

A special meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District was called to order at 7:00 P.M. on March 14, 2022, by Chairperson, K. Thompson.

Present: K. Thompson, M. Chura, D. Rafkis, M. Malone, J. Patterson, A. Speech, J. Tanner, C. Curtis, B. Raymond-LaPrease, C. LaPrease, J. Metallo, M. Evans, L. Malone, M. Harrison

Pledge to Flag

Old Business:

- K. Thompson reported that the Insurance renewal came in at 7.5%. J. Patterson made the motion to approve the insurance renewal and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried. (Difference between 7% and 7.5 is \$237)

New Business:

- D. Rafkis made the motion to approve attendance at the 13th Annual Onondaga County Legislative Conversation and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried.
- Policy updates were reviewed.
 - J. Patterson made the motion to approve the Electronic Banking policy with minor update to policy name and dates and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried.
 - J. Patterson made the motion to approve the Physical Fitness Reimbursement Policy with name & date change and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried.
 - J. Patterson made the motion to approve the updates to the NIMS policy with the update to section 2.1 and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried.
 - J. Patterson made the motion to approve the Prescription Safety Glasses Policy with the policy name addition and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried.
 - M. Chura made the motion to approve the Truck Bay Usage Policy with the update to add parking personal vehicle in place of take-home vehicle and date added. M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried.
- J. Patterson made the motion to approve new active member application for Ilir Aliu pending his physical and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried.

K. Thompson reviewed some of the long-term planning items that we know of roofs, roof top units and parking lots. Fire equipment replacement including radios, SCBA and extrication tools. We are continuing to plan for apparatus replacement.

M. Chura had some thoughts on conditions of our current buildings. How long to we keep pushing things down before we decide we need to do something different? Do we need to look at modifications to the station for office space and storage space? Sprinklers at station #2? Do we look at leasing apparatus? Do we need to look at different style vehicles? Committees would need to look at all these things and what we need to budget down the road. If we missed anything let us know. M. Evans asked about a new engine or a rescue pumper. Discussion. We need to look at our options and this would be a discussion with the truck committee.

M. Harrison asked if the fire district has set money aside to connect to sewer if that were to happen as the school district has. Discussion. K. Thompson stated these are the types of projects we are looking for. B. Raymond-LaPrease stated that there may be some revitalization funds available and that someone from the board really should meet with the town engineer to discuss. K. Thompson mentioned that this is a project we could bond for if needed.

B. Raymond-LaPrease expressed concern about the wall in the hall that continues to show rust/water marks and needs to have an engineer look at it. Discussion. M. Chura questioned if we need to address the wall or address the use of and future of the building. It will probably need a new boiler soon as well. Do we work on the wall if we are no longer really having events here? B. Raymond-LaPrease stated that we would need to consider the ramifications to the taxpayers and the costs associated with any building projects and possibly look at NYSEERDA for funding opportunities. The hall does get used by the community, the woodworkers have it 3-4 times a month. M. Harrison suggested looking at use for fire department use not just community. K. Thompson stated that it is not a designated Red Cross shelter but we can help.

K. Thompson asked how do we want to structure, do we go along the same lines as the committee assignments? Discussion. M. Chura suggested to talk among the committees and come up with a plan for next week's meeting. B. Raymond-LaPrease asked if the board is going to do an actual SWOT analysis for these items or just 5-10 year plan. What has been done in the past is not true long-term planning. K. Thompson stated that she has recently taken training on strategic planning and although not using the same analysis method we are discussing these things, just using different terms and that each committee is going to attack those issues. C. LaPrease stated we need a plan for recruitment and succession planning and the commissioners should actively be doing this. The members need to be made aware of long-term planning. Other items discussed: how long has dispatch been leaking? The roof at HQ has multiple leaks?

K. Thompson suggested that the board think things over and come back next week to come up with a plan for who will head these committees for long-term plans.

Public comments: M. Evans asked about the mandatory training and those that left on a call and now we have to make up the training. He felt that the training should have been put on hold until the call ended and felt next time members would not leave for the call. K. Thompson explained the thought process and that it is required training and if there was an incident it would be questioned as to why some didn't actually receive the training. We are in a rock and a hard place. As an alternative next year we have discussed having a standby crew. Discussion.

K. Thompson stated we will be going into executive session and do not anticipate any further business. At 8:07pm K. Thompson made the motion to enter Executive Session to discuss the employment history of an individual which may lead to his or her continued employment or discipline and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried.

Resumed the regular meeting at 10:58PM.

Meeting dates:

Next Commissioners meeting – March 21st at 7PM

(All meetings at station #1 until further notice)

M. Chura made the motion to adjourn at 11:00PM and J. Patterson seconded the motion. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Speech

District Secretary