10:08am.
- Chairman Balukonis led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Mr. Becker made a motion to approve the regular session meeting minutes from February 15, 2019. Second by Mr. Willardson. Vote 3-0-1 with Mr. Becker abstaining.
- Mr. Willardson stated he had invited the Oxford Town Manager to attend the March Board meeting (which was ultimately cancelled) however he never received a response or acknowledgement on the invite. Mr. Becker asked if the board at this point would like him to formally reach out to the Oxford Board of Selectmen Vice Chairman again. The Board recommended doing so. The Board discussed other towns to potentially reach out to. Mr. Balukonis stated that Sturbridge has a new administrator on board and he would reach out to initiate some contact. Chief Wojnar arrived at this time.
- Director Lynskey presented the board with a review of the budget through March 31, 2019. Director Lynskey stated there may be some transfers required as the year comes to an end but that at the current time there are no budget concerns.
- Director Lynskey informed the board of a complaint brought by the dispatchers regarding the conditions of the cell block over the President's day weekend. The situation was a prisoner who was pretty significantly out of control for a significant period of time to include urinating and defecating all over the cell and smearing feces around the cell. His actions at one point caused some bodily substances to end up in the cell hallway. A claim was made that the WPD OICs were made aware of this and that the WPD Command Staff had denied cleaning services from being called in as the services had already come once and the prisoner was just going to continue making a mess. Director Lynskey met with the WPD Command staff to discuss after being made aware of the situation. Based upon verbal claims that had been presented, it was determined the best course of action was to request that any dispatchers who had concerns with the situation put in writing the concerns they had and who they had spoken to that denied cleaning services so that remedial action could be taken for the future. Four reports were received from dispatchers, 3 of which were detailed and helpful in sorting out the situation and many of these details in those emails were able to be corroborated by either phone recordings or video recordings. There was a fourth report received from a dispatcher that did not provide details that could be substantiated and in fact was written as more of an attack towards the WPD Command Staff that bordered on claims of neglect and failing

Board of Directors:

Greg Balukonis - Chairman
Doug Willardson - Vice Chairman
Randy Becker - Member
Paul Joseph - Member

Operations Board:

Dean Kochanowski - Chairman
Michael Shaw - Vice Chairman
Steven Wojnar - Member
Brian Hickey - Member
Gary Milliard - Member

to take action. After review of the matter with the WPD Command Staff it was determined that a meeting should be held with all the dispatchers to review the matter including providing evidence that the WPD Command Staff did not neglect their duties regarding the matter and in fact as was shown through approximately 11 recorded phone calls that they had offered assistance to their OICs if needed and had never been made aware of the conditions of the cell hallway. Chief Kochanowski was asked to attend as the Ops Board Chair so that there was representation of the Operations Board at the meeting. The WPD Command Staff acknowledged that some mistakes appear to have been made and committed to correcting them. This prisoner's actions appears to be a 10-15 year type issue, certainly not something that is a regular occurrence. The WPD Command Staff is conducting a thorough review of the events of the weekend to include reviewing phone calls and video footage with a report expected to be completed in the next couple weeks. There may be some action required by the board for some policy changes depending upon the recommendations & findings of the report. The board discussed that it sounded like some standards should be determined as to what actions would constitute a prisoner not being in enough control for the Dispatchers to monitor. Director Lynskey noted that that is something that was being looked at as part of the review.

- Director Lynskey informed the Board that April 14-20 is National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week and that he would against be hosting a party to thank the dispatchers for their efforts throughout the year. Director Lynskey presented a certificate for the Board to sign that will be provided to each dispatcher.
- Director Lynskey informed the Board that full-time dispatcher Victoria Longo has submitted her resignation effective May 4, 2019 to pursue a new career field. Director Lynskey stated that Longo wishes to remain with the SWCCC as a part time dispatcher which he was completely in support of. He recommended that her pay rate as a part time dispatcher be set at \$18.50 per hour (step 2) to account for her service to the SWCCC. Mr. Becker made a motion to accept the resignation with thanks and regret. Second by Mr. Willardson. Unanimous vote. Mr. Fox made a motion to appoint Longo as a part time dispatcher effective May 5, 2019 with a starting rate of \$18.50 per hour. Second by Mr. Becker. Unanimous vote.
- Mr. Fox addressed the board stating that the May board meeting would be his final meeting and he would be resigning his position. Mr. Fox noted that for the prior 3 years he has been serving as an alternate and he feels that the time is right with a new Town Administrator coming on board and the upcoming selectmen's elections for him to hand over the position. Mr. Balukonis noted that the May meeting will also be his last before his retirement. Mr. Becker suggested that it would be helpful if Mr. Fox remained on through the June meeting to ensure there is no quorum issue with the upcoming changes. Mr. Fox agreed.
- The Board set the next meeting for May 9, 10am at the Dudley Municipal Complex.
- Mr. Becker made a motion to adjourn at 1052am, second by Mr. Fox. Unanimous vote.