

Board of Fire Commissioners' Regular Meeting

August 27, 2026

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was held on Thursday, August 27, 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, Sandra Bogdanski, and Dannette Rodriguez, Council Member Peter Kelley, and Fire Chief Richard Hart

1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Mayor Zoppo-Sassu called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. She led introductions and welcomed Commissioner Dannette Rodriguez to the Fire Board. Commissioner Rodriguez shared that she has been a Bristol resident for 9 years and currently works part-time as a medical interpreter, but started her career as a firefighter and later worked EMS in Southbury.

2. EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

- a. None.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- a. None.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. None.

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- a. On motion of Commissioner Bogdanski, seconded by Commissioner Benvenuto, it was unanimously voted: To approve the July 23, 2026 regular meeting minutes with the corrections to item 10. b. The spelling error and the meeting location change to Station 4 ahead of the Citizens Academy.
- b. On motion of Commissioner Kilby and seconded by Commissioner Benvenuto, it was unanimously voted: To approve the August 17, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes.

6. APPROVAL OF THE MONTHLY REPORTS

- a. On motion of Commissioner Kilby, seconded by Commissioner Jandreau, it was unanimously voted: To approve the July monthly reports and place on file.
 - Chief Hart shared that the Fire Apparatus Mechanic will be starting on September 8, 2026, and he is very excited for him to start. He shared that Station 3 and Station 4 are having HVAC issues, and David Oakes is working to correct them.
 - Mutual Aid calls were discussed by the board. Chief Hart shared that those calls

have decreased, but he anticipates they will increase as winter approaches. The board discussed concerns around sending members out of town due to the potential for injury, accidents, and wear and tear on apparatus. Chief Hart advised that he has had many conversations with Southington as Bristol's Fire Chief and a resident of the town about their staffing shortages. Chief Hart reviewed the department's procedure for Mutual Aid calls.

b. Review of Year-End 6/30/2026 budget

- The Fire Board reviewed the fiscal year 2026 year-end budget and discussed the overtime line item being considerably over budget and contributing factors to the expense. Issues such as workers' compensation, extended illness and injury, promotional hiring delays, and retirements were all cited as contributing factors for the overage. Chief Hart shared some of the costs associated with these items. The board discussed upcoming retirements and promotions and expressed concern that the Lieutenants List will expire due to the rule of 5. The board will refer the matter to the Charter Revision Committee. The board will continue to review the budget quarterly to monitor.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Fire Station 3 Building Committee

- Chief Hart shared that while the committee has not met, they have not dissolved. He stated that some HVAC issues are still being addressed. Chief Hart also noted an issue with the front ramp because a drain pipe was leaking under the driveway. Chief Hart stated that he sent information to Public Works about purchasing a shed to house the lawn care equipment.

b. Personnel Committee

- Commissioner Jandreau advised that the two new hires, Joshua Greco and Christopher Drouin, start the Fire Academy on Monday, August 31st, and started with Captain Freimuth on August 24th.

8. OLD BUSINESS

a. None.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. None.

10. ADJOURN

- a. On motion of Commissioner Jandreau and seconded by Commissioner Benvenuto, it was unanimously voted: To adjourn the meeting at 6:46 pm.

Recording Secretary: Sara Bianchi

