

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 April 15, 2024 by Chairperson K. Thompson.

Pledge to the Flag

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

M. Harrison made the motion to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2024 meeting minutes and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried.

C. LaPrease made the motion to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2024 Special Meeting and M. Harrison seconded the motion. Carried.

C. LaPrease made the motion to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2024 Special Meeting and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried.

<u>Treasurer's Report:</u>	Checking	663,808.55
	Savings	1,666,154.09
	Payroll account	88,925.12
	Capital Imp. Reserve	211,680.54
	NY Class Capital Imp.	818,995.29
	Apparatus Reserve	121,847.64
	NY Class Fire Apparatus	605,202.52
	Cont. Tax. Stab. Res.	3,532.27
	NY Class Contin. & Tax	40,979.74
	Equipment Reserve	131,657.36
	NY Class Equipment	215,253.50
	Vouchers	659,327.02
	CODES Checking	637.53
	CODES Savings	27,433.37
	CODES bequests	61,607.62
	Vouchers	0.00

W. Dwyer reviewed the treasurer's report. Reviewed the CODES report, there was no change from last month. Reviewed the district report. There is no budgeted amount for background checks so the percentage is not accurate. The Annual Financial Document (AFD) for New York State was sent in and has been certified. The service award statements will be received soon and we will work on sending them out. D. Rafkis made the motion to approve the treasurer's report and M. Harrison seconded the motion. Carried. D. Rafkis made the motion to approve the vouchers as audited and M. Harrison seconded the motion. Carried. K. Thompson will be the commissioner to review bank statements this month.

## Correspondence:

- ISO report. Belgium Cold Springs has improved their rating and is now at a 2.
- Central Region meeting – April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Mattydale FD

## Chief's Report:

T. Gleeson reported.

### 1. Equipment:

#### Turnout Gear

- We have started to research turnout gear for a purchase to take place as soon as reasonable.
- We currently have more responders than gear-and proper fit and the age/condition of the gear is a concern. Orders have already been placed for additional SCBA masks, helmets and gloves as we were completely out of stock or missing sizes.
- We are gathering data on all the current front-line gear in the stations.
- As we consider manufacturer, materials and design/build we are also considering the true demand placed on our gear as well as the budget. We are trying to accomplish the most appropriate protection with the ability to outfit several members and have at a minimum some shared spare gear available for those who do not have any currently.
- We are also considering rental or leased gear to fill urgent needs. This may lead to additional vendors being required to visit the district offices.
- We anticipate we will be receiving some sample gloves and possibly boots for try on purposes shortly.

#### Handline Standardization Plan

- The line officers are developing a plan to standardize our hose complements across the apparatus as best as possible
- Goal is for a color to equal a length and those to be placed as best as possible in same position across fleet.
- Research with other dept. to find similarities.
  - Moyers Corners
  - Northwest
    - Line Officers to determine the best solutions with input from members.

### 2. Implementation of Training Plan

Working from the Department Bylaws which require 7 mandatory trainings per year. We are going to define the topics for the mandatories. Lesson plans will be designed as a two hour delivery or two one hour drills to allow for completion outside of Thursday night drill.

- Donning /SCBA
- Handline placement and advancement

- Hydrants-Water Source
- Ladders
- Firefighter Survival
- Vent Enter Isolate Search
- Rapid Intervention Techniques

3. Discussion regarding moving the Q siren from the old E21 that is to be sold to the old E11 that is now E21. Consideration when the new Rescue Pumper is delivered and the engine is sold removing the Q to keep it for historical significance. M. Harrison made the motion to approve moving it and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried.

M. Speech: no report.

J. Melchior:

#### Committee Reports

Long Term Planning: Chair M. Chura had nothing to report.

New Truck Committee: Chair D. Rafkis had nothing to report and stated that M. Chura is handling the sale of R1 and E21.

Lysander Public Safety: Chair C. LaPrease reported that the next meeting is April 16<sup>th</sup> at Seneca River FD. The town wide Recruit NY Open House was cancelled due to the weather and departments were encouraged to hold open houses at their respective stations. We did have Station #1 staffed and had at least one application filled out. The logging accident drill is scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup>. The drill will be offered to coalition departments first and then to outside departments to fill the class.

Budget & Finance: Chair K. Thompson reported that she and C. LaPrease did attend the fire department's audit.

IT Committee: Chair M. Chura reported that he has a quote to install the modems for the MDTs in the new chief's vehicles. This expense was included in the referendum for the vehicle purchase so it is OK to move forward. A. Speech reported on I Am Responding. We made some setting changes to address some of the issues from last month. It is recommended to extend the trial until we can get more answers.

Personnel: Chair K. Thompson reported that she was not able to get the updates to the handbook completed so it is tabled until next month.

Truck Maintenance: Chair M. Chura reported that the speaker in T2 has been replaced. The headlights in S1 were replaced.

Building Maintenance: Chair C. LaPrease reported that the bathroom renovation project is moving along. The water fountain bottle fill stations are in at both stations.

Steering Committee: Chair D. Rafkis reported that the next meeting is April 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am at district headquarters and to please RSVP if attending.

Fire Prevention: Chair M. Harrison reported that as C. LaPrease reported the town wide open house was cancelled.

#### Old Business:

- Policy review- nothing at this time.
- C. LaPrease opened discussion regarding policy 00-042 Membership Status Review. Lengthy discussion. The recommendation is to review membership activity for the May meeting.

#### New Business:

- K. Thompson opened the discussion on the use of exercise equipment in the fire station. She explained that our volunteers and paid staff should be aware that there is no coverage under WC/VFBL and limited coverage with the accident & health policy; their personal health insurance would be primary. Lengthy discussion. The recommendation is to have our attorney prepare a waiver that would include physical fitness and any activity not covered by insurance.
- M. Chura asked to consider a pay raise for the part time Firefighter/EMTs to \$25 an hour, this is a \$2 increase per hour. This is based on recent union negotiations for other combination departments within Onondaga County to keep us at a comparable pay rate. It is recommended to make it effective May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- M. Chura wanted to thank the crews for the quick response on the mutual aid structural fire response, this was a crew of paid and volunteer and they made a quick stop. Also a quick response for a respiratory arrest. Great job everyone.

#### Public comments:

- J. Melchior asked about approval for the 3<sup>rd</sup> chief's vehicle for the MDT. M. Chura explained that United would need to look at it when they are here to do the install to give us a price.

At 7:56 P.M. K. Thompson made the motion to go into executive session for the resume and employment history of an individual for their continued employment with the district and M. Harrison seconded the motion. Carried.

Resumed regular session at 9:17 PM.

M. Chura made the motion to approve the \$2 an hour pay increase for the part time firefighter/EMTs effective May 1<sup>st</sup> and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried.

Meeting dates:

Commissioner's meeting – Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

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

M. Chura made the motion to adjourn at 9:19 PM and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Speech

District Secretary