

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 October 15, 2024 by Commissioner M. Chura.

Pledge to the Flag

Present: K. Thompson, M. Chura, M. Harrison, C. LaPrease, W. Dwyer, A. Speech, M. Speech, J. Melchior, B. Raymond-LaPrease, T. Eckel, Pac B

M. Harrison made the motion to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2024 meeting minutes and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried.

<u>Treasurer's Report:</u>	Checking	118,478.71
	Savings	336,214.50
	NY Class General Fund	611,252.18
	Payroll account	122,301.81
	Capital Imp. Reserve	175,404.11
	NY Class Capital Imp.	829,944.39
	Apparatus Reserve	74,254.33
	NY Class Fire Apparatus	649,749.80
	Cont. Tax. Stab. Res.	3,594.25
	NY Class Contin. & Tax	42,052.80
	Equipment Reserve	116,956.74
	NY Class Equipment	220,889.81
	Vouchers	109,429.05
	CODES Checking	1,627.77
	CODES Savings	25,045.43
	NY Class CODES bequests	61,607.62
	Vouchers	500.00

W. Dwyer reviewed the treasurer's report. Reviewed the CODES report. Reviewed the district report. There is an error on page 2 for the part time FF/EMT pay to be corrected. Reviewed the permissive referendums. Discussion. K. Thompson made the motion to close out the referendums for the roof and parking lot (#3), the second chief's vehicle (#5), personal protective gear (#6) and the bathroom renovation (#7) and M. Harrison seconded the motion. Carried.

- K. Thompson made the motion to approve the treasurer's report with the correction to the PT FF/EMT pay and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried.

- K. Thompson made the motion to approve the vouchers as audited and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried.
- K. Thompson will be the commissioner to review bank statements this month.

Correspondence:

- Fire District Affairs was received and distributed.

Chief's Report:

T. Gleeson: M. Speach reported for Chief Gleeson

Purchase Requests:

- Request permissive Referendum for \$19,050 to purchase fire attack hose, nozzles and appliances. K. Thompson asked if we had it in the budget but there is an order for 4" hose. K. Thompson made the motion to spend \$20,000 from equipment reserves subject to the following permissive referendum and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SPENDING
OF FIRE DISTRICT FUNDS OF THE
BELGIUM COLD SPRINGS FIRE DISTRICT
TOWN OF LYSANDER

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, intend to expend funds on hand in the Reserve Fund for Equipment for fire attack hose, nozzles and appliances for firefighting for the Fire District.

Whereas, at a meeting of said Board of Fire Commissioners on October 15, 2024 it was resolved to use said funds as follows:

RESOLVED, THAT THE FIRE DISTRICT EXPEND FUNDS ALREADY ON HAND IN THE RESERVE FUND FOR EQUIPMENT AS FOLLOWS; NOT TO EXCEED \$20,000 TO BE USED FOR THE PURCHASE OF FIRE ATTACK HOSE, NOZZLES AND APPLIANCES FOR FIREFIGHTING, INCLUDING LEGAL AND ADVERTISING COSTS.

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

Amy Speach
Fire District Secretary

- Request we apply for the NYS Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant for “eligible wildland firefighting suppression equipment” The grant, if awarded is up to a total of \$5000, \$2500 state and \$2500 Fire dept match. If granted, purchase would be for wildland firefighting hand tools only and requested equipment would be sent to Commissioners for approval prior to submitting the application. The deadline for the application is prior to the next Commissioners meeting. Will allow us to replace some aging equipment. M. Chura made a motion to approve submitting for the grant with Chief Gleeson heading up the project and reporting back and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried
- Request the following permissive referendums be kept open an additional month. REF#1, C-1 REF #2, Comms Equipment. Discussed previously in the meeting.

Communications:

- Met with United Radio rep to discuss current and future Fire Service communications landscape. Details of that and a follow-up e-mail to be shared soon with IT committee.

Projects:

- PPE that was ordered is continuing to arrive. New belts and Bailout extensions are being issued. Proper setup and use Integrated into mandatory Firefighter Survival Training.
- EMS mentorship program has been completed. An email has been sent to the commissioners for review prior to announcing to the Department.
- Request the District declare “surplus” the equipment as provided on the list and approve donating it.
 - C. LaPrease made the motion to surplus the listed equipment and donate it with the exception of the generators, suction and water pumps and M. Harrison seconded the motion. Carried.
- The first organizational improvement session with Dave Effie was conducted on September 26th . Next step is to work with Exec Board, Commissioners and Line Officers to begin to define our Mission, Vision and Values statement.

Officer Meeting:

- Minutes will be transcribed and posted by Chief Melchior. The training topic was Fire Response Incident Communications. Discussed and practiced

“Initial Report” and “360 Size Up”. September has been posted, October in progress.

Policy: Nothing significant to report

M. Chura asked that with new EMTs coming in and the cost of the course, have we thought of having them sign a commitment to be here for a certain amount of time? Chief Speech responded that it can be discussed.

M. Speech:

- Image Trend - EMS reporting module went live on 10/8. Training will continue as members start to use the system. Thank you to those that assisted with the transition: Lynn Malone, Janelle Melchior, Blake Harden, Matt Karasek, Brian Falise, Tim Gleeson, and Amy Speech

J. Melchior:

- Chief Gleeson covered some of his report. The Chiefs have established 7 core competencies to complete, we have covered 6 and the 7th will be this month.

