

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 January 23, 2024 by Chairperson K. Thompson.

Pledge to the Flag

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

C. LaPrease made the motion to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2023 meeting minutes and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried. C. LaPrease made the motion to approve the minutes of the December 28, 2023 yearend and special meeting minutes and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried. Discussion regarding the Organizational meeting minutes. M. Harrison seconded the motion to approve L. Harrison as caretaker and his pay rate. As a family member, he should recuse himself. M. Chura made the motion made the motion to appoint Luke Harrison as Caretaker with a provision for salary as budgeted at \$36,764 to be adjusted hourly as approved and D. Rafkis seconded the motion. M. Harrison abstained. Carried. M. Chura made the motion to approve the January 8, 2024 Organizational meeting minutes as amended and D. Rafkis seconded the motion. Carried.

<u>Treasurer's Report:</u>	Checking	119,341.86
	Savings	241,201.94
	Payroll account	27,137.86
	Capital Imp. Reserve	116,340.51
	NY Class Capital Imp.	813,174.95
	Apparatus Reserve	73,436.05
	NY Class Fire Apparatus	1,129,688.03
	Cont. Tax. Stab. Res.	3,503.07
	NY Class Contin. & Tax	40,722.57
	Equipment Reserve	36,678.85
	NY Class Equipment	213,662.26
	Vouchers	50,902.30
	CODES Checking	1,794.48
	CODES Savings	24,974.82
	CODES bequests	61,607.62
	Vouchers	0.00

W. Dwyer reviewed the treasurer's report. He reported that there were no changes in the CODES report but neglected to bring the report. W. Dwyer reviewed the district report. M. Harrison made the motion to approve the treasurer's report and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried. M. Chura made the motion to approve the vouchers as audited and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried. M. Chura will be the commissioner to review bank statements this month and K. Thompson will review NY Class.

Correspondence:

- Onondaga County Educational and Legislative Conversation is January 27th
- Fire District Affairs was received and distributed.

Chief's Report:

J. Root:

1. Communications:
 - Nothing new to report.
2. Special Events:
 - Nothing new to report.
3. Stations:
 - The department office space at station 1 is in the process of renovation into a bunkroom. The room has been cleaned, painted and is ready for furniture.
4. Miscellaneous:
 - Still awaiting the report Insurance Services Office Inc. should receive it in the next few weeks.
 - Daily drills have changed. Firematic drills are held at station 2 on Mondays and Wednesdays and EMS drills are at station 1 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. All active members are invited and encouraged to attend.
5. Staffing: J. Root distributed his staffing proposal. Lengthy discussion ensued. The following topics were discussed and/or answered:
 - D. Rafkis asked when this proposal would start? The room needs to be furnished, so it would be a few weeks at least.
 - We budgeted for 6 days of staffing not 7 days. The budgeted number was not exact; by starting later in the year (Feb/March) that will free up some funds so we could staff for 7 days. The plan is also to have the volunteers take some coverage/shifts so we may not need to fill all shifts.
 - Will the Chiefs still do duty nights? That is still in discussion. Chief Root is doing one tonight. Logistically it is more important for him to be at the station on duty nights.
 - M. Harrison asked how many paid FF/EMTs can we have on payroll before civil service or union needs to be involved? The ability to have part-time FF/EMTs has already been approved by civil service. The paid FF/EMTs can decide to form a union at any time and it is separate from civil service. We want to start by hiring as few as possible maybe 5-6 to start to fill additional shifts as well as the occasional open daytime shifts. We do not have a maximum number before we need to look at FT.
 - Yes, training will training be incorporated on the evening shifts as well.
 - We need to work on LOSAP considerations.
 - What would the shifts be? 10-hour daytime and 14-hour nighttime. The volunteer shifts may not be the same.
 - The schedules can be sent out in office 365 and/or teams.

- How is this going to be communicated to the membership? There is a lot of leadership in this room to share this information.

M. Chura made the motion to hire 5 additional part-time FF/EMTs to start up to a total of 15 to supplement the volunteers as proposed in the staffing proposal for 24/7 coverage.

A calendar will be shared with volunteers first and then go to paid FF/EMTs for coverage and K. Thompson seconded the motion. Carried.

Discussion regarding furnishing the bunkroom. M. Chura made the motion to spend up to \$3500 for the bunkroom furnishings to be paid out of facilities and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried.

M. Speach:

- M. Speach is working on a working a trial of I'm Responding to move away from Bryx.
- We spoke with a representative from Image Trend to switch from Zoll. The current system is not very user friendly
- He will meet with IT to discuss any changes/upgrades and the expenses depending on how trials go.

J. Melchior:

- Mandatory training is scheduled for Thursday 1/25 and on Saturday 2/3
- Looking at revisions to some qualifications and some policies. Looking at the qualifications for different rolls/levels. More to come.

Committee Reports

Building & Facilities: Chair M. Chura. A. Speach reported that the request for bid proposals was in today's paper.

New Truck Committee: Chair D. Rafkis. Lengthy discussion regarding the sale of vehicles and apparatus. The proposal is to keep one of the old chief's vehicles (a 2017) to be used as a station vehicle for training and backup chief's vehicle and to sell the 2014 and the other 2017. The board authorizes C. LaPrease and M. Chura to look at the chiefs vehicles again to see which 2017 should be sold and which to keep. M. Chura reported that we had two vendors look at the engines to see which is in better shape and which should be sold; both recommended getting rid of E21. We are looking at about 14 months before delivery of the second rescue pumper. D. Rafkis will follow up to get a more definitive date. E21 and R1 referendum is on hold until we have a delivery date. M. Chura made the motion for the following resolution and D. Rafkis seconded the motion. Carried.

