

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 July 15, 2024 by Chairperson K. Thompson.

Pledge to the Flag

Moment of silence to remember past members Don Anguish and Don Haskins that passed away recently.

Present: K. Thompson, M. Chura, M. Harrison, C. LaPrease, D. Rafkis, W. Dwyer, A. Speech, J. Melchior, C. Curtis, B. Raymond-LaPrease, M. Malone, T. Eckel, C. Padalino, E. Geremski, A. Tearney, Pac B

M. Chura made the motion to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2024 meeting minutes and M. Harrison seconded the motion. Carried.

<u>Treasurer's Report:</u>	Checking	94,372.07
	Savings	805,029.50
	Payroll account	31,041.46
	Capital Imp. Reserve	201,956.34
	NY Class Capital Imp.	829,688.77
	Apparatus Reserve	73,613.27
	NY Class Fire Apparatus	641,437.74
	Cont. Tax. Stab. Res.	3,563.22
	NY Class Contin. & Tax	41,514.81
	Equipment Reserve	128,040.18
	NY Class Equipment	218,064.03
	Vouchers	71,757.74
	CODES Checking	1,897.95
	CODES Savings	24,284.50
	CODES bequests	61,607.62
	Vouchers	0.00

W. Dwyer reviewed the treasurer's report. Reviewed the CODES report. Reviewed the district report.

- Lysander public safety has made the decision to transfer \$60,000 to NY Class and W. Dwyer reported that the funds were moved at the beginning of July.

- M. Harrison made the motion to approve the treasurer's report and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried.
- M. Chura made the motion to approve the vouchers as audited and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried.
- M. Harrison will be the commissioner to review bank statements this month.

Correspondence:

- Fire District Affairs received and distributed
- Food Service Establishment Inspection Report, operating with no violations.

Chief's Report:

T. Gleeson was not present, John Melchior reported on his behalf.

Communications:

- Decision Response Guide Released – continued discussion with mutual aid departments.

Projects:

- 2024 Hose testing is complete, 1400' of supply purchased prior to test. 1810' removed from service. Request that the district surplus the failed sections to be disposed of and the sale or donation of remaining hose to be determined.

Policy:

- Request rescind of policy 03-019 "Run Card" contradicts the Decision Response Guide.

C. LaPrease made the motion to declare the hose as surplus and donation as outlined in Chief Gleeson's report and M. Harrison seconded the motion. Carried.

M. Chura made the motion to Rescind SOG 03-019 and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried.

M. Speach: no report

J. Melchior:

- Thank you for approving attendance to the NVFC conference. J. Melchior reported that it was worthwhile.
  - He reported on the following;
    - learned that new members on average give 2-3 years of service.
    - Duty crews were a topic discussed and a selling point for departments.

- They has some really cool items for fire prevention.
  - Various health screening and recommendations for physicals.
- Attended the OSHA presentation in Oneida County with a Commissioner and a member.
  - Would like to look into some options to add to our current physical. Discussion.

### Committee Reports

Long Term Planning: Chair M. Chura reported that there will be a meeting scheduled soon.

New Truck Committee: Chair D. Rafkis reported on the sale of the apparatus and that there has not been much interest. She has reached out to a couple departments that had interest in R1. Discussion. M. Chura made the motion that if an offer is received to buy the apparatus that D. Rafkis will email the board for a decision and D. Rafkis seconded the motion. Carried.

Lysander Public Safety: Chair C. LaPrease reported there were representatives from I Am Responding at the last meeting. Lysander Public Safety offered to reimburse BCSFD for any materials used when we were hosting the roof prop but none was needed. The next meeting is Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Plainville FD.

Budget & Finance: Chair K. Thompson reported that the committee met for some preliminary discussions on the 2025 Budget. The Chief's budget and Executive Board budget are due July 17<sup>th</sup>. C. Padalino asked to be on the agenda to discuss the budget. A lengthy discussion ensued with the following points discussed:

- C. Padalino spoke about the budget process and the discussion the executive board had before making their budget. The decision to remove the banquet from the district budget was made before their budget was submitted. Town law does say that the district may spend money for the dinner. Discussion. Some members feel this means the district does not support the members. The board is looking at it from the taxpayers' standpoint. They are trying to keep the tax rate down. There have been members that have expressed concerns about the tax rate. The department has funds available; if they did not then the district would consider funding it. Does the department have a plan for the money that they have?
- C. Padalino asked about the budget process and clarification for large kitchen item purchases ie: coffee pot, microwave etc. The purchase can be made and submitted to the district for reimbursement.

- Discussion regarding Class A uniforms. Does the department have an inventory of what they have before they order more?
- Further discussion. The fire department needs to have a plan for the funds that they have. The district does provide money towards food for drills, towards recruitment & retention, rehab and uniforms.

IT Committee: Chair M. Chura reported that we received a quote to replace the copier at headquarters. M. Chura made the motion spend up to \$4000 to replace the copier and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried. The work has begun to set up the new phone system.

Personnel: Chair K. Thompson reported that they will be conducting more interviews for part time FF/EMTs to fill some of the openings. M. Chura explained that the civil service deputy chief exam is about to expire. The suggestion was made to remove Fire Instructor 2 and offer another test and it may give us a bigger pool of candidates. Discussion. C. LaPrease made the motion for a new test and M. Chura seconded the motion. M. Harrison and D. Rafkis opposed. K. Thompson, C. LaPrease and M. Chura in favor. Carried. It was clarified that this does not mean that we are currently hiring a deputy chief we are just making sure we have the potential to do so down the road.

Truck Maintenance: Chair M. Chura reported that sensor has been ordered to fix the outriggers for Ladder 1. It remains in service as an engine. Truck 2 was not used for the class tonight, it was cancelled due to weather and rescheduled for tomorrow night.

Building Maintenance: Chair C. LaPrease reported that the bathroom renovation project is moving along. The roof leak at the district office in the commissioner's office has been fixed and the leak over the entrance will be looked at. The leak at Station 1 did not leak with the heavy rain this week.

Steering Committee: Chair D. Rafkis reported that meetings are on hold for the summer and will resume in October.

Fire Prevention: Chair M. Harrison reported that he will be working with J. Melchior on the items he found at the recent conference he attended.

Old Business:

- Policy review. M. Chura made the motion to rescind the policy for physical fitness reimbursement and K. Thompson seconded the motion. Carried.
- M. Chura made the motion to approve the application of support member Tom Aiello and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried.

New Business:

- M. Chura made the motion to approve the support member application for Rebecca Shaughnessy and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried.

Public comments:

- B. Raymond-LaPrease saw on the Moyers Corners Fire Department Facebook page that they reported on their ISO rating but did not see anything on BCSFDs webpage or social media. K. Thompson stated that was a good idea and we would work on it.

Meeting dates:

Commissioner's meeting – Monday, August 19th at 7pm

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

M. Chura made the motion to adjourn at 8:23 PM and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Speach  
District Secretary