

Date: February 21, 2023

Call to order

Pledge to Flag

Approval of Minutes of the January 18, 2023 meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Report Approval

Voucher Approval

Bank Statements- M. Malone

Close out any finished permissive referendums -

Correspondence:

- AFDSNY proposed by-law amendments
- B. Dwyer – letter for nonprofit board participation
- Letter with SAFER grant application period information.
- Town of Lysander notice – revised land use plan.

Chief's Report:

J. Root:

1. Communications:

- Still awaiting the chargers for new radios. They were due to be in by end of January. Email was sent. Awaiting new delivery date.
- The Knox system for T-2 has been returned and installed.

2. Apparatus:

New Apparatus:

- New Chief's (one so far) vehicle has arrived and a quote for lighting package has been received.
- Awaiting Engineering drawings and build specs. Should have them in the next 2 weeks.

3. Special Events

- No special events to report.

J. Corcoran:

M. Speach:

Committee Reports

Building & Facilities:

- Station #2 Roof – taking an average of 8 months for delivery of materials. Still no ETA on materials.

New Truck Committee:

Lysander Public Safety: Next meeting March 21st, location TBD

Budget & Finance:

IT Committee:

Personnel:

Caretaker Leader Report: J. Tanner submitted report.

Truck Maintenance:

Building Maintenance:

Old Business:

- Policy review- Member Benefits

New Business:

- Resolution to utilize videoconferencing procedures.
- Insurance renewal
- Approval for alcohol for Massaro's for hall use on July 29th for reception
- Application from Michael Pollack for Restricted Active membership
- Application from Deborah Davis for Support membership.

Public comments:

Executive session:

Meeting dates:

Commissioner's meeting – March 20 at 7pm

(All meetings at station #1 until further notice or unless specified)

Adjournment –

LEGAL NOTICE
PUBLIC HEARING OF THE BELGIUM COLD SPRINGS FIRE DISTRICT
TO CONSIDER PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON VIDEOCONFERENCING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to Section 103-a of the Public Officers Law of the State of New York, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District in the County of Onondaga and Town of Lysander will hold a public hearing at the fire station located at 7920 River Road Baldwinsville, New York at a meeting of the said Board of Fire Commissioners, on the 21st day of February 2023, at 6:45 P.M., to hear all interested parties and citizens regarding the adoption of a proposed resolution relating to the authorization of members of the Board of Fire Commissioners to attend meetings by videoconferencing under extraordinary circumstances and as permitted Article 7 of the Public Officers Law.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that interested persons may attend the public hearing and offer comment on the proposed resolution and the practice of permitting participation in hearings and meetings by the use of videoconferencing. You may obtain a copy of the proposed resolution from the Secretary to the Board at the fire district office located at 8435 Loop Road Baldwinville, New York prior to the hearing. Copies of the proposed resolution will also be available at the public hearing.

PLEASED TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that all public hearings and meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners are open to the public in accordance with Article 7 of the Public Officers Law.

Dated: January 18, 2023
Baldwinsville, New York

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
BELGIUM COLD SPRINGS FIRE DISTRICT
TOWN OF LYSANDER

Amy Speach
FIRE DISTRICT SECRETARY

BELGIUM COLD SPRINGS FIRE DISTRICT
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MEETINGS UTILIZING SPECIAL VIDEOCONFERENCING
PROCEDURES

WHEREAS, by passing Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2022 (“Chapter 56”), the New York State Legislature amended Section 103 of the Open Meetings Law; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 56 adds Section 103-a of the Open Meetings Law, permitting the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District to authorize its members to attend meetings by videoconferencing under extraordinary circumstances; and

WHEREAS, Section 103-a(2)(a) requires the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners to adopt a resolution following a public hearing authorizing the limited use of videoconferencing under such circumstances; and

WHEREAS, Section 103-a(2) allows for hybrid meetings by requiring “that a minimum number of members are present to fulfill the public body’s quorum requirement in the same physical location or locations where the public can attend”; and

WHEREAS, Section 103-a(2)(c) requires that members be physically present at any such meeting “unless such member is unable to be physically present at any such meeting location due to extraordinary circumstances . . . including disability, illness, caregiving responsibilities, or any other significant or unexpected factor or event which precludes the member’s physical attendance at such meeting”; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 103-a(2)(d), any members attending by videoconference must, excerpt during executive session, be “heard, seen and identified, while the meeting is being conducted, including but not limited to any motions, proposals, resolutions, and any other matter formally discussed or voted upon”; and

WHEREAS, Section 103-a(2)(g) requires that any meeting where a member attends by videoconference be recorded, posted to the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District webpage within five business days, and transcribed upon request; and

WHEREAS, Section 103-a(2)(h) requires that members of the public be permitted to attend and participate, if authorized, in any meeting by videoconference when a member attends by videoconference.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners authorizes its members who experience an extraordinary circumstance, as described above and further defined by any rules or written procedures later adopted, to attend meetings by videoconference: (i) as long as a quorum of the members attend in-person at one or more locations open to the public; (ii) as long as the member can be seen, heard, and identified while the open portion of the meeting is being conducted; and (iii) as otherwise permitted under Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners shall create written procedures further governing its use of videoconferencing by its members in compliance with Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2022.

