

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 28, 2025 by Chairperson C. LaPrease.

Pledge to the Flag

Present: K. Thompson, M. Chura, M. Malone, C. LaPrease, M. Harrison, W. Dwyer, A. Speech, T. Gleeson, J. Melchior, C. Curtis, B. Raymond-LaPrease, L. Malone, Michele Malone, M. Evans, B. Harden, T. Eckel, M. Quinn, Pac B

M. Harrison made the motion to approve the December 16, 2024 meeting minutes and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried.

K. Thompson made the motion to approve the December 23, 2024 special meeting minutes and M. Harrison seconded the motion. Carried.

M Chura made the motion to approve the December 30, 2024 yearend meeting minutes and M. Harrison seconded the motion. Carried.

M Chura made the motion to approve the January 6, 2025 organizational meeting minutes and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried

<u>Treasurer's Report:</u>	Checking	34,236.71
	Savings	78,066.89
	NY Class General Fund Account	68,232.65
	Payroll account	52,807.69
	Capital Imp. Reserve	176,654.35
	NY Class Capital Imp.	839,510.83
	Apparatus Reserve	71,625.92
	NY Class Fire Apparatus	1,107,292.51
	Cont. Tax. Stab. Res.	3,619.87
	NY Class Contin. & Tax	42,537.54
	Equipment Reserve	63,790.21
	NY Class Equipment	323,447.73
	Vouchers	33,488.97
	CODES Checking	1,797.95
	NY Class CODES Savings	26,457.16
	NY Class CODES bequest	61,356.09
	Vouchers	0.00

W. Dwyer reviewed the treasurer's report. Reviewed the CODES report. We are in the middle of the QuickBooks conversion so some information regarding payroll is not there. The \$50,000

from the sale of R1 was deposited into the apparatus reserve. The reserve account for Retirement will be opened when the 2025 Tax check is received. M. Chura made the motion to approve the treasurer's report and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried. K. Thompson made the motion to approve the vouchers as audited and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried. M. Chura will be the commissioner to review bank statements this month.

Discussion regarding closing out permissive referendums that are finished. M. Chura made the motion to close following permissive referendums: #1 for the chief's vehicle purchase, #2 radios, and #4 the first rescue pumper and K. Thompson seconded the motion. Carried.

K. Thompson made the motion to allow the treasurer to move funds to NY Class as needed and appropriate and M. Harrison seconded the motion. Carried. K. Thompson will continue to review the NY Class statements.

#### Correspondence:

- Fire District Affairs was received and distributed.
- The Annual Fire & EMS Law and Management Conference at Turning Stone March 27-29<sup>th</sup>.

#### Chief's Report:

T. Gleeson:

Purchase Requests & notifications:

- Request: Up to \$3500 for Cribbing & Shoring. Discussion. The order includes extra cribbing for training. M. Harrison made the motion to spend up to \$3500 for the cribbing & shoring and to declare the old cribbing & shoring surplus and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried.

- Request: Up to \$4000 for a new laptop and monitors for Deputy Chief Natoli, a laptop for Commissioner LaPrease and a new desktop for Commissioner Thompson as hers is due for replacement this year. Discussion regarding the department executive board computers. C. LaPrease made the motion to spend up to \$13,000 to purchase computers and the fire department will reimburse the district for their computers and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried.

- Notification: In February we will be moving forward with the surface water rescue equipment purchase as approved on the water rescue line item in the 2025 Chief's budget.

- Notification: We received NYS DEC grant for wildland fire equipment. The order will be placed as previously approved and upon delivery the order will be inspected by NYS Rangers and re-imburement of 50% of the purchase price will be processed by DEC.

- Smoke machine yet to be ordered, determining vendor with best price/value.

Communications:

- Collaboration with Northwest Fire District continues. Joint RIT drill(s) scheduled.

Projects:

- The second session with Dave Effie was remarkably successful. Draft language for Mission, Vision, and Values was created. The Chief's office will work with the

department exec board to have the Department approach the commissioners with a request to adopt the drafts as “official.”

Officer Meeting:

- Not conducted due to scheduling conflict.

Policy:

- No updates currently

K. Thompson made the motion to approve the appointment of D. Natoli as Deputy Chief per his employment agreement with a start date of January 29, 2025, and M Chura seconded the motion. Carried

T. Gleeson stated that due to the line of succession D. Natoli will be car 2 and J. Melchior car 3 but he will be treating them the same as far as roles and responsibilities and are considered 4 bugle chiefs. The chiefs will be meeting tomorrow to discuss roles and responsibilities.

D. Natoli: no report

J. Melchior:

- Reviewed scheduled training.
- The recent SCBA drill skills were put into effect a few days later at the fire in Baldwinsville.

### Committee Reports

C. LaPrease sent out the committee assignments prior to the meeting.

Building Maintenance: Chair M. Harrison stated that he will be looking into various roof leaks as the weather permits.

Budget & Finance: Chair K. Thompson, nothing to report.

Fire Prevention: Chair M. Harrison, no report.

IT Committee: Chair C. LaPrease reported that the computer replacement was already discussed.

