

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District was called to order at 7:05 P.M. on February 21, 2023, by Chairperson, K. Thompson.

Pledge to the Flag- dispensed pledge as it was done at the start of the public hearing.

Present: K. Thompson, M. Chura, D. Rafkis, M. Malone, C. LaPrease, W. Dwyer, A. Speech, J. Tanner, J. Root, D. Dwyer, T. Eckel, M. Harrison, M. Evans, L. Malone, C. Cutis, Janelle Melchior, B. Raymond-LaPrease, Pac B

M. Malone made the motion to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2023 monthly meeting and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried.

<u>Treasurer's Report:</u>	Checking	67,538.07
	Savings	105,767.24
	Payroll account	15,763.10
	Capital Imp. Reserve	661,987.36
	Apparatus Reserve	780,940.80
	Cont. Tax. Stab. Res.	42,826.01
	Equipment Reserve	181,298.54
	Vouchers	78,902.62
	CODES Checking	3,520.19
	CODES Savings	24,406.26
	CODES bequests	61,607.62
	Vouchers	500.00

W. Dwyer reviewed the treasurer's report. Reviewed the CODES report. The CODES contribution listed on the report is for 2022. W. Dwyer reported that the 2023 tax check has been received. K. Thompson asked about the totals of the reserves on the report and it was explained that the remaining transfers to reserve have been made now that the tax check has been received. The AUD has been completed and the commissioners have copies to review. The permissive referendums were reviewed. A question was asked about the radio and chief's vehicle referendum as they did not appear on the report. W. Dwyer explained that he printed the wrong report and will make the correction. He also made mention that the Verizon bill has been combined into one bill. M. Malone made the motion to approve the treasurer's report with the correction to the permissive referendums and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried. M. Chura made the motion to approve the vouchers as audited and D. Rafkis seconded the motion. Carried. M. Malone will be the commissioner to review bank statements this month.

Correspondence:

- AFDSNY proposed by-law amendments. K. Thompson reported on the amendment. K. Thompson made the motion to allow an officer present at the annual meeting to vote on the amendment in favor of the change and C. Laprease seconded the motion. Carried.
- B. Dwyer submitted a letter for his nonprofit board participation.
- Received a letter from Senator Schumer's office with SAFER grant application period information.
- Town of Lysander sent a notice with the revised land use plan.

Chief's Report:

J. Root: by A. Speech reported, the Chief went on an alarm. Checked back when he returned from the alarm and nothing further to report.

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. Vendor expressed his concern that it keeps falling behind.

- 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. It was asked if they will be wrapped. M. Chura answered that they will have the required striping.
 - Awaiting Engineering drawings and build specs. Should have them in the next 2 weeks.
3. Special Events
- No special events to report.

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 reached out and the vendor was to submit a revised quote and it has not been received.
- M. Chura reported that Chief Root has requested permission to get quotes for a shower at station #2 for decontamination. M. Chura made the motion to move forward with getting quote and Chief Root is to keep the building and facilities committee advised and D. Rafkis seconded the motion. Carried.

New Truck Committee: M. Chura reported that we are waiting got the build specifications for the rescue pumper. The Chiefs have received estimates for the lighting for the chiefs vehicles. M. Chura made the motion for \$10,100 for each chief's vehicle as budgeted as part of the permissive referendum and D. Rafkis seconded the motion. Carried.

Lysander Public Safety: K. Thompson reported that the next meeting is March 21, 2023 at GBAC.

Budget & Finance: no report.

IT Committee: M. Chura reported that the IT Committee met last week. With the purchase of the new chiefs vehicles we are looking into replacing the MDTs and possibly upgrading them. We are holding at this time to get quotes. A. Speach added that this would be the start of a replacement plan so we are not replacing them all at once in the future.

Personnel: no report

Caretaker Leader Report: J. Tanner submitted a report.

Truck Maintenance: M. Chura reported that S2 will be going in for the body work. They are waiting to get the parts in before it goes in.

Building Maintenance: M. Malone reported that the new ice machine is in and working.

Steering Committee: This new committee met for the first time last Saturday. There were 11 people in attendance with one person unable to make it. The committee is made up of 2 people from all areas of the department to discuss what is going on in the department. Discussed a variety of topics - responding to alarms and membership committee. The discussion involved explaining the requirements of membership to help aid in retention. E91 and S91 were discussed. Discussion regarding bunk-in programs and why we don't have one. The FASNY Recruit NY open house is April 22 – 23. The President had some ideas to combine the departments at the town hall and she reached out and they are very receptive to doing something there. The youth program was discussed and the goal would be to look at dedicated leaders to work with them. The President is going to try to form committees and have them posted, a chair and co-chair to delegate some duties a little easier. These meetings will continue on the first Saturday after the dept. business meeting at 9am; contact K. Thompson if interested in attending.