The adoption of the foregoing resolution will be duly put to a vote.

Belgium Cold Springs Fire District
Procedures for Member Videoconferencing Pursuant to Public Officers Law § 103-a

In compliance with Public Officers Law (POL) § 103-a(2)(a), the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners, following a public hearing, authorized by resolution on February 21, 2023 the use of videoconferencing as described in POL § 103-a. The following procedures are hereby established to satisfy the requirement of POL § 103-a(2)(b) that any public body which in its discretion wishes to permit its members to participate in meetings by videoconferencing from private locations – under extraordinary circumstances – must establish written procedures governing member and public attendance.

1. Belgium Cold Springs Fire District Board members shall be physically present at any meeting of the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners unless such member is unable to be physically present at one of the designated public meeting locations due to extraordinary circumstances.

2. For purposes of these procedures, the term “extraordinary circumstances” includes disability, illness, caregiving responsibilities, or any other significant or unexpected factor or event which precludes the member’s physical attendance at such meeting.

3. If a member is unable to be physically present at one of the designated public meeting locations and wishes to participate by videoconferencing from a private location due to extraordinary circumstances, the member must notify the Chairperson of the Board or the District Secretary no later than four business days prior to the scheduled meeting in order for proper notice to the public to be given. If extraordinary circumstances present themselves on an emergent basis within four days of a meeting, the Board of Fire Commissioners shall update its notice as soon as practicable to include that information. If it is not practicable for the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District to update its notice, the Board of Fire Commissioners may reschedule its meeting.

4. If there is a quorum of members participating at a physical location(s) open to the public, the Board of Fire Commissioners may properly convene a meeting. A member who is participating from a remote location that is not open to in-person physical attendance by the public shall not count toward a quorum of the Board of Fire Commissioners but may participate and vote if there is a quorum of members at a physical location(s) open to the public.

5. Except in the case of executive sessions conducted pursuant to POL § 105, the Board of Fire Commissioners shall ensure that its members can be heard, seen, and identified while the meeting is being conducted, including but not limited to any motions, proposals, resolutions, and any other matter formally discussed or voted upon. This shall include the use of first and last name placards physically placed in front of the members or, for members participating by videoconferencing from private locations due to extraordinary circumstances, such members must ensure that their full first and last name appears on their videoconferencing screen.

6. The minutes of the meetings involving videoconferencing based on extraordinary circumstances pursuant to POL § 103-a shall include which, if any, members participated by videoconferencing from a private location due to such extraordinary circumstances.

7. The public notice for the meeting shall inform the public: (i) that extraordinary circumstances videoconferencing will (or may) be used, (ii) where the public can view and/or participate in such meeting, (iii) where required documents and records will be posted or available, and (iv) the physical location(s) for the meeting where the public can attend.

8. The Board of Fire Commissioners shall provide that each open portion of any meeting conducted using extraordinary circumstances videoconferencing shall be recorded and such recordings posted

or linked on the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District website within five business days following the meeting, and shall remain so available for a minimum of five years thereafter. Such recordings shall be transcribed upon request.

9. If members of the Board of Fire Commissioners are authorized to participate by videoconferencing from a private location due to extraordinary circumstances, the Board of Fire Commissioners shall provide the opportunity for members of the public to view such meeting by video, and to participate in proceedings by videoconference in real time where public comment or participation is authorized. The Board of Fire Commissioners shall ensure that where extraordinary circumstances videoconferencing is used, it authorizes the same public participation or testimony as in person participation or testimony.

10. Open meetings of the Board of Fire Commissioners conducted using extraordinary circumstances videoconferencing pursuant to the provisions of POL § 103-a shall be broadcast pursuant to the requirements of POL § 103(f) and shall utilize technology to permit access by members of the public with disabilities consistent with the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as amended, and corresponding guidelines. For the purposes of this guideline, “disability” shall have the meaning defined in Executive Law § 292.

11. The in-person participation requirements of POL § 103-a(2)(c) shall not apply during a state disaster emergency declared by the governor pursuant to Executive Law § 28 or a local state of emergency proclaimed by the chief executive of a county, city, village or town pursuant to § 24 of the Executive Law if the Board of Fire Commissioners determines that the circumstances necessitating the emergency declaration would affect or impair the ability of the Board of Fire Commissioners to hold an in person meeting.