Committee Reports

Long Term Planning: Chair M. Chura reported that the first meeting was held. It was very productive. All three buildings were discussed, staffing and vehicles. We discussed our needs and what that may look like in the future. We will look at the effect on ISO if we were to move station locations and reduce apparatus. We will schedule a meeting for November.

New Truck Committee: Chair D. Rafkis was not present but sent a report to K. Thompson. There are no changes in the sale of R1 and E21. We may want to consider a reduction in price. The new Rescue Pumper is expected in June 2025.

Lysander Public Safety: Chair C. LaPrease reported. The next meeting is Wednesday, October 16th at 7pm at Northwest Station #1. We will be discussing E91 and fire prevention in the schools. The Townwide Recruitment & Retention Open House was held on October 5th. The weather was great but not a big turn out. It will go back to individual departments next year. There is discussion on bringing back the Little Kids, Big Trucks event.

Budget & Finance: K. Thompson reported that A. Speach has filed the tax cap form on the NYS comptroller website. K. Thompson made the motion to adopt the following resolution to override the tax cap and the motion was seconded by M. Chura. Carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 1: OVERRIDE REAL PROPERTY TAX CAP FOR THE 2024 BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District must adopt a proposed budget for 2025 and estimate of fund balances in preparation for the annual fire district budget hearing and did so in preparation for the budget hearing, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District held the annual fire district budget hearing on notice to the public on October 15, 2024, and

WHEREAS, the Board has considered the proposed budget and comments received on the proposed budget on October 15, 2024 at said budget hearing, and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the financial needs of the fire district and fire department for fiscal year 2025 cannot be supported by a budget that would comply with the real property tax cap established pursuant to Section 3-c of the General Municipal Law as the proposed budget for 2025 calls for a real property tax levy that will exceed the real property tax cap permitting only a 2.00% increase in said tax levy; and

WHEREAS, Section 3-c of the General Municipal Law provides as follows:

A local government may adopt a budget that requires a tax levy that is greater than the tax levy limit for the coming fiscal year, not including any levy necessary to support the expenditures pursuant to subparagraphs (i) through (iv) of paragraph g of subdivision two of this section, only if the governing body of such local government first enacts, by a vote of sixty percent of the total voting power of such body, a local law to override such limit for such coming fiscal year only, or in the case of a district or fire district, a resolution, approved by a vote of sixty percent of the total voting power of such body, to override such limit for such coming fiscal year only.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Fire Commissioners hereby approves a determination to override the real property tax cap for the 2025 budget only in order to permit an annual real property tax levy that will exceed the real property tax cap permitting only a 2.00% increase in said tax levy and result in a final annual fire district budget in the amount of \$2,126,918 and

The adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call the vote was as follows:

*Chairperson Catherine Thompson) AYE
Commissioner Charles LaPrease) AYE
Commissioner Mark Harrison) AYE*

Commissioner Michael Chura) AYE
Commissioner Diane Rafkis) absent

The resolution was thereupon duly declared to have been adopted.

*Dated: Baldwinsville, New York
October 15, 2024*

K. Thompson made the motion to adopt the 2025 Budget as presented with a tax levy of \$2,126,918 and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried.

IT Committee: Chair M. Chura reported that the new computers are in and in the process of getting set up. B. Dwyer and A. Speach meet with a CPA and have presented a contract to assist the treasurer to convert to cloud based QuickBooks. M. Chura made the motion to sign the contract for the conversion for up to \$4,000 and M. Harrison seconded the motion. Carried.

Personnel: Chair K. Thompson had nothing to report.

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

Building Maintenance: Chair C. LaPrease reported that the roof leaks have slowed down and with the rain the last few days we haven't had any leaks.

Steering Committee: Chair D. Rafkis not present but the next meeting is October 26th at 9:30am at Station #2.

Fire Prevention: Chair M. Harrison reported that the schools are finishing up and they will start planning for next year.

Old Business:

- Policy review. Nothing at this time.
- Group Life Insurance renewal. M. Chura asked if it was appropriate for the district to pay for the group life or if the fire department should be paying. They recently stated that have a policy. Discussion. The fire department is paying for FASNY membership that includes an accidental death policy. Town law allows for the fire district to pay for a life insurance policy and the district's life insurance covers more than accidental death.
- VFBL/WC Renewal

C. LaPrease made the motion to renew the life insurance and the WC/VFBL and M. Harrison seconded the motion. Carried.

New Business:

- M. Chura has a request from the NY State Troopers to store their trailer at the district office. Discussion. They would need to provide a certificate of insurance. M. Chura made the motion to allow the NY State Troopers to store their trailer at the district office with the required insurance documentation and M. Harrison seconded the motion. Carried.
- K. Thompson made the motion to designate the following people for the election board for the fire district election: Lynn Tanner, Terrie Massaro, Dorothy Dwyer, Stacey Gingrich and Dave Speach as an alternate to be paid a stipend of \$70 and M. Harrison seconded the motion. Carried.

Public comments:

No public comments

C. LaPrease made the motion to go into executive session at 8:07PM to discuss the resume and employment history of an individual and their continued employment with the district and K. Thompson seconded the motion. Carried.

At 8:53PM the meeting returned to open session.

C. LaPrease reported that there was a status review of members completed according to district policy 00-042 and a list of members was compiled of those not meeting their obligations. A letter will be sent to notify those members that are not compliant.

Meeting dates:

Commissioner's meeting – Tuesday November 18th at 7pm

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

C. LaPrease made the motion to adjourn at 8:55 PM and M. Harrison seconded the motion. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Speach
District Secretary