Old Business:

- Policy review- the Member Benefits policy. M. Chura suggested tabling as it a lengthy policy. C. Laprease suggested bringing it to the steering committee.

New Business:

- M. Malone made the motion to approve alcohol for hall use for the Massaro's on July 29th and D. Rafkis seconded the motion. Carried.
- M. Malone made the motion to approve the Restricted Active Member application for Michael Pollock pending his physical and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried.
- M. Malone made the motion to approve the Support Member application for Deborah Davis C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried.
- K. Thompson explained that 2 insurance quotes were received and reviewed by the Insurance Committee.
 - She provided a comparison of the two insurance quotes received. The general liability and property coverage with ESIP has better crime coverage and larger umbrella coverage. They do claims handling in house. ESIP was \$2180 higher but recommended staying with ESIP. K. Thompson made the motion to renew the general liability and property coverage with ESIP and D. Rafkis seconded the motion. Carried.
 - K. Thompson provided the comparison of the Accident and Health quotes. ESIP includes a Member Assistance Program (MAP). The ESIP quote was lower and has the additional MAP coverage. The disability coverage under ESIP was better for any long term injuries/disability. VFIS did have a higher death benefit. Discussion regarding changing the death benefit. K. Thompson made the motion to renew the Accident & Heath coverage with ESIP but increase the death benefit to \$250,000 and D. Rafkis seconded the motion. Carried.
- K. Thompson reported that we have been working with Paychecks to re-write our employee manual and part of this is researching health insurance and benefit options. D. Rafkis made the motion to make Paychecks out broker for insurance and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried.
- K. Thompson asked if anyone had any more questions regarding the resolution for videoconferencing. C. LaPrease stated he had more questions but what he had asked was answered. M. Chura made the motion to approve the resolution as stated below and D. Rafkis seconded the motion.

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 was duly put to a vote and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Chairperson K. Thompson)
Commissioner D. Raffkis)
Commissioner M. Chura) AYES
Commissioner M. Malone)
Commissioner C. LaPrease)

The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Dated: Baldwinsville, New York
February 21, 2023

- K. Thompson explained that Onondaga County and the Town of Lysander have passed the assessment credit for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers and the district can also do this but it requires a public hearing. We do not have the time to do necessary before the March 1st deadline but we can do it for next year. A firefighter can take the property tax reduction or the state credit but not both. A comment was made that information needs to be sent out to members and K. Thompson stated she will work with department leadership to do so. M. Chura made the motion to move forward with the public hearing for the property tax credit as described in the resolution below to be held on March 20th at 6:45 PM and C. LaPrease seconded the resolution. Carried.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
BELGIUM COLD SPRINGS FIRE DISTRICT
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION
PURSUANT TO REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW §466-A**

WHEREAS, a new Real Property Tax Law §466-a now permits enrolled volunteer firefighters throughout New York State to be eligible to qualify for a partial real property tax exemption on their residential real property subject to approvals by local counties, towns, cities, villages, fire districts, etc.; and

WHEREAS, Real Property Tax Law §466-a requires that local government entities wishing to confer the benefits of said statute on enrolled volunteer firefighters serving within their boundaries hold a public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Belgium Cold Springs Fire Districts wishes to consider conferring the partial real property tax exemption benefits of Real Property Tax Law §466-a upon the enrolled volunteer firefighters of the Belgium Cold Springs Fire Department;

NOW, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District will hold a public hearing in order to hear public comment on whether or not it should confer the partial real property tax exemption benefits of Real Property Tax Law §466-a upon the enrolled volunteer firefighters of the Belgium Cold Springs Fire Department on Monday, March 20, 2023 commencing at 6:45 p.m. at the fire station located at 7920 River Road Baldwinsville, New York.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the aforesaid matter will be presented to the residents and taxpayers of the Belgium Cold

Springs Fire District and the Board of Fire Commissioners for public comment to the Board of Fire Commissioners so that all persons interested in the subject can be heard at such time and place.

Dated: February 21, 2023
Baldwinsville, New York

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

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

Public comments: no comments.

At 7:57 PM. K. Thompson made the motion to enter Executive Session to discuss the employment history of an individual, which may lead to his or her employment and M. Chura, seconded the motion. Carried. A. Speach and J. Root joined the executive session.

Resumed the regular meeting at 9:46 PM.

D. Rakis made the motion to move forward with the hiring of 2 part-time paid firefighter/EMTs pending the appropriate approvals by outside agencies and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried.

Meeting dates:

Public Hearing – March 20th at 6:45 PM

Commissioner's meeting – March 20th at 7 PM

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

M. Malone made the motion to adjourn at 9:48 PM and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried.

Respectfully submitted, Amy
Speach
District Secretary