

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 October 16, 2023 by Chairperson, K. Thompson.

Pledge to the Flag

Present: K. Thompson, M. Chura, M. Malone, C. LaPrease, W. Dwyer, A. Speech, J. Root, John Melchior, Janelle Melchior, D. Rouselle, C. Curtis, M. Evans, B. Raymond-LaPrease, T. Eckel, L. Malone, M. Karasek, B. Harden, Pac B

M. Malone made the motion to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2023 monthly meeting minutes and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried. M. Malone made the motion to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2023 special meeting minutes and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried.

<u>Treasurer's Report:</u>	Checking	143,844.27
	Savings	1,046,564.35
	Payroll account	85,110.63
	Capital Imp. Reserve	814,601.69
	Apparatus Reserve	747,988.88
	Cont. Tax. Stab. Res.	43,427.40
	Equipment Reserve	215,360.15
	Vouchers	87,956.56
	CODES Checking	1,627.77
	CODES Savings	24,831.54
	CODES bequests	61,607.62
	Vouchers	1,132.45

W. Dwyer reviewed the treasurer's report. The NY Class will be in a separate report. M. Chura made the motion to approve the treasurer's report and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried. C. LaPrease made the motion to approve the vouchers as audited and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried. M. Chura will be the commissioner to review bank statements this month.

Correspondence:

- Received correspondence from ISO, we will be having an inspection on October 23rd.
- Central Region Fire Districts Association training seminar is October 28th at BCSFD.

Chief's Report:

J. Root:

1. Communications:

- New radio batteries have been ordered and we were scheduled to receive them by the end of September. No new date has been given. Manufacturer backorder.

2. Apparatus:

- Second Chief's vehicle has arrived. Both new chiefs' cars had radio equipment installed along with lights, lettering and striping and are now in service.
3. Special Events:
 - Nothing on the schedule for October.
 4. Stations: Nothing new to report.
 5. Miscellaneous:
 - Insurance Services Office Inc. will be here week of October 23.
 - Chiefs will continue taking one duty night a week for the rest of the calendar year.
 - Daily drills are ongoing. All active members are always welcome to participate.

J. Corcoran: Included in chiefs report.

M. Speech: Included in chiefs report.

Committee Reports

Building & Facilities: M. Chura reported that there have been discussion with the Executive Board to move their office to the district office. C. LaPrease opened the topic up for discussion. Brief discussion. Has there been a timeframe discussed? John Melchior reported that they have started cleaning and organizing the office in preparation. The extra fire prevention material have been sent back to the district office. They would need an area for uniform storage. There will be more to follow.

New Truck Committee: There will need to be a permissive referendum to sell the chiefs vehicles and the apparatus that the rescue pumpers will be replacing. M. Chura reported that they are still looking into which vehicles to sell. C. LaPrease sited a resolution that was made to change the color of apparatus to black over red. The new chief's vehicles were not in the same color scheme and need to be changed immediately as they look like police cars. M. Chura will discuss with D. Rafkis.

Lysander Public Safety: K. Thompson reported that the next meeting is October 24th at Plainville FD. Fire Prevention has been scheduled: Fire prevention schedule – Oct. 18th Van Buren, Oct. 24th Reynolds, Oct. 30 Palmer.

Budget & Finance: K. Thompson reported that A. Speech has filed the tax cap form on the NYS comptroller website. K. Thompson made the motion to adopt the following resolution to override the tax cap and the motion was seconded by M. Chura. Carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 1: OVERRIDE REAL PROPERTY TAX CAP FOR THE 2024 BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District must adopt a proposed budget for 2024 and estimate of fund balances in preparation for the annual fire district budget hearing and did so in preparation for the budget hearing, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District held the annual fire district budget hearing on notice to the public on October 16, 2023, and

WHEREAS, the Board has considered the proposed budget and comments received on the proposed budget on October 16, 2023 at said budget hearing, and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the financial needs of the fire district and fire department for fiscal year 2024 cannot be supported by a budget that would comply with the real property tax cap established pursuant to Section 3-c of the General Municipal Law as the proposed budget for 2024 calls for a real property tax levy that will exceed the real property tax cap permitting only a 2.00% increase in said tax levy; and

WHEREAS, Section 3-c of the General Municipal Law provides as follows:

A local government may adopt a budget that requires a tax levy that is greater than the tax levy limit for the coming fiscal year, not including any levy necessary to support the expenditures pursuant to subparagraphs (i) through (iv) of paragraph g of subdivision two of this section, only if the governing body of such local government first enacts, by a vote of sixty percent of the total voting power of such body, a local law to override such limit for such coming fiscal year only, or in the case of a district or fire district, a resolution, approved by a vote of sixty percent of the total voting power of such body, to override such limit for such coming fiscal year only.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Fire Commissioners hereby approves a determination to override the real property tax cap for the 2024 budget only in order to permit an annual real property tax levy that will exceed the real property tax cap permitting only a 2.00% increase in said tax levy and result in a final annual fire district budget in the amount of \$1,948,518 and

The adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call the vote was as follows:

<i>Chairperson Catherine Thompson</i>	<i>) AYE</i>
<i>Commissioner Charles LaPrease</i>	<i>) AYE</i>
<i>Commissioner Michael Malone</i>	<i>) AYE</i>
<i>Commissioner Michael Chura</i>	<i>) AYE</i>
<i>Commissioner Diane Rafkis</i>	<i>) absent</i>

The resolution was thereupon duly declared to have been adopted.

