

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District was called to order at 7:00 P.M. on January 18, 2023, by Chairperson, K. Thompson.

Pledge to the Flag

Present: K. Thompson, M. Chura, D. Rafkis, M. Malone, C. LaPrease, W. Dwyer, A. Speach, M. Speach, J. Corcoran, J. Tanner, J. Root, D. Dwyer, T. Eckel, M. Harrison, M. Evans, L. Malone, Michele Malone, A. Fusco, J. Bulak, C. Padalino, B. Raymond-LaPrease, Pac B

C. LaPrease made the motion to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2022 monthly meeting and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried. M. Malone made the motion to approve the minutes of the December 28, 2022 special meeting and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried. M. Chura made the motion to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2023 special meeting and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried. C. LaPrease made the motion to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2023 organizational meeting and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried.

<u>Treasurer's Report:</u>	Checking	50,421.99
	Savings	155,655.95
	Payroll account	35,317.77
	Capital Imp. Reserve	661,425.37
	Apparatus Reserve	823,021.48
	Cont. Tax. Stab. Res.	42,789.66
	Equipment Reserve	181,144.63
	Vouchers	74,976.50
	CODES Checking	3,520.19
	CODES Savings	24,333.89
	CODES bequests	61,607.62
	Vouchers	0.00

W. Dwyer reviewed the treasurer's report. Reviewed the CODES yearend report. W. Dwyer reviewed the 2022 total income and insurance recoveries for the Fire District. The fund balance for 2022 is \$206,819.96 and will be transferred when the 2023 tax check is received. The permissive referendums were reviewed. D. Rafkis made the motion to approve the treasurer's report and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried. M. Chura made the motion to approve the vouchers as audited and D. Rafkis seconded the motion. Carried. M. Chura will be the commissioner to review bank statements this month.

Correspondence:

- Central Region Fire District Association Meeting- January 23<sup>rd</sup> at Lakeside
- Onondaga County Fire Coalition Fire & Emergency Education & Legislative Conversation - 1/28 Cicero FD 8am-11am
- 2023 Annual Meeting& Leadership Summit Expo for AFDSNY, May 18-20 at Turning Stone
- C. LaPrease and K. Thompson submitted letters for non-profit organizations they participate in.
- A. Speach submitted a letter disclosing her position on the board with Fire Districts Mutual, as they are a company the district does business with.

Chiefs Report:

J. Root:

1. Equipment purchases:
  - o The new portable radios for the Chiefs, Truck 2 and R-2 are in service
  - o The remainder of the radios are in my office, still awaiting the chargers
  - o The Knox system for T-2 has been retuned and will be installed soon
2. Apparatus:
  - a. Truck 2
    - o The punch list is complete. Panel and striping completed 1/11/2023 by Sutphen.
  - b. New Apparatus
    - o New Chiefs vehicle has arrived and will be getting outfitted with striping and lights soon
    - o Nothing new to report on the new RP, should have preliminary drawings soon
3. Special Events
  - o No special events to report
4. COVID-19 Preparation/Response/Planning:
  - o Remove the use of masks in kitchens but continue use of food service gloves
5. Zoll emsCharts Software:
  - o Continuing to work with a few members on issues with charts
6. Members are encouraged to put a duty crew in service or set up an Engine/Squad 91 date that BCSFD hosts
7. Members have been reminded to please try and use Bryx when responding

J. Corcoran: nothing to report

M. Speach: nothing to report

### Committee Reports

#### Building & Facilities:

- Station #2 Roof - taking an average of 8 months for delivery of materials. We will most likely see an increase in the price of materials. A. Speach reported that she contacted attorney S. Shahan to see how we might be able to move forward. A. Speach will reach out one more time and if no response by January 31<sup>st</sup> send the letter as directed by the attorney.
- M. Malone reported that the icemaker at station #2 is beyond repair. M. Malone made the motion to spend up to \$4900 to replace the icemaker and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried.

New Truck Committee: M. Chura reported that there is nothing new to report on the rescue pumper. One of the replacement Chiefs vehicles is in, waiting for the second.

Lysander Public Safety: K. Thompson reported that the last meeting was January 17, 2023 at BCSFD. C. LaPrease reported that they are looking for a new water task force chair. We do have some personnel with experience but has not approached them yet to see if there is any interest. K. Thompson stated that the town is interested in the future of the fire service in the town. They do have some funds available from COVID reimbursement and would entertain proposals for the distribution of those funds. The high school program has continued with the school being the sponsor of the program. The school program could benefit from some of the COVID funds.

Budget & Finance: no report.

IT Committee: no report.

Personnel: no report.

Caretaker Leader Report: J. Tanner submitted a report. K. Thompson asked about hydrant markers. J. Tanner reported that they are getting old and may need replacement.

Truck Maintenance: J. Tanner reported that T2 has been repaired and S2 will be going in soon for repairs.

Building Maintenance: M. Malone reported that the sprinkler system flow valve needs to be repaired for a cost of \$750. The repair was found during annual inspection.

#### Old Business:

- Policy review- the Physical Policy. The policy was updated to remove the name of a specific provider and an out dated form reference was removed. The policy was amended to include that a member must report any changes in medical status that may affect job performance. M. Chura made the motion to approve the physical policy as amended and D. Rafkis seconded the motion. Carried.
- M. Chura made the motion to reaffirm District Policies with the understanding that they are living documents, changes will be made as needed with the approval of the board of fire commissioners, and D. Rafkis seconded the motion. Carried.

#### New Business:

- M. Malone made the motion to approve attendance at the AFDSNY Annual Meeting at Turning Stone, May 17-20 for commissioners and district officers and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried.
- M. Chura made the motion to approve attendance at AFDSNY commissioner training, annual training and/or regional training for commissioners and district officers and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried.
- M. Chura made the motion to approve the DOT paperwork completion during physicals as requested by J. Root, J. Corcoran, and J. Patterson and A. Speach to email any additional requests for approval. M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried.
- C. LaPrease made the motion to approve alcohol for hall use for the Sherflings on March 25<sup>th</sup> and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried.
- D. Rafkis made the motion to approve travel for K. Thompson for AFDSNY and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried.
- M. Chura made the motion to move forward with the public hearing on video conferencing procedure as described in the resolution below as read by A. Speach to be held on February 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:45 PM and D. Rafkis seconded the resolution. Carried.

#### 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, except 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.

K. Thompson stated that we do plan to move into an executive session and do not expect to conduct any further business.

Public comments: M. Harrison questioned the percentage of the tax increase. K. Thompson apologized that she gave the wrong percentage amount but the amount of the tax rate increase was correct, it was a .20-cent increase. Homes assessed between \$100,000-\$300,000 the amount of the increase on average is \$20-\$69. It was asked if there is extra money how would that work and where is it going? K. Thompson responded that we needed to have the funds in place to move forward and if it does not work or if there are excess, funds we would need to look at options. We just do not know what the alternative would be at this point.

At 7:52 P.M. M. Malone made the motion to enter Executive Session to discuss the employment history of an individual, which may lead to his or her dismissal and M. Chura, seconded the motion. Carried. A. Speach and J. Root joined the executive session.

Resumed the regular meeting at 8:33 P.M.

Meeting dates:

Public Hearing – February 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:45pm

Commissioner's meeting - February 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm

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

M. Malone made the motion to adjourn at 8:35 PM and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Speach  
District Secretary