

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

City Hall Auditorium / Zoom

May 6, 2026

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Public Safety was held on Wednesday, May 6, 2026. Attendance was in person and by Zoom. Present at the City Hall Auditorium were Mayor Molly Spino, Commissioners Doug Benedetto, Tylar Young, Joe McElroy, Cindy Sherwood and Darlene Battle, Eric Green joined via Zoom. Also present were Police Chief William Baldwin, Deputy Police Chief Bart Barown, Fire Chief David Tripp, Deputy Fire Chief Randall Chesanek and Trinity Health EMS Manager Jeff Ganung.

Mayor Spino called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Public Comment

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Young, the Board voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public.

David Tripp, Jr. Torrington resident, Fire Chief of the Torrington Fire Department spoke about challenges the Torrington Fire Department faces and why the budget adjustments he is requesting are essential to maintain a level of service to the Torrington residents. He spoke about the Torrington Fire Department and adding additional staff here which will ensure equitable protection for every resident and business in Torrington and provide critical relief to the apparatus and frontline resources and would help balance call distribution, reduce mileage, lower repair costs and keep apparatus available for emergencies that matter most. Chief Tripp stated that since 2020 the cost of operating the Fire Department has risen dramatically and gave examples of the increases. Chief Tripp asked the Board of Public Safety to restore the \$365,000.00 needed to provide critical East Side daytime coverage and staffing. He asked for the Board of Public Safety's support and vote at the next meeting so they can continue protecting residents, businesses and neighbors of Torrington professionally, safely and without compromise.

John Field Torrington resident and former Fire Chief of the City of Torrington and current Fire Chief for the town of Winchester. He spoke about the Fire Department and the safety of Torrington residents and restoring the Torrington Fire Department.

Karen Thomas Torrington resident, spoke about her support for restoring the Torrington Fire Department and adding the additional funding back into the budget.

Marilyn Plaskiewicz Torrington resident, spoke about her support for restoring the Torrington Fire Department.

Sharon Waagner Torrington resident, thanked everyone and went on to speak about improving fire safety.

Timothy O'Donnell Torrington resident and President of Torrington Firefighters Local 1567. He voiced his frustration regarding the Fire Department and asked the Board to help improve public safety and honor the request and start to move the Fire Department in a positive direction.

Glenn Royals Torrington resident spoke about the two most important things in Torrington, fire and police and asked the Board to listen to the Chiefs.

Buddy Milo Torrington resident spoke about his support for the Torrington Fire Department.

Bob Pepler Torrington resident thanked everyone and spoke about his support for the Torrington Fire Department.

Accept Minutes

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Young, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes from April 1, 2026.

Police Department – Completion of Probationary Period

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Young, the Board voted unanimously to accept Officer Matthew Young as a regular member of the Torrington Police Department after completing his probationary period, effective April 30, 2026.

Police Department Reports

On a motion by Commissioner McElroy, seconded by Commissioner Young, the Board voted unanimously to accept Police Chief Baldwin's reports for March 2026.

Police Department – Purchase of Coin-Operated Parking Meters

On a motion by Doug Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Young, the Board voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Police Department Traffic Division and the Purchasing Agent to purchase coin-operated parking meters from Mackay Meters, Inc., Nova Scotia, Canada, in an amount not to exceed \$47,677.50, to be charged to the Parking Authority Capital Account, pending City Council approval. The meters will accept both coins and credit cards.

Police Department State Contract #24PSX0110 2026 Ford Interceptor

On a motion by Doug Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Young, the Board voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Vehicle Replacement Advisory Board to authorize the Mayor to award the purchase of this vehicle from Gengras Ford, LLC, Plainville, CT,

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contingency, and to authorize the Mayor to act on behalf of the City regarding the execution of the contract and its administration. Funding for this vehicle will be from the Vehicle Replacement Account.

Fire Department Reports

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McElroy, the Board voted unanimously to accept Fire Chief Tripp's reports for March 2026. Commissioner Benedetto asked about the status of the fire apparatus. Deputy Chief Chesanek reported that Truck One will be out of service for approximately one month for repairs. Engine 3 has been out of service and is being prepared to go to auction. Engine 5 has been permanently taken out of service due to major frame and aerial damage, and has been out of service for approximately five weeks. Engine 17 is currently out of service due to pump issues and is scheduled to go in for service on May 7, 2026. He stated that all other apparatus are currently in service; however, the department is once again at a critical stage. Deputy Chief Chesanek further explained the department's plans moving forward and stated that they will be presented at next month's meeting. Commissioner Young requested that the Chief prepare a report covering the last five years detailing how many calls the Tarringford Volunteer Department was dispatched to and how many calls they accepted, and to present the report at next month's meeting.

EMS Provider Reports

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Young, the Board voted unanimously to accept the EMS Provider Activity reports for March 2026. Commissioner Benedetto asked Manager Ganung to submit a report at next month's meeting as to how many calls they received from the East Side of Town.

Business by the Safety Policy Subcommittee

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McElroy, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by the Board of Safety Policy Subcommittee. Commissioner McElroy stated that they have not needed to hold a meeting, as there are no updated policies currently under review.

Business by Volunteer Fire Departments

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Young, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by the Volunteer Fire Departments. President Chris Beyus spoke briefly about the Drakeville Volunteer report. He stated that all the apparatus are in service.

Business by Department Heads

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Young, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by Department Heads. Police Chief Baldwin, Fire Chief Tripp, and EMS Manager Jeff Ganung gave the latest updates from their departments.

Business by Mayor & Members

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Young, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by the Mayor and Members of the Board of Public Safety. **Commissioner McElroy** thanked the public for coming and voicing their concerns about coverage on the East side of town. He stated that their concerns are not going unheard. He also stated that there are a lot of steps to go through and they are taking this seriously. **Commissioner Battle** agreed with Commissioner McElroy that the Board is listening and are going to do everything they can. **Mayor Spino** thanked everyone who came and spoke, for paying attention to what is happening and for speaking about what they believe in.

Adjournment

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Young, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Diane V. Woodruff, Deputy City Clerk
CLERK

ATTEST:

Carol L. Anderson CITY

CAROL L. ANDERSON, CITY CLERK