

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

February 21, 2023

Commissioner K. Thompson called the public Hearing to order on February 21, 2023 at 6:45pm.

All commissioners present: K. Thompson, M. Chura, D. Rafkis, M. Malone and C. LaPrease. J. Root, W. Dwyer, A. Speach, D. Dwyer, L. Malone, Janelle Melchior, B. Raymond-LaPrease, C. Curtis, Pac B, J. Tanner, T. Eckel. M. Harrison, M. Evans

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC HEARING

K. Thompson read the following notice

This is the public hearing regarding the proposed resolution for the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District to authorize meetings utilizing special videoconferencing procedures. In accordance with Open Meetings Law #103-a (2)(a), all Fire Districts must, prior to the adoption of the resolution to authorize meetings utilizing special videoconferencing procedures, hold a public hearing. This public hearing must be held in such a manner to maximize participation in the process. The purpose of this hearing is to discuss the resolution to utilize videoconferencing procedures.

The Secretary of the Fire District has filed with this District an affidavit stating that the notice of this public hearing was published or posted at least once ten (10) days before the date specified for the hearing in:

The Syracuse Post Standard, the official newspaper of the Fire District.
The official bulletin board of the Town of Lysander
The official bulletin board of the Fire District
The website of the Town of Lysander
The website of the Fire District

The Notice of Public Hearing specified the time and date when and the place where this public hearing would be held.

The Fire District Secretary also made available for inspection, at least five days before the public hearing, by any interested person during district office hours copies of the proposed resolution to utilize videoconferencing procedures.

The purpose of this public hearing is to allow members of the public to make comments on the resolution to utilize videoconferencing procedures. Any person may be heard in favor of, or against, the resolution to utilize videoconferencing procedures. Please note that this is only a proposed resolution until the Board of Fire Commissioners adopts the resolution for videoconferencing procedures.

Chairperson K. Thompson presented a summary of the proposed resolution and the procedures to utilize videoconferencing. Copies of the resolution and procedures were posted prior to the public hearing and also provided this evening.

K. Thompson then opened the floor to public comments; stating that the board will hear comments in favor or against utilizing videoconferencing but the board may not comment until the end of the public comments period.

Barbara Raymond-LaPrease of 3409 Patchett Rd. Stated she is not overly excited about this as she feels it can be abused but feels it could be necessary in emergencies. Questioned if we had the proper equipment to utilize videoconferencing.

Commissioner C. LaPrease asked if the remote location had to be open to the public?

K. Thompson responded that she didn't feel it could be abused as it spells out in the resolution the reasons to utilize videoconferencing and it is really only for emergencies.

A. Speach explained that the remote location does not have to be open to the public. It is explained under item #9 in the procedures that if in a private location a video feed would have to be provided for anyone that wanted to utilize videoconferencing; they would need to be able to participate in the same manor allowed as if attending in person and it would need to be ADA compliant.

K. Thompson asked for additional comments and there were none. This public hearing regarding the proposed resolution to utilize videoconferencing procedures of the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District is declared closed. Can I receive a motion from a member of the Board of Fire Commissioners?

M. Malone made the motion to close the public hearing and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried. The public hearing closed at 7:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Speach, Fire District Secretary