

Board of Fire Commissioners' Regular Meeting

August 28, 2025

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was held on Thursday, August 28, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall, 111 N Main Street Bristol, CT

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

Present via Zoom: Mayor Jeffrey Caggiano until 6:18 when he arrived in person.

1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Moore at 6:00 pm.

2. Employee Recognition

- a. Chief Hart acknowledged members of the Peer Support Team for their on-going support to the Plainville Fire department following the line of duty death of one of their members.
- b. Chief Hart read a letter asking the Board of Fire Commissioners to recognize Molly, the department's support dog, at the meeting for her role in providing comfort and support in Plainville as well. On motion of Commissioner Ptak and seconded by Commissioner Jandreau it was unanimously voted to recognize Molly. Chief Hart presented her with a treat.
- c. Chief Hart read a letter of recognition from Deputy Chief Mark Martin in which he commended members of the department for their actions at a house fire where a civilian was trapped in their home. The crews worked together swiftly and were able to escort the homeowner to safety. Chief Hart and Deputy Chief Martin presented certificates of recognition to the following members:
 - Lieutenant Andy Mercieri
 - Firefighter Jordan Terrier
 - Firefighter Joe Neary
 - Lieutenant Nate England
 - Firefighter Pete Zurlis
 - Firefighter Nick Regis
 - Lieutenant Mike Valenti
 - Firefighter Chris Hayden
 - Firefighter Kyle Dunn
 - Lieutenant Adrienne Plourde
 - Firefighter Scott Poulton
 - Firefighter Seth Zepka
 - Firefighter Jorge Sanchez

3. Public Participation

- a. Chris Hayden of 79 Jacqueline Drive spoke expressing his appreciation for himself and the department for Chief Hart's actions and support to the Plainville Fire Department.

4. Communications

- a. Chief Hart read a letter from a civilian in which she commended and expressed gratitude to members of the department for their professionalism and skill who responded to a call at her home for a carbon monoxide detector.

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- a. On motion of Commissioner Ptak and seconded by Commissioner Jandreau it was voted: To accept the July 24, 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. On motion of Commissioner Jandreau and seconded by Commissioner Ptak it was voted: To accept the July Monthly Reports. Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairperson declared the motion carried.
- b. It was noted there was no report of the private fire hydrants compliance updates within the Fire Marshal's report, and requested that it be listed as a part of his report monthly. Chief Hart did speak with Marshal Lambert who shared that 51 hydrants have passed inspection as of Tuesday 8/26/25.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Chief Hart and Commissioner Moore provided an update of the Fire Station 3 Building Committee. It was shared that the committee is going to be having a meeting to discuss the concerns of the committee regarding timeline and the mason being 4-6 weeks behind schedule. An overview of next steps was given. They shared that a ribbon cutting ceremony is to be decided, by the Fire Board will be invited to attend.
- b. Commissioner Jandreau shared that the Personnel Committee will be conducting interviews with Human Resources on September 9th and 10th. He shared the promotion of a new Drill Master will open a line vacancy. Chief Hart stated that there will be an anticipated 4 vacancies created by retirements early July. The next Fire Academy is in February and there will be future discussions to early hire as to get new hires into that recruit class.

8. OLD BUSINESS

- a. The committee reiterated that they would like the percentage of private hydrants in compliance listed as a monthly item in the Fire Marshal's report moving forward.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. The board was presented with the department's year end transfers. On motion of Commissioner Ptak and seconded by Mayor Caggiano, it was unanimously voted: To approve the Board of Finance Request presented for year-end transfers to cover overages in various accounts in the amount of \$378,925.00.
- b. The board was presented with a Board of Finance transfer request for turn out gear. On motion of Commissioner Ptak and seconded by Mayor Caggiano, it was unanimously voted: To approve the Board of Finance Request presented for the purchase of 10 sets of turn out gear and 5 helmets in the amount of \$39,365.00

10. ADJOURN

- a. On motion of Commissioner Moore and seconded by Council Mayor Caggiano, it was voted: To adjourn the meeting at 6:32 pm. Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Recording Secretary: Sara Bianchi