

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 March 20, 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. Root, J. Corcoran, D. Dwyer, C. Curtis, T. Eckel, M. Harrison, M. Evans, Michele Malone, L. Malone, B. Raymond-LaPrease, Pac B

M. Chura made the motion to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2023 monthly meeting and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried. M. Chura made the motion to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2023 public hearing and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried.

<u>Treasurer's Report:</u>	Checking	163,443.77
	Savings	1,474,606.38
	Payroll account	151,399.09
	Capital Imp. Reserve	803,937.58
	Apparatus Reserve	781,540.10
	Cont. Tax. Stab. Res.	42,858.88
	Equipment Reserve	281,470.55
	Vouchers	32,450.40
	CODES Checking	3,020.19
	CODES Savings	24,406.26
	CODES bequests	61,607.62
	Vouchers	105.00

W. Dwyer reviewed the treasurer's report. The final service awards report has been posted and members will have 30 days to review. M. Malone made the motion to approve the treasurer's report and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried. M. Malone made the motion to approve the vouchers as audited and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried. D. Rafkis will be the commissioner to review bank statements this month.

Correspondence:

- Fire District Affairs received and distributed
- Request from the fire department to review and approve bylaws amendments.

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. Multi units came in this afternoon. We are told soon for the multi unit chargers and July for the vehicle chargers. The vendor will see what can be done to get the vehicle chargers sooner.

2. Apparatus:

New Apparatus: Chura to report on Rescue Pumper

- New Chief's (one so far) vehicle has arrived and a quote for lighting package has been received. Second vehicle expected end of April or early May.

3. Special Events

- No special events to report.

J. Corcoran: Nothing to report

M. Speach: Not present and did not submit a report

Committee Reports

Building & Facilities:

- Station #2 Roof – taking an average of 8 months for delivery of materials. A. Speach reported that on 1/23/2023 Schaffer emailed that he would send a revised quote and it has not been received. A follow up email was sent 2/7 with no response.

New Truck Committee: M. Chura reported that rescue pumper is projected to start the build in September with a delivery estimated at the end of December barring any delays.

Lysander Public Safety: K. Thompson reported that the next meeting is March 21, 2023 at GBAC at 7pm.

Budget & Finance: no report.

IT Committee: no report.

Personnel: K. Thompson reported that the committee, K. Thompson and D. Rafkis, have met to discuss future plans and asked if M. Chura had any updates on the progress with civil service. M. Chura reported that he has made 3 contacts with civil service and they are researching our request. He further clarified that the request is for 2 part-time firefighter/EMTs and it may have to go to Albany to get the positions approved.

Caretaker Leader Report: J. Tanner submitted a report. M. Harrison asked about the Caretaker report; the caretakers submit detailed reports but what about the district secretary, feels that the caretaker is being singled out. K. Thompson noted is concern. A. Speach commented that she does keep a calendar of her daily activities.

Truck Maintenance: M. Chura stated that S2 is waiting for parts before going to the body shop.

Building Maintenance: no report.

Steering Committee: M. Chura reported that the committee met last month and it went well. If interested in attending let Commissioner Thompson know. The meetings will be the Saturday after the department business meeting.

Fire Prevention – K. Thompson reported that she has two dates for fire prevention at the elementary school and will bring them to the next CODES meeting.

Old Business:

- Policy review- Member Benefits. K. Thompson stated that we had a last minute revision with changes submitted by C. LaPrease, D. Rafkis and M. Chura. The new draft has been provided. Discussion. M. Chura made the motion to approve with the changes discuss, remove the procedure section, renumber the sections, and update the dates and D. Rafkis seconded the motion. Carried.

New Business:

- C. LaPrease made the motion to approve the resolution for the volunteer firefighter property tax exemption as stated below and M. Chura seconded the motion. K. Thompson polled the board and the motion was carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION OF THE BELGIUM COLD SPRINGS FIRE DISTRICT
TO GRANT A TAX EXEMPTION TO ELIGIBLE VOLUNTEER
FIREFIGHTERS AS PROVIDED FOR BY REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW §466-a**

WHEREAS, § 466-a of the Real Property Tax Law authorizes the Fire District after a public hearing to grant a tax exemption to enrolled volunteer members of the Belgium Cold Springs Fire Department