12. These procedures shall be conspicuously posted on the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District website.

The adoption of the foregoing procedure in the form of a resolution will be duly put to a vote.

00-021 Member Benefits



Belgium Cold Springs Fire District POLICY

TITLE:	<i>Policy Name</i>
NUMBER:	<i>00-021</i>
SECTION:	<i>Policies</i>
ISSUE DATE:	
REVISED DATE:	<i>February 21, 2023</i>

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide members of all levels of the member benefits offered by the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District for members

2.0 SCOPE

- 2.1 On behalf of the residents of the Fire District, the Board of Fire Commissioners is pleased to provide a comprehensive variety of benefits to the Volunteers of the Belgium Cold Springs Fire Department. The Board has worked diligently to provide a broad coverage to protect the members in case of injury, and to provide for the member's family in case of death. It is important to distinguish between the coverage limited to "in the line of duty" and any coverage which is on a "24 hour" basis.

3.0 REFERENCES

- 3.1 Policy 00-032 – Service Awards Program
- 3.2 Policy 00-023 - Prescription Safety Glasses
- 3.3 Policy 00-030 – SCBA Prescription Lenses
- 3.4 Policy 00-025 – Physical Fitness Reimbursement
- 3.5 Policy 00-038 – Mandatory Training and SOG Review
- 3.6 Policy 00-024 – Physicals
- 3.7 Policy 00-038 - Mandatory Training and SOG Review
- 3.8 Policy 00-042- Membership Status Review
- 3.9 Policy 00-020 – Medical Leave
- 3.10 SOG 01-012 – Personal Injury While Participating in BCSFD Activities

3.11 SOB 01-014 – Personal Protective Equipment

4.0 DEFINITIONS

- 4.1 VFBL – Volunteer Firefighter Benefit Law – Workers Compensation for firefighters – pays all medical expenses and provides weekly disability – VFBL coverage is limited to active members and restricted active members while on duty. The Fire District’s provider for VFBL is Fire District of NY Mutual Insurance Company, Inc.
- 4.2 Workers Compensation – Benefit for injury from personal employment – pays all medical expenses and provides weekly disability based on current pay. The Fire District’s provider for Workers Compensation is Fire District of NY Mutual Insurance Company, Inc.
- 4.3 Accident and Health Policy provides a medical expense benefit and pays weekly benefits during disability for members injured while engaged in fire department activities. This policy is for Active, Restricted Active Members, Department Support and Youth. Active member who are injured in the line of duty will receive benefits over and above VFBL.
- 4.4 Public Safety Officers Benefit Program – Federal program providing death benefit to eligible survivors when death is a result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty.

5.0 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (BENEFITS)

- 5.1 Life Insurance: This covers active firefighters 24 hours a day. This will pay \$25,000 for death from an illness or \$50,000 for death from an accidental cause. Decreased benefits apply when a member reaches 65 years of age. Please remember to review your beneficiary designation regularly with the Fire District Secretary.
- 5.2 Accident and Health Insurance: This is limited to an accident while on duty with the Fire Department, sickness contracted while on duty (i.e. hepatitis, TB, etc). Department Support members are also covered under this policy, as are inactive members who come to help at a function such as a pancake breakfast, etc. The disability benefit here is over and above VFBL. In the event of exposure to a communicable disease (TB, hepatitis, etc.) while on duty, it is imperative that the insurance company be notified of the exposure within 30 days. ANY EXPOSURE OR ACCIDENT MUST BE REPORTED IMMEDIATELY TO THE OFFICER IN CHARGE. There is a small death benefit in this policy. Please remember to review your beneficiary designation regularly with the Fire District Secretary.
 - 5.2.1 Organized Team Sport Benefit: Coverage for participating in Fire Department Organized Team Sports is excluded under the Accident & Health Policy. VFBL does not cover softball or other sporting events. Please refer to the Fire District Secretary for specific coverage.
 - 5.2.2 Department Support Members: Fire Department Support members and Youth Members are covered by the Accident and Health Policy while participating in approved Fire Department activities.

