

Board of Fire Commissioners' Regular

Meeting February 22, 2026

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was held on Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 6:00 p.m., in City Hall Council Chambers, 111 N Main Street Bristol, CT

Present: Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Commissioners Sean Moore, Dana Jandreau, Hal Kilby, Anthony Benvenuto, and Sandra Bogdanski, Council Member Peter Kelley, and Fire Chief Richard Hart.

1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Zoppo-Sassu at 6:00 pm.

2. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

- a. Chief Hart recognized Deputy Chief David Simard on his retirement from the Bristol Fire Department following 39 years of dedicated service.
- b. Chief Hart recognized members of the fire department for their life saving actions at a structure fire, incident #168, on January 22, 2026.
 - Lieutenant Gary Buzzell
 - Lieutenant Lance Lavore
 - Firefighter Andrew Duval
 - Firefighter John Stankus
- c. Chief Hart recognized members of the department for their actions at a structure fire, incident # 168, on January 22, 2026.
 - Captain James Plaster
 - Lieutenant Jason Dufour
 - Lieutenant Charles Judd
 - Firefighter Adam Barbuto
 - Firefighter Anthony Bentivengo
 - Firefighter Ryan Blaney
 - Firefighter Ryan Cianci
 - Firefighter Gregory Corvo
 - Firefighter Max Corvo
 - Firefighter Thomas Maguire
 - Firefighter Benjamin Mike
 - Firefighter Lawrence Rossi

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- a. None.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Mayor Zoppo-Sassu welcomed Commissioner Sandra Bogdanski. Commissioner Bogdanski

introduced herself to the board. She shared that she is a lifelong resident of Bristol and her late husband was a Waterbury Firefighter. She is honored to be serving as a commissioner.

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- a. On motion of Commissioner Moore and seconded by Commissioner Jandreau it was unanimously voted: To approve the January 22, 2026 meeting minutes.

6. APPROVAL OF THE MONTHLY REPORTS

- a. On motion of Commissioner Moore and seconded by Commissioner Jandreau it was unanimously voted: To approve the January monthly reports.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Fire Station 3 Building Committee
 - Commissioner Moore provided an updated for the Fire Station 3 Building Committee. He shared that the building is anticipated to be occupied mid-March and the project remains under budget. The building committee hopes to hold an open house for the community sometime in April after Station 3 has moved in.
- b. Personnel Committee
 - Commissioner Jandreau shared that promotional testing for the ranks of Lieutenant, Captain, and Deputy Chief have been posted and written tests will be held March 16th and 18th.
 - The Fire Equipment Technician position was discussed. Chief Hart advised he is in discussion with Human Resources to redefine the position to mechanic to allow more in house repairs and services on apparatus. He shared that an increase in pay to align with the updated job description has been requested. Human Resources has concerns regarding the position's salary increase and being in the Fire Union as a civilian. The Commissioners expressed their support and agreement with Chief Hart. On motion of Commissioner Moore and seconded by Commissioner Jandreau it was unanimously voted to: Endorse the recommendation of Chief Hart to update the Fire Equipment Technician position to Mechanic and increase the salary. The commission advised Chief Hart build documentation within the monthly reports to show the costs associated with sending the apparatus out for repairs.
 - Chief Hart shared that the UTV from the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security has been delivered and a training program for the UTV will be implemented in the near future to the department.

8. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Discussion
 - Mayor Zoppo-Sassu advised that Capital Improvement met earlier today and reviewed the various projects in discussion. The Fire budget is set to be

reviewed on March 4th at 6:00 pm. Chief Hart advised the budget is at an increase due to a request for 12 additional firefighters. He discussed the SAFER Grant and the terms anticipated. At this time DHS and FEMA are shut down and the grant has not yet been released.

- b. Commissioner Kilby gave an update on the red-light cameras through the Police Commission. He advised there are many questions the commission will be researching and reporting back on at their next meeting. He is hopeful there will be a positive referral to the Ordinance Committee and City Council following.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. A board of finance request to appropriate donated funds into Molly the Fire Dog's account was submitted. On motion of Commissioner Moore and seconded by Commissioner Benvenuto it was unanimously voted to: Approve the Board of Finance request to appropriate \$5,271.00 of donated funds into Molly's account.
- b. A board of finance request to appropriate donated funds to the Hap Barnes Fire Safety Trailer account from the Main Street Community Foundation was submitted. On motion of Commissioner Moore and seconded by Commissioner Kilby it was unanimously voted to: Approve the Board of Finance request to appropriate \$3,410.00 into the Hap Branes Fire Safety Trailer account.
- c. Commissioner Jandreau addressed the commission concerning language in the City Charter around promotional testing for Chief. He shared that currently the charter states that candidates who attain a mark of 70% or higher on the oral exam be placed on the final eligibility list and hired in scored order. The firefighter eligibility list is determined based on the Fire Boards recommendations. Other departments hold no test for Chief, but rather a submission of a resume, an oral interview, and the mayor or city leadership selecting the candidate. The commission will review language in chapter 42 to see if any other language changes or modernizations are needed.
- d. Chief Hart shared that the Bristol Exchange Club will be honoring Deputy Chief Mark Martin as Firefighter of the Year on Monday, March 30th.

10. ADJOURN

- a. On motion of Commissioner Moore and seconded by Commissioner Jandreau, it was unanimously voted: To adjourn the meeting at 7:03 pm.

Recording Secretary: Sara Bianchi

