

# Board of Fire Commissioners' Regular Meeting

**April 23, 2026**

**A Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was held on Thursday, April 23, 2026 at 6:00 p.m., in City Hall Council Chambers, 111 N Main Street Bristol, CT**

**Present:** Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Dana Jandreau, Hal Kilby, Anthony Benvenuto, and Sandra Bogdanski, and Fire Chief Richard Hart.

**Absent:** Commissioner Sean Moore and Council Member Peter Kelley

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

## **2. EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

- a. None.

## **3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- a. None.

## **4. COMMUNICATIONS**

- a. Mayor Zoppo-Sassu received a request from the Post Office to place flyers for the Letter Carrier's Food Drive beginning May 9<sup>th</sup> for a period of about 2 weeks.

## **5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

- a. On motion of Commissioner Jandreau and seconded by Commissioner Kilby it was unanimously voted: To approve the March 26, 2026 regular meeting minutes.
- b. On motion of Commissioner Benvenuto and seconded by Commissioner Bogdanski it was unanimously voted: To approve the April 9, 2026 special meeting minutes as amended to include Captain DellaVentura's promotion and correct the adjournment time.

## **6. APPROVAL OF THE MONTHLY REPORTS**

- a. On motion of Commissioner Kilby and seconded by Commissioner Benvenuto it was unanimously voted: To approve the March monthly reports.

## **7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a. Fire Station 3 Building Committee
  - Chief Hart shared that Station 3 was officially moved into on April 1<sup>st</sup>. He advised that there are still a few minor issues being worked through but overall is very happy with the project.
  - He shared that the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

b. Personnel Committee

- Commissioner Jandreau shared that Probationary Firefighter Tomlin is doing well in the academy and set to graduate in May. He shared that the Deputy Chief test was posted and scheduled for late May.
- The request for additional staffing was discussed. At this time the SAFER Grant has still not been opened and hiring is uncertain.
- Chief Hart updated the board on long term absences. At this time all members have returned to full duty with the exception of Firefighter Spatkowski and Lieutenant Sanchez who are still on light duty.
- A request for retirement from Captain James Plaster was presented. On motion of Commissioner Jandreau and seconded by Commissioner Kilby it was unanimously voted to: Accept and acknowledge Captain Plaster's entry into the drop with a potential retirement date of July 24, 2028.
- A request for retirement from Lieutenant Robert Lavoie was presented. On motion of Commissioner Kilby and seconded by Commissioner Jandreau it was unanimously voted: To accept and acknowledge the retirement of Lieutenant Lavoie for July 7, 2026 and refer to the Retirement Board.
- Chief Hart provided an update on the Mechanic's position. He advised that Human Resources and the union are in discussion regarding the testing process for the position and hope to agree to test by resume and oral interview.

**8. OLD BUSINESS**

a. Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Discussion

- Mayor Zoppo-Sassu advised that the city is waiting to hear from the state for ECS funding before approving a budget. On April 28<sup>th</sup> there is a Budget Workshop and on May 18<sup>th</sup> the Joint Board will meet and adopt a budget for the city.

b. Charter Revision Discussion

- Mayor Zoppo-Sassu and Commissioner Jandreau shared that a formal request for charter revision has been sent to Corp Counsel to form a committee. Items of for consideration of revision are promotional issues within the police and fire departments are well as language revision requests from the parks department. The committee will need 5 people to serve.

c. Mayor Zoppo-Sassu provided an update of the Training Center. She shared that there are two properties being looked at and discussed for purchase. Mayor Zoppo-Sassu and Chief Hart met with the Commissioner of The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection to discuss the project and request assistance for funding.

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

a. None.

**10. ADJOURN**

- a. On motion of Commissioner Kilby and seconded by Commissioner Benvenuto, it was unanimously voted: To adjourn the meeting at 6:32 pm.

Recording Secretary: Sara Bianchi

