

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 September 18, 2023 by Chairperson, K. Thompson.

Pledge to the Flag.

Present: K. Thompson, D. Rafkis, M. Chura, M. Malone, C. LaPrease, W. Dwyer, A. Speech, J. Corcoran, M. Harrison, C. Curtis, M. Evans, B. Raymond-LaPrease, T. Eckel, L. Malone, Pac B

M. Chura made the motion to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2023 monthly meeting minutes and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried.

<u>Treasurer's Report:</u>	Checking	93,859.85
	Savings	1,214,946.52
	Payroll account	33,044.44
	Capital Imp. Reserve	812,595.64
	Apparatus Reserve	746,146.87
	Cont. Tax. Stab. Res.	43,320.45
	Equipment Reserve	278,281.86
	Vouchers	251,046.06
	CODES Checking	2,067.77
	CODES Savings	24,391.54
	CODES bequests	61,607.62
	Vouchers	2440.00

W. Dwyer reviewed the treasurer's report. Report was missing pages, M. Harrison made some copies. Skipped report and came back after copies made. W. Dwyer continued treasurer's report. He added the paid parttime staff by ID number. The gear and vehicle purchase from the permissive referendums are in the vouchers. The money will be transferred after the vouchers are signed. A bill from Jerome was received this afternoon for \$475 and was added to voucher total in the minutes. D. Rafkis made the motion to approve the treasurer's report and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried. M. Malone made the motion to approve the vouchers as audited and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried. K. Thompson will be the commissioner to review bank statements this month.

Correspondence:

- Fire District Affairs received and distributed.
- County Board of elections – 2024 Election Dates

Chief's Report:

J. Root:

1. Communications:

- New radio batteries have been ordered and we are scheduled to receive them by the end of September.

2. Apparatus:

- Second Chief's vehicle has arrived and is on the schedule for radio equipment install along with lights, lettering and striping. The quotes have been received for lettering and striping.
 - All large fleet vehicles have been inspected and preventative maintenance has been completed.
3. Special Events:
- Palmer School evacuation Drill is now scheduled for September 21st, contingency date is 9/22. No additional resources from BCSFD will be needed, just availability of station 1 at 2PM.
 - Touch a Truck event at Abbott's Farms, September 30th from 10AM-4PM
4. Stations:
- Station 2 bathrooms the drawings are back and a bid package is being reviewed and should be ready to go out by end of the month.
5. Miscellaneous:
- Chiefs will continue taking 1 duty night a week for the next 2 months and will evaluate again in September.
 - Several volunteer members have worked shifts with the paid staff and feedback has been positive.
 - Daily drills are ongoing. All active members are always welcome to participate. An invitation to attend has been extended to Northwest Fire District as well if they are interested.

J. Corcoran: A few purchase requests have been put in for expiring EMS supplies. We have been working on a project to enhance the medical supplies that the EMTs have in their personal bags to include some trauma bandages and control the bleed supplies. We are also going to start putting together mass casualty or trauma incident bags.

M. Speech: Chief Root reported that it was included in his Chief's report.

Committee Reports

Building & Facilities: Nothing to report.

New Truck Committee: K. Thompson made the motion to designate D. Rafkis to sign the contract, any change orders, and for delivery of the 2nd the rescue pumper and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried.

Lysander Public Safety: K. Thompson reported that the next meeting is September 19th at BCSFD Station #1. The new Engine 91 and EMS 91 website will be discussed. The town wide drill at Oswego Training Facility on September 30, 2023.

Budget & Finance: K. Thompson reported that she would like to revisit the 2024 Budget in regards to paid staffing line items. K. Thompson made the motion to have a Special Meeting this week to discuss and adopt the preliminary budget before the September 25th deadline and M. Chura seconded the motion. Thompson, Chura, Malone, and LaPrease voted in favor and D. Rafkis opposed. Carried. Discussion regarding scheduling. Special Meeting will be held on

September 20, 2023 at 8PM at Station #1. The budget hearing is scheduled for October 16th at 6:30PM at Station #1.

IT Committee: Nothing to report.

Personnel: K. Thompson reported that we will be asking for an Executive Session to discuss personnel.

Truck Maintenance: M. Chura reported that L1 and T2 have gone out to Allied for service. T2 went back and the issue should be resolved. S1 and S2 have check engine lights on and are going for service.

Building Maintenance: M. Malone reported that he has a quote to replacing some of the exterior doors (the people doors, not garage doors) and he will be getting a couple more. K. Thompson suggested Raynor, not sure if they do man doors or just the garage doors. He received quotes for the roof at station #2, he thought he was getting quotes for the leaks but they quoted replacement. This would need to go out to bid for replacement. The roof on the garage behind Station #1 needs to be replaced, it is original. M. Malone asked if we had any replacement flags? Chief Root will talk to L. Harrison. M. Malone also reported that he is looking into the truck bay floor at station #2. Discussion.