- 5.3** Volunteer Firefighters Benefit Law (VFBL): This is Special coverage for Volunteer Firefighters, which is similar to Workers Compensation. This provides for all necessary medical care when injured in the line of duty, and weekly cash payments when disabled in the line of duty. If you are injured, you are entitled to seek medical care at the facility of your choice. DO NOT PAY ANY MEDICAL BILLS. Tell the medical facility that our Fire District is insured thru Fire District of NY Mutual Insurance Company, Inc. If they have any questions, direct them to the Fire District Secretary. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT ANY INJURY BE REPORTED IMMEDIATELY TO THE OFFICER IN CHARGE.
- 5.4** Public Safety Officers Benefit Program: This is a Federal program providing a death benefit to eligible survivors when death is a result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty. Eligible survivors include spouse or dependent children. If none, then dependent parents can receive the benefit. The intent of this program is to provide aid to dependents. The benefit is adjusted on October 1 annually and is tied into the Consumer Price Index. As of October 2022 the benefit was \$422,035. The beneficiaries are established by the Public Safety Officers Benefit Program guidelines.
- 5.5** Service Awards Program- LOSAP: Each year that an active member accumulates at least 50 service awards points, the Fire District contributes \$1200 to their Service Awards Program account. These funds are accumulated with interest, in their account and dispersed to the member at age 55. The points are earned through various Fire Department activities. A complete explanation of this program is discussed with the member when they are enrolled in the program. Yearly statements are provided to members showing their point total for the current year and their asset balance. All active members are encouraged to review your beneficiary designation with the Fire District Secretary.
- 5.6** Liability and other Insurance: The Fire District carries a general aggregate of \$18,000,000 and \$6,000,000 for each occurrence, with the Fire Department and members listed as additional insured. Personal property of a firefighter damaged while on duty is covered. If a firefighter is involved in an automobile accident while responding to an emergency, the fire district insurance is primary for repairs or actual cash value. If a member is involved in an automobile accident while on a non-emergency, fire district insurance will pay the deductible on the firefighter's personal vehicle. In addition, if a firefighter is involved in an accident while responding to an alarm, your personal insurance company cannot increase you insurance because of the accident. The District will provide documentation of the accident details, if necessary.
- 5.7** Cancer Insurance: General Municipal Law 205-CC provides that firefighters throughout New York State are entitled to an enhanced cancer disability benefit insurance program to be provided by the Fire District. This program started on January 1, 2019 and follows specific criteria. This coverage is in effect for all qualified members. Please notify the Fire District Secretary immediately if you have been diagnosed with cancer.
- 5.8** Annual physical: The Fire District provides an annual physical for each active firefighter as outlined in Policy 00-024. The physical includes a ppd (TB test) and a respiratory physical

and fit test for use of SCBA equipment. Also, each firefighter is offered the Hepatitis B series of inoculation.

- 5.9** Defensive Driving: The Fire District will reimburse members completing Defensive Driving Training online. Members who are current with their Mandatory Training and SOG Review will be eligible for up to \$25 reimbursement for completion of a NYS DMV approved online or in person course once every three years.
- 5.10** Physical Fitness: The Fire District values its firefighters and encourages them to participate in regular fitness training. The Fire District will reimburse active firefighters who are current with their Mandatory Training and SOG review, up to \$200 per year toward membership in structured training, which is coordinated and supervised by physical fitness professionals. Refer to Policy 00-025 for further information. The district may have arrangements with local gyms for discounted memberships; contact the District Secretary for information.
- 5.11** Prescription lenses: Prescription lenses are available to active members for safety glasses. Refer to policy 00-023. Prescription lenses are available for active members for SCBA gear. Refer to policy 00-030.
- 5.12** Protective Gear: All Active Members are provided with appropriate protective gear reflective of their role in the department. This gear will meet or exceed current NFPA guidelines.
- 5.13** Communication Tools: Miniters (pagers) are provided to active members to receive alarm activations. The Fire District also maintains a cell phone application to be used on members' cell phones and provides real-time alerts of alarms, alarm information, and the ability to notify that they are responding to the alarm. Members are strongly encouraged to utilize the application.

6.0 PROCEDURE

- 6.1** The Board of Fire Commissioners is dedicated to providing for the safety of the members of the Department. The very last thing the Board wants to see is an accident or sickness; but if the unfortunate event occurs they have tried to provide quality benefits to the members and/or survivors.
- 6.2** Members are required to immediately report any injury to the officer in charge that occurs while on duty or participating in any sanctioned event.
- 6.3** Members are required to report any injury or illness that prevents them from performing their volunteer service.
- 6.4** It is the responsibility of the members to update their beneficiary forms with the Fire District Secretary regularly; especially if there is a change in their circumstances.
- 6.5** Members may contact any Fire Commissioner, or the Fire District Secretary to discuss the benefits. Member benefits eligibility are decided by the Board of Fire Commissioners with consultation in consultation with insurance carriers.

7.0 REVISION HISTORY

- 7.1** Amended and reaffirmed April 17, 2017
- 7.2** Revised February 6, 2023, and adopted February 21, 2023

DRAFT