

Board of Fire Commissioners' Regular Meeting

March 27, 2025

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was held on Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall, 111 N Main Street Bristol, CT

Present: Commissioners Sean Moore, Hal Kilby, Dana Jandreau, Joyce Ptak, and Anthony Benvenuto, Council Member Cheryl Thibeault, and Fire Chief Richard Hart.

Absent: Mayor Jeffrey Caggiano

1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Moore 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 Ptak and seconded by Council Member Thibeault it was voted: To accept the February 27, 2025 meeting minutes. Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairperson declared the motion carried.

6. APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS

- a. Chief Hart answered a few questions from the monthly reports pertaining to the streetscape work being done in front of headquarters and the front ramp being paved.
- b. On motion of Commissioner Jandreau and seconded by Commissioner Ptak it was voted: To accept the February Monthly Reports. Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairperson declared the motion carried.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Chief Hart and Commissioner Moore provided an update of the Fire Station 3 Building Committee. He shared that the steel work is almost completed, the roof decking and a masonry wall will begin next week. They discussed change orders and impact on the

budget, which is currently under by \$-83,000.00. It was also mentioned that the contractors are working to keep the street clean and clear of dirt and debris.

- b. Commissioner Jandreau stated there was no personnel report this month.

8. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Chief Hart provided the board an update on the matter of private hydrants. He and Council Member Thibeault shared an update from the Ordinance Committee, and how they are working to strengthen language within the ordinance to enforce they be in compliance.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Chief Hart requested permission to apply for the Thomaston Savings Bank Grant for a gear washer beginning on April 1st. On motion of Commissioner Kilby and seconded by Commissioner Ptak it was voted: To approve the Fire Department to apply for the grant with Thomaston Savings Bank. Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairperson declared the motion carried.
- b. The Fire Department received a donation of \$2,000.00 from James Mazzearelli of Action Wildlife in Goshen. A note of gratitude was sent.
- c. Chief Hart provided an update on the budget. He stated that he spoke with Mayor Caggiano and there will be no additional staff as requested in the fiscal year 2026 budget, but that it would be revisited for the fiscal year 2027 budget and a potential of 12 new staff could be brought on. He also spoke about the SAFER Grant and the timeline to apply for next fiscal year, this will also be revisited. The board discussed Bristol's Fire Department in comparison to other local municipalities. This included relation to town/city size, population, and their fire department staffing models. It was shared that Bristol has not added additional staffing since 1972. The new Ladder 2 will be arriving sometime in November, and the new fire station is anticipated to be ready for January 2026 without the additional man power as the request for it was declined.
- d. The board discussed the upcoming test for firefighters and the process. Chief Hart shared the process of new hires. The current firefighter list is set to expire in July. There were 180 applicants and the new list generated from the test will be used for the next two years.

10. ADJOURN

- a. On motion of Commissioner Ptak and seconded by Commissioner Jandreau, it was voted: To adjourn the meeting at 6:38 pm. Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Recording Secretary: Sara Bianchi