Steering Committee: K. Thompson reported that the September 9th meeting was cancelled as too many people were unable to make the date. The next meeting will be October 7th and she has already confirmed attendance.

Fire Prevention: C. LaPrease reported that we will be working with the schools as they schedule fall fire prevention dates.

Old Business:

- Policy review- nothing at this time.
- Chief Root previously provided a revision to SOG 03-017 –Tabled.
- K. Thompson reported that the information was sent out on the NY Class program to the Commissioners. B. Dwyer reported that he did discuss the program with the representative at the AFDSNY conference and a representative does live in our district. The fund is making 5%, he spoke with M&T, and they would not be able to match the rate that NY Class would give us. K. Thompson spoke with the attorney, and it is a collateralized program which is required by general municipal law. Discussion. The investment policy does give W. Dwyer the authority to invest with guidance from the Board. W. Dwyer suggested investing some of the reserve funds now and next year invest some of the general fund as well. The following suggestions were made for investment with approximate amounts depending on outstanding permissive referendums and any bills that might be due. \$42,000 from Tax Stabilization, \$175,000 from Equipment, \$700,000 from Capital Improvement and \$650,00 from Apparatus. K. Thompson made the motion to adopt the Municipal Cooperative resolution to participate

in NY Class and authorizes W. Dwyer and A. Speech to sign any paperwork and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried.

Municipal Cooperation Resolution

WHEREAS, New York General Municipal Law, Article 5-G, Section 119-o (Section 119-o) empowers municipal corporations [defined in Article 5-G, Section 119-n to include school districts, boards of cooperative educational services, counties, cities, towns and villages, and districts] to enter into, amend, cancel, and terminate agreements for the performance among themselves (or one for the other) of their respective functions, powers, and duties on a cooperative or contract basis;

WHEREAS the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District wishes to invest portions of its available

investment funds in cooperation with other corporations and/or districts pursuant to the NYCLASS Municipal Cooperation Agreement Amended and Restated as of March 28, 2019;

WHEREAS the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District wishes to satisfy the safety and liquidity needs of their funds;

Now, therefore, it is hereby resolved as follows :

That William Dwyer, Fire District Treasurer of the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District is hereby authorized to participate in the NYCLASS program under the terms of the NYCLASS Municipal Cooperation Agreement Amended and Restated as of March 28, 2019.

William Dwyer, Fire District Treasurer September 18, 2023

- D. Rafkis asked if there has been further discussion on what vehicles will be sold first. Chief Root reported that he is waiting for the report from Colden. D. Rafkis and Chief Root to meet with Colden.

New Business:

- A. Speech reported that the Group Life Insurance is due for renewal in November. The rate has gone up slightly, but it is within budget. M. Chura made the motion to approve the Group Life Insurance renewal and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried.

Public comments:

- M. Harrison thanked W. Dwyer for providing the payroll data. He asked for clarification on the line items. He asked for the plan that he has been asking for with the numbers for paid staffing, the projections, how did we come up with the numbers for payroll and nothing has been reported since the public hearing.
- M. Harrison asked Chief Root what the status was for the lighting on E21. Chief Root reported that he is waiting for the report from Colden, if E21 will be sold first then we may not invest in lighting.
- M. Harrison asked about response times. It looks like there have been shifts with only 1 paid FF/EMT and if you can't get paid guys here, don't hold it against the volunteers who are doing it for free.

- B. Raymond-LaPrease asked if there was a report for the work that Brian Falise has done as the EMS Director before his contract is renewed. K. Thompson stated that we have activity reports from the drills he has conducted. J. Corcoran reported that he has worked on submitting the paperwork for the PILOT program to renew the expiring EMTs. J. Corcoran offered to reach out to B. Falise for a synopsis of work completed before the renewal and will email K. Thompson as a reminder to let him know when that information would be needed.
- D. Rafkis reported on response statistics from 8/17 through 9/17: 69 alarms total. Volunteers responded to 69 alarms, paid FF/EMTs responded to 27 alarms. There was a total of 572 volunteers responding, with an average of 9 volunteers per call. It was asked how many chiefs responded and how many EMTs responded? D. Rafkis did not have that data.

At 8:07 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 11:00 P.M.

K. Thompson made the motion to hire one FF/EMT, the personnel committee will recommend a candidate to the rest of the board for approval and if approved they will move forward with the hiring. M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried.

C. LaPrease made the motion to appoint Chief Root on a part-time basis at the current salary and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried.

Meeting dates:

Budget Hearing- October 16, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Commissioner's meeting – Monday, October 16, 2023 at 7 PM

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

M. Malone made the motion to adjourn at 11:02 PM and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Speach
District Secretary