Long Term Planning: Chair M. Malone. M. Chura reported on the last meeting and discussions were progressing very well. Staffing continues to be the #1 problem. The next step was decided, which was that it was time to take the committee’s thoughts and bring them to the BOFC to see in what direction the board wants to go. Discussion regarding some of the ideas that have been discussed by the committee.

Lysander Public Safety: Chair C. LaPrease

- Meeting on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 7pm at Phoenix FD. Discussion on revisions on E91 and EMS 91 SOGs

New Truck Committee: Chair M. Harrison reported that the Rescue was sold to the City of Crown Point, IN for \$50,000. Brindlee was the vendor that it sold through. M. Harrison made the motion to pay the commission when it comes in and K. Thompson seconded the motion. Carried.

Personnel: Chair K. Thompson, no report

Service Awards: Chair K. Thompson reported that she and C. LaPrease met with D. Rutowski regarding the service awards investments and the recommendation was to continue in the plan that we are in.

Truck Maintenance: Chair M. Harrison reported that the E11 pressure gauge has been ordered, and they will be in tomorrow to replace it. M. Chura asked if it was under warranty and M. Harrison will look into it.

Old Business:

New Business:

- SOG 02-002 Duty Shift. Discussion. Several updates were discussed regarding content. Some guidance will come from the Chief's office. Reduce the numbers and just use paragraphs and bullets. C. LaPrease made the motion approve SOG 02-002 Duty Shift with changes as discussed and K. Thompson seconded the motion. Carried.
- Membership Status Review Policy 00-042. Discussion. All active members will be notified of their status. Increase drills to 6 for April review and 12 for October review. Discussion re: life membership. C. LaPrease made the motion to approve Policy 00-042 Membership Status Review as amended and M. Harrison seconded the motion. Carried.
- Social Media Policy discussion and process. Social Media posts can be scheduled in advance. The need is to have more people creating content. M. Malone, C. LaPrease, T. Gleeson will be added.
- M. Harrison made the motion to approve out of district Support Member application for Kandy Lindsay and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Thompson, LaPrease, and Harrison voted in favor. Malone and Chura Opposed. Carried.
- Membership applications – Discussion on how long we will hold if there is an issue with physicals, moving, etc. when approved pending their physical. K. Thompson made the motion that physicals need to be completed within 90 days and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried.
- Property Tax Credit. The town states that they did not receive our notice that the district passed the property tax exemption. K. Thompson explained that the original resolution and the law stated that you had to live in the district that you serve in but that has since been changed. We can pass a motion to pay \$570.33 that our people did not get it. There were 2 people provided by the town that it would not apply to as they are outside of our fire district.

Keep in mind that you can't take the real estate and the income tax credit. K. Thompson made the motion to pay the shortfall for the qualifying Belgium Cold Springs members so they may receive their property tax credit, to be paid out of the Contingency and tax stabilization reserve fund and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried.

- K. Thompson stated that the Governor did sign legislation that you can get the real property tax credit if you volunteer in a neighboring department and that was not included in our resolution as the law didn't allow at the time. K. Thompson made the motion to adopt the tax abatement for residents of the Belgium Cold Springs fire district who volunteer in neighboring fire districts to grant the Property Tax Exemption to eligible volunteers as it applies in the resolution dated March 20, 2023, and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried.

- Discussion of the creation of an online store. Chief Gleeson explained that it would allow for the standardization of uniforms. The officers and a few of the career staff worked on a design for the T-shirts. An order of T-shirts is a place to start to set up the store. All were in favor of moving forward.

- M. Chura presented some statics and demographics of the fire department. There are 39 active volunteers; 12 are over 66 and half are over the age of 56. March 1, 2024, we moved to 24/7 career staffing, with 2 FF/EMTs, this increased response times out the door in 2 minutes and 2 seconds. The number of calls with no volunteer response increased by 60-80%, and possible reasons why were provided. The volunteer response is an average of 4.2 people, the career average is 1.2 people with an average of 2.76 EMTs on rescue calls and 5.4 interior qualified on fire calls and an average of 6.3 people on apparatus per call. The number of alarms has increased. We have the funding, and I would like to recommend increasing the paid staffing by 10 more to add a third on each shift. M. Chura make the motion to have to BOFC look at hiring 10 more career FF/EMTs. Discussion. K. Thompson stated she would need more information and time to review the budget. There was no second. The motion failed.

#### Public comments:

- M. Evans stated that the calls are inflated, and we are not needed on all the medical calls.
- John Melchior stated that another district is offering \$600 for a training stipend and is that something that the BOFC will consider beyond what the state does. T. Gleeson responded that it has been budgeted but the details need to be worked out. Discussion.
- J. Melchior asked about improvements to the living quarters at Station #1, The department would like to do some renovations and purchase new furniture, patch walls and paint, and caulk the windows to stop the draft. All in agreement to work with the building maintenance committee on this project.

#### Meeting dates:

Commissioner's meeting –Monday February 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

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

M. Chura made the motion to adjourn at 9:15 PM and M. Harrison seconded the motion. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Speach  
District Secretary