*Dated: Baldwinsville, New York
October 16, 2023*

M. Malone made the motion to adopt the 2024 Budget as presented with a tax levy of \$1,948,518 and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried.

IT Committee: A. Speech reported that we are working on scheduling a meeting.

Personnel: K. Thompson reported Caitlin Crandall has been hired as a part-time FF/EMT.

Truck Maintenance: J. Root reported that pump testing will begin tomorrow.

Building Maintenance:

- M. Malone reported that he has 3 quotes for man door replacement for doors at station #1 that need replacement. M. Malone made the motion to spend up to \$8000 to replace the doors to come out of the maintenance budget and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried.
- M. Malone reported that he has 3 roof replacement quotes for the garage at Station #1. M. Malone made the motion to spend up to \$5,000 out of the maintenance budget to replace the roof on the garage at station 1 and C. Laprease seconded the motion. Carried.
- M. Malone reported he has received 3 quotes for station 2 roof but we will need to write a specification and it will need to go out to bid, the estimated costs makes it a public works project.
- M. Malone reported that he has looked into the truck bay floors at the stations and the quote for just the station #2 floor was \$53,000. He is looking at another vendor but the vendor needs measurements. It is late in the season for this and we may need to look at in spring to do the work.

Steering Committee: K. Thompson reported that a meeting was held on October 7th. Some items that were discussed included the executive office move, the kids holiday party, the Santa Run. It was mentioned that the help at events has been lacking and it is disappointing. There was an issue with gift cards discussed but more information in needed from the dept. treasurer. Concerns were brought forward regarding named individuals being discussed openly at the meetings and should not be discussed publicly; the meetings should be more positive. The next meeting will be November 4th.

Fire Prevention: C. LaPrease reported that the schools have been scheduled as K. Thompson reported. There is an event scheduled at the YMCA on October 28th.

Old Business:

- Policy review- nothing at this time.
- Chief Root previously provided a revision to SOG 03-017 –Tabled.
- C. LaPrease provided copies of the Officer Qualification policy. He reported that the NFIRS 5.0 qualification needs to be removed as that is going away and a new reporting system is replacing it. C. LaPrease made the motion to remove NIFRs from the officer qualification policy and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried.

New Business:

- K. Thompson made the motion to approve L. Tanner, D. Dwyer, L. Williamson, and T. Massaro with D. Speech as an alternate with a stipend of \$70 to serve as the election board for the annual Fire District Election and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried.
- K. Thompson opened up discussion on how to handle station staffing during election day on November 7th. Lengthy discussion. All OK with someone meeting to open the hall and having employees on call.

Public comments:

- John Melchior asked where Brian Falise's services came from in the budget and also where the Bryx application. J. Root answered that the services come from EMS and A. Speach answered that Bryx most likely comes from software.
- M. Chura reported that after the 9/18 meeting he was approached to verify the July and August statistics. For the entire month of July the average response was 6.54 members per alarm. August 7th we had a storm and that significantly impacted the number of calls but also response. 8/2-8/7 (prior to the storm) average was 6.54 per alarm. During the storm 8/7-8/8 alarms 465-487 we had 20.13 members respond. 8/8-8/31 we averaged 7.63 per call. Average overall for August was 10.79 per call. Discussion. Some clarification during the discussion indicated that these numbers are just for volunteers, it did not include the chief, caretaker or paid staffing.
 - C. LaPrease stated that when we have an emergency situation people show up.
 - M. Chura stated there is an increase in response, we have volunteers coming down and standing by with the paid staff.
 - J. Melchior – what is the goal for response? Discussion. More is better.
 - C. LaPrease stated we need to give praise when we can, we have done a good job. The goal was to decrease response times and we have done that.
- B. Raymond-LaPrease stated that Lysander Public Safety should have taken care of the publicity and where the issues were during the storm.

At 8:30 P.M. K. Thompson made the motion to enter Executive Session to discuss the employment history of an individual, which may lead to his or her continued employment with the district and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried.

Resumed the regular meeting at 9:44 P.M.

Meeting dates:

Commissioner's meeting – Monday, November 20, 2023 at 7 PM
 (All meetings at station #1 until further notice or unless specified)

M. Chura made the motion to adjourn at 9:45 PM and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
 Amy Speach
 District Secretary