

Board of Fire Commissioners' Regular Meeting

May 28, 2026

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was held on Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., in City Hall Council Chambers, 111 N Main Street, Bristol, CT

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

Absent: Commissioner Sean Moore

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. None.

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- a. On motion of Commissioner Jandreau, seconded by Commissioner Kilby, it was unanimously voted: To approve the April 23, 2026 regular meeting minutes.

6. APPROVAL OF THE MONTHLY REPORTS

- a. On motion of Commissioner Jandreau, seconded by Commissioner Bogdanski, it was unanimously voted: To approve the April monthly reports.
- b. Chief Hart noted that Station 4 and Station 5 will have docking stations for drones installed and that 21 members of the department have expressed interest in the drone program.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Fire Station 3 Building Committee
 - Chief Hart shared that the Grand Opening Ceremony was a success and well attended. He advised there are still a few minor issues being worked through with the contractors, but overall, there are no major issues or concerns.

b. Personnel Committee

- Mayor Zoppo-Sassu provided an update on the Mechanic's position. She advised that an MOU has been signed by the Fire Union to allow for the testing of this position to be by resume and oral exam. Human Resources is in discussions with local departments' Mechanics regarding the testing.
- Chief Hart advised that at the June monthly meeting there would be two retirements, Deputy Chief Mark Martin and Lieutenant Robert Lavoie. There would also be promotions for: a Deputy Chief, a Captain, and two Lieutenants. There would also be the hiring of another firefighter who would start in August at the Fire Academy.

8. OLD BUSINESS

a. Charter Revision Discussion

- Mayor Zoppo-Sassu shared that a formal request for charter revision has been received by Corp Counsel, and Retired Corporation Counsel Attorney Richard Lacey will chair the committee. The committee is to be made up of seven members. City Council members will each appoint a member to the committee following party lines. The committee is expected to be formed in August and begin in September.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Chief Hart requested to start Strategic Planning for the Fire Department and meet with Josh Medeiros, Superintendent of the Parks Department to start that process. The Fire Board supports this.

10. ADJOURN

- a. On motion of Commissioner Kilby and seconded by Commissioner Bogdanski, it was unanimously voted: To adjourn the meeting at 6:11 pm.

Recording Secretary: Sara Bianchi

