

Board of Fire Commissioners' Regular Meeting

December 18, 2025

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was held on Thursday, December 18, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., in meeting room 3-1, City Hall, 111 N Main Street Bristol, CT

Present: Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu (until 6:07 pm,) Commissioners Sean Moore, Dana Jandreau, Hal Kilby, Anthony Benvenuto, and Joyce Ptak, and Council Member Peter Kelly 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.

3. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

- a. Chief Hart recognized Honorary Firefighter Freddie Elder for his bravery on November 27, 2025. Seven-year-old Freddie altered his parents to a fire in their living room on Thanksgiving after investigating crackling sounds. His quick investigation and immediate notification of the situation to his parents not only prevented significant property damage, but also what could have been a life-threatening situation given the number of people in the residence celebrating the holiday.
- b. Mayor Zoppo-Sassu suggested the board break for a 3-minute recess to allow pictures to be taken. On motion of Commissioner Moore and seconded by Commissioner Jandreau it was unanimously voted to: Break for a 3-minute recess.
On motion of Commissioner Ptak and seconded by Commissioner Benvenuto it was unanimously voted: To resume the meeting at 6:10 pm.

4. EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

- a. None.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- a. None.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. None.

7. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- a. On motion of Commissioner Ptak and seconded by Commissioner Benvenuto it was unanimously voted: To approve the November 20, 2025 meeting minutes as amended to reflect Commissioner Jandreau as present.
- b. Commissioner Jandreau noted that in the Tower1 report headquarters is still waiting on the installation of the Opticom. Chief Hart advised that they are waiting on the vendor to

complete the project which occurred in 3 phases.

- c. Chief Hart shared with the board that the month of November had the department responding to 4 fatal motor vehicle accidents, one of which involved a child. He advised that the department Peer Support team responded to both the department and EMS as they do not have this type of internal support. Conversations with Fire, Police, Bristol Health and Dispatch lead to the creation of a city-wide Peer Support Team which will umbrella the services in the event they are needed.
- d. Chief Hart advised that he has informally received notification that the department will be receiving a UTV through DEMIS Region 3 as a Capital Region Asset to assist with brush fire suppression. The UTV will also be able to hold a stokes basket in the event a patient needs to be transported. He stated he will provide updates as they become available.
- e. Chief Hart shared that Ladder 2 is in service at this time to shake the truck out while under warranty.
- f. Commissioner Moore noted that in the Engine 5 report it was noted that there was an issue with their bathroom and the thermostat in the bay and inquired as to whether the issue was resolved. Chief Hart advised that both issues have since been taken care of by Public Works.
- g. Chief Hart shared that the department is doing an internship with a senior from Bristol Central and he hopes to evolve an academic program as a Fire Cohort for those interested in firefighting.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Commissioner Moore provided an updated for the Fire Station 3 Building Committee. He shared the updated project schedule and advised that the bay doors which were ordered in the incorrect quantity and size should be in the end of January. He shared that there is an issue with Eversource and their gas installation project in the street and it has been delayed. The project which should have been completed in November is now scheduled to start in January. The project is now scheduled to be completed February 23, 2026 with no additional expenses incurred. He shared that the project is running with a credit of \$-58,000.00 from change orders.
- b. Commissioner Jandreau provided an update for the Personnel Committee. He advised that while there was no new news from Human Resources, the 2 candidates were sized for uniforms.

9. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Commissioner Kilby inquired as to whether there were to be fines issued for private fire hydrants that are not in compliance as we are only at 24%. Chief Hart advised he would follow up with the Fire Marshal.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Commissioner Kilby expressed his concerns over the poor driving in town and shared that he is in favor of traffic cameras. He requested permission to write a letter to present to the Mayor and City Council in solidarity with the installation of red-light cameras.

Following discussion, the board agreed unanimously and plan to email Commissioner Kilby with input.

- b. The board was presented with a request for a waiver of fees for St. Vincent DePaul's for false alarm charges. Chief Hart shared that there was an issue with their alarm system and the issue has since been resolved. On motion of Commissioner Ptak and seconded by Commissioner Kilby, it was unanimously voted: To waive the invoice in the amount of \$270.00 dated November 10, 2025.
- c. Chief Hart advised that he is working on the fiscal year 2027 budget. He shared that Station 2 received LOCIP funds for renovations to their bunk room and bathrooms. He has also submitted to Capital Improvement a request to renovate headquarters' bunkroom and bathrooms. He advised that he will be requesting to replace the aged fleet of vehicles for the Fire Marshal's office with pickup trucks. He noted that he will be requesting pickup trucks specifically because it will allow them to keep their gear out of the cab which is an initiative with the NFPA for firefighters to have clean cabs for exposure reduction. Tower 2's replacement will also a request this budget cycle. He expressed concern over the continued rising cost in fire apparatus and advised that signing a contract now would lock in the price and that build time is roughly 3 years. Chief Hart advised that he is looking to apply for the SAFER Grant and awaiting details from FEMA. There is no information on release date at this time.

11. ADJOURN

- a. On motion of Commissioner Jandreau and seconded by Commissioner Benvenuto, it was unanimously voted: To adjourn the meeting at 6:50 pm.

Recording Secretary: Sara Bianchi