WHEREAS the Fire District has conducted the public hearing required by the Statute and elicited public comment on said topic

WHEREAS the Board of Fire Commissions has determined that the granting of the tax exemption will enhance recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters in the Fire Department

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that an exemption be granted at 10% of the assessed value of the real property owned by an enrolled volunteer firefighter who meets the eligibility requirements established in this resolution;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the enrolled member of the Belgium Cold Springs Fire Department must meet the following requirements to be eligible for the tax exemption:

1. The enrolled member must reside in the territory served by the Fire District
2. The property must be the primary residence of the enrolled member
3. The property is used exclusively for residential purposes, provided however, that in the event any portion of such property is not used exclusively for the applicant's residence but is used for other purposes, such portion shall be subject to taxation and the remaining portion only shall be entitled to the exemption provided by this section
4. The enrolled member has been certified by the Chief of the Fire Department or designee to have served at least 2 years of active service and such certification has been approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an enrolled member of the Belgium Cold Springs Fire Department who accrues more than twenty years of active service as certified by the Chief of the Fire Department or designee shall be granted the 10 percent exemption as authorized by this resolution for the remainder of his or her life as long as the property for which the exemption is sought under this resolution is the primary residence of the enrolled member.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the exemption granted under this resolution shall continue for the un-remarried spouse of an enrolled member of the Fire Department who is killed in the line of duty upon the following conditions:

1. The un-remarried spouse is certified by the Chief of the Fire Department or designee as the un-remarried spouse of the volunteer firefighter killed in the line of duty; and
2. The deceased volunteer firefighter had been an enrolled member for at least two years; and
3. The deceased volunteer firefighter had been receiving the exemption prior to his or her death.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the exemption granted under this Resolution shall continue for the un-remarried spouse of a deceased member of the Belgium Cold Springs Fire Department under the following conditions:

1. The un-remarried spouse is certified by the Chief of the Fire Department or designee as the un-remarried spouse of the deceased enrolled member of the Belgium Cold Springs Fire Department
2. The deceased volunteer firefighter has been an enrolled member for at least twenty years
3. The deceased volunteer firefighter has been receiving the exemption prior to his or her death.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any exemption granted under this Resolution shall be filed with the Town of Lysander on the forms designated by the Town; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Fire District is directed to provide the Town of Lysander with a copy of this Resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be governed by and applied in accordance with Real Property Tax Law §466-a.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THIS RESOLUTION shall be effective as of the date of its adoption.

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. Rafkis)
Commissioner M. Chura) AYES
Commissioner M. Malone)
Commissioner C. LaPrease)

The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Baldwinsville, New York
Dated: March 20, 2023

- C. LaPrease made the motion to approve the Active member application for William Mooney pending his physical and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried.
- C. LaPrease made the motion to approve the Active member application for Mason Hallenbeck pending his physical and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried.
- K. Thompson stated that the department has submitted the bylaws amendments and asked if there was any discussion. M. Chura made the motion to approve the bylaws amendments as submitted and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried. A. Speach will notify the department.
- K. Thompson explained that at a recent training she attended it was said it is necessary for the district to approve any training outside the county. The Fire chief has been approving training and we will see if that is OK or if the board of fire commissioners needs to approve the training. A. Speach has training requests from J. Melchior and M. Quinn for training outside of the county. C. LaPrease made the motion to approve the training requests that have been submitted and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried.
- C. LaPrease made the motion to appeal stipulations 5.2 and 5.3 from the Hall Use Policy and refund money for any rentals by members. Discussion. Multiple people have come to him with issues regarding the restrictions for hall use. There was no second to the motion. The motion does not move forward.

Public comments: M. Harrison commented that he has also had members express concerns over the restricted hall use and twice per year is too limiting. B. Raymond-LaPrease also expressed displeasure over the limits to hall use as parking was said to be the issue and now that signs have been posted it should be resolved.

At 7:45 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 employment and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried.

Resumed the regular meeting at 9:35 P.M.

K. Thompson made the motion that we will extend an offer to Jerry Tanner for part-time work with a minimum of 15 hours per week as determined by need, with additional hours approved by the Chief. D. Rafkis seconded the motion. Carried.

Meeting dates:

Commissioner's meeting –April 17th at 7 PM

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

D. Rafkis made the motion to adjourn at 9:37 PM and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Speach, District Secretary