Notice to all residents of the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District that the Board of Fire Commissioners of said Fire District, pursuant to the following resolution, which is SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM, has declared surplus and intend to dispose of a 2014 Ford Explorer and a 2017 Ford Explorer previously used as chief's vehicles.

Whereas, at a regular meeting of said Board of Fire Commissioners on January 23, 2024, it was resolved to sell the said vehicle as follows:

RESOLVED, THAT THE FIRE DISTRICT DECLARE SURPLUS AND SELL THE 2014 AND 2017 FORD EXPLORERS PREVIOUSLY USED AS CHIEF'S VEHICLES, AT AUCTION, FOR A THE SUM THAT MAY EXCEED \$20,000 EACH.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF
THE BELGIUM COLD SPRINGS FIRE DISTRICT

Lysander Public Safety: Chair C. LaPrease reported that he has been elected chair of Lysander Public Safety and Scott Doody of Phoenix FD is vice chair. The E91 policy has been amended and will be revised and posted. J. Melchior has requested contact information to update participants in E91. The next meeting is February 20th at 7pm at Plainville FD. Cicero and West Genesee school districts have passed the property tax reduction. C. LaPrease met with Jim Perrin of Cicero FD and has information on what they did, he will meet with V. Kearney and Baldwinsville Schools to see if we can get this passed as well.

Budget & Finance: Cahir K. Thompson - Nothing to report.

IT Committee: Chair M. Chura reported that M. Speech has already touched on it but we are looking at a new PCR program and responder app. We will continue working on possible phone system upgrades.

Personnel: K. Thompson outlined a plan to interview candidates for the positions we approved earlier in the meeting. It is difficult to have the entire board interview due to conflicting schedules and the need to hold a special meeting to do so. K. Thompson, M. Chura and J. Root will interview candidates. Prior to the interview, they will leave the applications out for the rest of the board to review and submit questions for the interview. They will also canvas those already interviewed for interest. A. Speech will activate the link to apply on the website. Discussion. All were in favor of the outlined process.

Truck Maintenance: Chair M. Chura had nothing to report.

Building Maintenance: Chair C. LaPrease reported that the four exterior doors have been replaced at Station #1. He thanked former commissioner Mike Malone on the work he put into this project. C. LaPrease reported that they are looking into converting the drinking fountains into water bottle fill stations. More to come. M. Harrison reported that we need ADA compliant doors going into the truck bays, they need a push bar. He will bring back pricing.

Steering Committee: Chair D. Rafkis reported that the next meeting will be in January 27th at 9:30 am at district headquarters.

Fire Prevention: Chair M. Harrison – Nothing to report.

Old Business:

- Policy review- nothing at this time.
- Chief Root provided a revision to SOG 03-017 Personal Vehicle Response Direct to the Scene. Discussion. The policy only allows EMTs to go direct to the scene. Various situations and possible safety concerns were discussed. Chief Root explained this is a guideline and everyone is to use their best judgment as to if they can make a difference, the risk involved and scene safety. If apparatus is on the way, a responder can go to the scene and could wait until they arrive. M. Chura made the motion to approve the revisions to SOG 03-017 and D. Rafkis seconded the motion. M. Harrison voted against and M. Chura, D. Rafkis, C. LaPrease, and K. Thompson voted in favor. Carried.
- Gym reimbursement. No further information. Tabled.

New Business:

- A. Speach requested approval for those that usually get their DOT physicals. Discussion. K. Thompson made the motion to approve DOT physical for J. Root and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried.
- There was discussion if diabetes (A1C) was tested during the physical. There is an option to have blood work done. We would need to look into what is tested in the bloodwork and possible costs for next year.
- K. Thompson reported that Tony Blackwell with McNeil & Co. will be here at the February 12th meeting for our annual insurance review. A. Speach reported that the renewal paperwork has been submitted and we are looking at an increase. We do not have a final number yet but this is due to adding new vehicles and our losses. Some of our losses in 2022 that included the chief's vehicle, S2, T2 are hitting the calculation. It may go down slightly as we sell some vehicles. If there is anything in particular that you have questions on for the review, let A. Speach or K. Thompson know so McNeil & Co. can come prepared to answer our questions.

Public comments:

- B. Raymond-LaPrease asked about status of an email she sent asking for statistics. M. Chura did not have time to gather statistics but A. Speach did have them prepared. We had 103 alarms in December, average of 7.06 responders. 87 medical calls, 16 Fire. 47 alarms were responded to by the career FF/EMTs. We had 5 with no medical, 5 with no response and 3 cancelled by the ambulance.
- B. Raymond-LaPrease asked if the FD receives the tier reports (for chemicals) and will they be used for pre-plan. Discussion. Yes, we receive that information and it will be used for pre-plan.
- K. Thompson discussed the proposed revisions to OSHA requirements. The state associations are keeping an eye on this as it could cause some difficulties for most volunteer fire departments. More to come.

- C. LaPrease thanked M. Malone again (as he returned to the meeting from an alarm) for his work on the door replacement project and his time and service on the board.

Meeting dates:

Commissioner's meeting – Monday, February 12th at 7pm

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

M. Chura made the motion to adjourn at 8:46 PM and D. Rafkis seconded the motion. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Speech

District Secretary