

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 June 17, 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, J. Melchior, C. Curtis, B. Raymond-LaPrease, L. Malone, M. Malone, M. Evans, T. Eckel, B. Green, G. Roziock, D. Eiffe, Pac B

M. Harrison made the motion to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2024 meeting minutes and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried.

<u>Treasurer's Report:</u>	Checking	128,646.21
	Savings	875,068.86
	Payroll account	76,953.14
	Capital Imp. Reserve	201,376.23
	NY Class Capital Imp.	826,146.79
	Apparatus Reserve	73,401.82
	NY Class Fire Apparatus	638,699.43
	Cont. Tax. Stab. Res.	3,552.99
	NY Class Contin. & Tax	41,337.59
	Equipment Reserve	127,672.39
	NY Class Equipment	217,133.12
	Vouchers	104,124.55
	CODES Checking	2,037.53
	CODES Savings	21,018.29
	CODES bequests	61,607.62
	Vouchers	1,539.58

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 is in the process of setting that up.
- The payout for service awards is \$27,494.09 to eligible individuals electing to take their money. The service awards earned in 2023 total \$44,000. M. Chura made the motion to pay those electing to take their money from the general fund and when received from Lincoln Investments the money will go back into the general fund and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried.

M. Chura made the motion to pay the voucher to Lincoln for the \$44,000 for those that earned their points in 2023 and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried.

- The annual audit report was received. C. LaPrease made the motion to accept the audit report and M. Harrison seconded the motion. Carried.
- M. Harrison made the motion to approve the treasurer's report and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried.
- M. Harrison 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.

Correspondence:

- Excellus has sent a letter a notice of a proposed increase of up to 16.73%
- AFDSNY 2024 Annual Meeting & Leadership Expo is October 20-23, 2024 at Turning Stone.

Chief's Report:

T. Gleeson:

Communications:

- Decision Response Guide Released
 - Reviewed at line officers meeting
 - Reviewed at department meeting
- Northwest has requested additional meetings to discuss response, to be scheduled
- Participated in preliminary budget meeting with BOFC budget committee

Projects:

- Purchase recommendation sent to Apparatus & Station Maintenance to purchase and install pressure washers and vehicle underbody washers. The plan for use and deployment was explained. This will aid in keeping the vehicle undercarriage cleaner and help to avoid rust and other maintenance issues. Discussion. M. Harrison explained that the bus garage has a built in pressure washer and we could look at the set up they have. C. Laprease spoke with Krown rust protection that provides the district vehicles undercoating and this would help in the process.
- Purchase recommendation sent to Station Maintenance to purchase tool chests and basic hand tools. This will provide basic tools for station projects, equipment maintenance etc. without taking anything from the apparatus.

- Turnout Gear Purchase recommendation completed and forwarded to BOFC. Reviewed purchase request provided to the board. This would be primary gear: 18 full sets of gear, 14 at full price and 2 wear trial sets and we may be able to add another set within budget. We will transition to belt, instead of harness, it reduces cost and it is easier to get into and take apart to clean. Leather boots and particular blocking hoods for all interior firefighters. Also purchase some helmets and gloves for emergency replacement. The total is \$88,000 to be spent from the permissive referendum and as budgeted. This was outlined in detail in an email sent to the board prior to the meeting.
Discussion.

The following actions were taken on the above items:

- C. Laprease made the motion to approve the purchase of the pressure washers and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried.
- D. Rafkis made the motion to purchase the hand tools and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried.
- The funds were approved for the gear, all in favor of moving forward with the purchase. The quotes are per state contract.

Chief Gleeson introduced David Eiffe, retired Chief that has met with the members of the board two at a time to discuss a proposal for work with the fire district. D. Eiffe provided the proposal to the board and explained further. He would help guide us in our mission, vision, & values to help us move forward in a community driven approach. Lengthy discussion.

Points during discussion:

- How would it be presented? This will be presented to entire organization and everyone would need to be involved. There will be times it is just officers/exec. Ultimately, everything will be up to the board of fire commissioners.
- What is the time frame? Phase 1 is estimated to be 12-20 hours, it would depend on the organization and how long it takes to get information to him. The contract is 100 per hour non-binding, so if we get through half and the board decides we are done then it ends.
- C. Laprease made the motion to approve to move forward with phase 1 and K. Thomson seconded the motion. Further discussion. D. Rafkis thinks that the department executive board needs to be a part of it. M. Harrison thinks everyone needs to be involved. The discussion just explained that they would be involved during the process. C. LaPrease stated that the decision to hire and proceed with the project is up to the AHJ. Motion on the

floor. D. Rafkis opposed, M. Harrison, Thompson, Chura and LaPrease in favor. Carried.

