

MEETING OF THE WESTCOMM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JANUARY 9, 2025, 10:00 A. M.
CHICOPEE PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING ROOM
15 COURT STREET, CHICOPEE MA 01020

GOOGLE MEET:
[HTTPS://MEET.GOOGLE.COM/VVX-ANRP-MBE](https://meet.google.com/vvx-anrp-mbe)
PHONE: 1-331-251-1698 PIN: 370 723 151#

In Attendance:

Tom Christensen, Town Manager, East Longmeadow
Stuart Beckley, Town Manager, Ware
Lyn Simmons, Town Manager, Longmeadow
JoAnn Kupiec, Admin Assistant, WESTCOMM
Jennifer Wolowicz, Town Manager, Monson
Erin Hastings, Executive Director, WESTCOMM
Anthony Massoia, Dispatch Supervisor, WESTCOMM
Patrick Major, Chief, Chicopee Police
Dan Stamborski, Chief, Chicopee Fire
Douglas Sanford, Deputy Chief, Chicopee Fire
Marlyn Velazquez, WESTCOMM
Jay Parker, IT Director, WESTCOMM
John Beaulieu, Chicopee
Khristy Lord, Deputy Director, WESTCOMM
Steve Kozloski, Chief, Monson PD
Eric Watson, Deputy Chief, Chicopee PD

1. Meeting called to order 10:11 A.M. A roll call was done, present at the meeting were Stuart Beckley, Tom Christensen, Jennifer Wolowicz, Lyn Simmons and John Beaulieu. 5 Present.
2. Old Business – FY 26 Budget: The Finance Committee met Tuesday and sent a recommended budget. Originally submitted for the Training Coordinator and Operations positions and were able to cut in some places, IT subscriptions being one area reducing the budget \$325,000 from the first draft. Erin asked for one of those positions to be added back into the budget, as Finance cut both positions

from the requested budget. The Finance Committee asked to increase what was budgeted for health insurance, they felt it was low. Cuts to IT licenses were done. A cost of a new switch was cut, this will be asked for under the Development grant. The Finance Committee voted unanimously on the budget.

Tom read an email from ECS Supervisor and Union President Anthony Massoia, supporting the Operations Manager position. Tom agreed this position is important enough to have serious conversations about. John agreed and stated the Training Coordinator position can be left out of the budget for this. Jennifer suggested a change in leadership could potentially change what WESTCOMM needs as far as positions, and is concerned there is not a FT Treasurer that works for WESTCOMM, making her uncomfortable and relying on the Finance Committee. Stuart things we need to look ahead and things the Operations manager is a necessary position and would like to see it returned to the budget. Lyn stated she would support a partial funding of the position. It was asked if the Operations Manager will have a rotating schedule. Erin stated the position will be on a flex schedule. Chief Major and Chief Stamborski expressed their support for the Operations Manager position and stated the position would be vital to WESTCOMM. The Board of Directors is looking for a comparison between the Director, Deputy Director and Operations Manager duties, to see where it overlaps. A discussion was had on the pros and cons of funding that position. The Board of Directors has also requested an Organization Chart.

A motion was made by John Beaulieu and 2nd by Stuart Beckley, to add the Operations Manager position @ \$79,414, back into the budget and agree with the recommendation of the Budget Committee. A discussion was had in regards to the Finance Committee cutting both positions in the budget, so the board does not agree with their budget. With this said John rescinded his motion.

A motion was made by John Beaulieu and 2nd by Lyn Simmons to add the Operations Manager position for \$ 79,414 back into the budget. It was agreed that in the budget 1 PT dispatch position and the PT Special Projects Coordinator position will be cut in order to fund the Operations Manager position. Lyn Simmons made a friendly amendment accepted by John Beaulieu, to add the funds in for the Operations Manager contingent on the Board of Directors receiving a job description for the Executive Director, Deputy Director and Operations Manager and approving a job posting in advance of posting for the position. A roll call was done, 5 yes, motion passed.

A motion was made by Stuart Beckley and 2nd by Jennifer Wolowicz, Move to approve the FY 26 Budget totaling \$ 6,681,847, as recommended by the Finance Committee and that the Executive Director come back with a recommendation on how to reduce the other lines in the budget by \$ 79,414. A roll call was done 4 yes 1 no (John Beaulieu), motion passed.

3. New Business: Building Committee appointment – Because Erin is leaving there will need to be a designee to sign change orders, and be a part of the Building Committee in Erin's place.

A motion was made by John Beaulieu and 2nd by Tom Christensen to make Khristy Lord Chair on the Building Committee after the vacancy of the Executive Director on 1/28/25. A roll call was done, 5 yes, motion passed.

Draft Scope of Services for Interim Executive Director: Lyn will complete and will be on the agenda for the next meeting scheduled for 1/14/25.

It was discussed about how the hiring of a vendor to replace the Executive Director would not be eligible for reimbursement through State 911.

John Beaulieu left the meeting at 11:31

4. Adjourn: A motion was made by Tom Christensen and 2nd by Jennifer Wolowicz to adjourn the meeting. A roll call was done, 4 yes, meeting adjourned at 11:45 A.M.