M. Speach: no report

J. Melchior:

- Thank you for the approving the purchase of the junk cars for training.
- We are utilizing B. Falise for EMS training and we will be looking to utilize the reimbursement from the DOH for the EMT renewals to purchase some materials.
- The county roof prop will be coming tomorrow for training this month.

Committee Reports

Long Term Planning: Chair M. Chura reported that he will be revitalizing the long term planning committee. It is a long term commitment, we will be looking at community changes and need, apparatus replacement and buildings. If interested, please contact M. Chura and he will try to schedule in the next month.

New Truck Committee: Chair D. Rafkis reported that R1 is listed with Brindlee Mountain and we have had three inquires. E21 is in the process of being listed and the department that purchased the truck is interested in E21.

Lysander Public Safety: Chair C. LaPrease reported the Next Meeting Tuesday, June 18th at 7pm at GBAC. There will be a representative from I am Responding there for a presentation.

Budget & Finance: Chair K. Thompson provided the budget timeline for the 2025 Budget and reported that the committee met for some preliminary discussions. The Chief's budget and Executive Board budget are due July 17th.

IT Committee: Chair M. Chura reported that we are in need of replacing aging computers, monitors and equipment. M. Chura made the motion to spend up to \$23,000 for computer and equipment replacement and D. Rafkis seconded the motion. Carried.

Personnel: Chair K. Thompson reported that she and M. Chura are working with Paychex to streamline the personnel review process in Paychex Flex. M. Chura said they are working with them to see what else they can offer us.

Truck Maintenance: Chair M. Chura reported that the switch for the lights and sirens has been repaired.

Building Maintenance: Chair C. LaPrease reported that the bathroom renovation project is moving along. The change order discussed last month they were able to reduce from \$3000 to \$1954. The tile is backordered so we made a change to get something in sooner. Hills reported back after the preventative service that the AC at the district office is in need of replacement. The ceiling at Station #1 was leaking during the meeting. C. LaPrease said we have yet to determine if it is the roof leaking, the AC or pipes causing the ceiling leak.

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 there is Fire prevention July 3rd at Little Lukes.

Old Business:

- Policy review- nothing at this time.
- K. Thompson reported that the attorney has drafted a waiver for use of gym equipment and other activities; it was tabled last month. Discussion. K. Thompson made the motion to adopt the waiver and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried. The waiver will be placed on Power DMS and will require a signature. Letters will be sent to Life members with active fobs.

New Business:

- C. LaPrease made the motion to approve the active member application for Michael St. Andrew pending his background check and physical and D. Rafkis seconded the motion. Carried.
- Application for support membership for Tom Aeillo. Discussion. Background check and further information is needed. Tabled.
- M. Chura made the motion to approve alcohol for hall use for Tom Reddinger and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried.

Public comments:

- B. Raymond-LaPrease expressed she was pleased to see progress being made for future planning.
- M. Evans said he saw on the news that fire departments could be looking at a 42% increase in expenses with changes in OSHA. K. Thompson

explained that is currently in the comments period and is being watched closely by all the state associations. They had a group testify before Congress last week that included Dave Denniston. There will certainly be costs involved with this. K. Thompson spoke at a Town of Lysander meeting recently.

- M. Evans asked if the undercarriage wash will leave residue on the floor; it is already slippery. Discussion. C. LaPrease said the district will look into it.
- J. Melchior asked with budget planning if the district will be getting rid of the reimbursement for gym membership. Lengthy discussion. The fire department executive board did ask the FASNY attorney and it is something that can be paid for out of foreign insurance. M. Chura made the motion to remove this from the budget and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried.
- M. Chura asked about the installation banquet and is it appropriate and/or necessary for the district to fund it with tax payer money. Lengthy discussion. Taxes are going up and everyone is doing their best. The fire department is financially sound now. M. Chura made the motion to remove the installation banquet from district budget and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. M. Harrison abstained, K. Thompson voted against and M. Chura, C. LaPrease and D. Rafkis voted in favor. Carried.

Meeting dates:

Commissioner's meeting – Monday, July 15 at 7pm

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

M. Chura made the motion to adjourn at 8:42 PM and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Speach
District Secretary