

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 March 17, 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, M. Evans, Tom Eckel, Pac B

M. Harrison made the motion to approve the February 24, 2025 meeting minutes and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried.

<u>Treasurer's Report:</u>	Checking	73,348.38
	Savings	410,079.55
	NY Class General Fund Acct.	1,474,423.02
	Payroll account	22,239.98
	Capital Imp. Reserve	177,369.65
	NY Class Capital Imp.	845,280.93
	Apparatus Reserve	122,025.65
	NY Class Fire Apparatus	1,162,211.39
	Cont. Tax. Stab. Res.	3,634.53
	NY Class Contin. & Tax	42,829.91
	Equipment Reserve	64,048.50
	NY Class Equipment	341,440.22
	NY Class Retirement Fund	55,108.10
	Vouchers	38,244.49
	CODES Checking	1,297.95
	CODES Savings	29,565.94
	NY Class CODES bequest	61,777.79
	Vouchers	0.00

W. Dwyer reviewed the treasurer's report. Reviewed the CODES report. Discussion on moving some of the CODES funds to NY Class and will bring the topic to tomorrow's Lysander Public Safety meeting for further discussion. The QuickBooks conversion is progressing. They are working on a solution for CODES as their funds are separate from the fire districts. The reports will look different, but we are working on setting up the reports to provide the same information. W. Dwyer will be closing the Firehouse Payroll NY Class account, the funds need to remain in checking. C. LaPrease made the motion to close out the permissive referendum #1 for the chief's vehicle and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried. M. Harrison made the motion to approve the treasurer's report and K. Thompson seconded the motion. Carried. M. Harrison made the motion to approve the vouchers as audited and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried. M. Malone will be the commissioner to review bank statements this month. K. Thompson will review the NY Class accounts.

Correspondence: no correspondence

## Chief's Report:

T. Gleeson:

Alarms:

- February 70 alarms total - 20 Fire and 50 Rescue with an average of 5.47 responding with an average of 3.25 on apparatus.

Purchase Requests & Notifications:

- Request approval to apply for Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Grant, the grant opens on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. T. Gleeson reports that he has been working with Chiefs on best practices and safe operations for water rescue. This equipment would be for shore based operations only with some ice rescue applications and would give us the capabilities to support additional water rescue in the future if we pursue additional training and change our operations. We already had water rescue equipment budgeted but due to other needs these funds could be shifted to other equipment and this grant funding would still allow us to purchase the water rescue equipment. We do have a significant amount of shoreline in the district. K. Thompson made the motion to pursue the grant application for up to \$16,000 and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried.
- T. Gleeson explained that we have had several SCBA bottles reach the end of life so we have little to no spare bottles. He would like to have Jerome Fire Equipment come in to provide a train the trainer class on the cascade system at a cost of \$202.50. Discussion. – M. Chura made the motion to approve the train the trainer course for the cascade system and M. Harrison seconded the motion. Carried.

Communications:

- GBAC Director, Mr. C. Cullen requested a meeting. Good conversation, interagency relations are strong. On scene relationships are good.
- Chief's Office Division of Labor sent to Commissioners. It was provided to the Line Officers today and will share at the fire department meeting.

Projects:

- Attack hose order has been received. Crews will be doing flow testing to determine optimal pump pressures and then we will select a date to go live with the standardization plan.
- Wildland tools have been received/shipped. Will schedule meeting with Rangers immediately upon complete order being received for inspection and reimbursement paperwork. 4 items are missing but they have shipped.

#### Officer Meeting:

- Held on March 16. The officer development topic was working through a Mayday checklist which falls in line with the recent department RIT Training. It followed the officer's responsibility through Mayday and RIT scenarios.

#### Policy:

- No updates currently

D. Natoli: no report.

#### J. Melchior: Training

- Thank you for considering the equipment for water rescue that can also be used for ice rescue. NWFD and BCSFD are talking about scheduling training together for ice rescue.
- Many members are attending state classes.
- We are working on getting 100% of department members trained in water rescue.
- We were able to re-create a recent alarm for training.
- The instructor for the cancer awareness training is encouraging chiefs and commissioners to attend. He can present the same material at drill if interested.
- Next month's training will focus on pump ops, driver training and EVOC.
- EMTs are working on mandated reporter training.
- M. Chura asked for a task last month to add IaR (I am Responding) to apparatus on MDTs. Discussion. J. Melchior said he would investigate it.

#### Committee Reports

Long Term Planning: Chair M. Malone reported that the next meeting is scheduled for March 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

New Truck Committee: Chair M. Harrison reported that there is nothing new to report.

Budget & Finance: Chair K. Thompson reported that she will be putting together the 2026 Budget timeline in the next month.

IT Committee: Chair C. LaPrease reported that the computer set up is almost complete.

Lysander Public Safety: Chair C. LaPrease

- Meeting on Tuesday, March 18 at 7pm at Cody FD.

Personnel: Chair K. Thompson reported that she had sent the board an email regarding the recommendation to hire a Community Risk Reduction Specialist and asked Chief Gleeson to explain. Chief Gleeson outlined that the position would coordinate pre-plans, fire prevention, Knox box locations, attend planning board meetings, start a Red Cross smoke detector program

as well as other community outreach. This would fill the current gap in services and provide some consistency in these areas. It would be a part-time position. K. Thompson made the motion to approve the community Risk Reduction Specialist position and M. Malone seconded the motion. Lengthy discussion. Points made during discussion; This would be a good thing to have someone out in the community taking part in these activities. Are any of our current employees capable of doing this and would they be interested? Can the PT FF/EMTs do the pre-plans and do fire prevention? Has there been any discussion about making this a townwide position? Does this need to be a civil service position, or can we hire someone as a vendor, then we have more flexibility if it doesn't work. The specialist position would utilize the FF/EMTs for some of these activities, but they would be the main contact and the consistent person. Having this as a townwide position would need to be explored. M. Chura made the motion to table the approval and M. Harrison seconded the motion. Chura, LaPrease, Malone and Harrison voted in favor of tabling and Thompson voted against. Carried.

Truck Maintenance: Chair M. Harrison reported that S1 front end alignment will be done on Thursday. The tie rod has been replaced. We have multiple quotes to repair the damage to E11 and he recommends using Colden for the basic repair. Discussion. Would the insurance cover additional damage if needed in the same area or consider this pre-existing? A. Speech will reach out to the insurance company for more information. Submit the claim but find out the answer regarding the pre-existing damage concern.

Building Maintenance: Chair M. Harrison reported that he spoke to L. Harrison regarding the pressure washer. It is under warranty, but they do not carry the same model, it will cost us \$100 to upgrade. M. Harrison reported that there is damage to the pavement in front of Station #1. He has the county contract and will reach out to them. It was suggested that someone reach out to the school transportation center as buses frequently pull in there, just to ask them to use caution not to eliminate them pulling in there. C. LaPrease reported that he had a contractor come in to look at the roof at the district office. The contractor confirmed the leaks we were already aware of but also found damage at the back of the building. He will be getting multiple estimates.

Fire Prevention: Chair M. Harrison, nothing to report.

Fire/EMS equipment- Chair C. LaPrease, nothing to report.

#### Old Business:

- Training stipends. K. Thompson reported that she is still working on this and there are more details to work out.

#### New Business:

- C. LaPrease made the motion to approve the active member application for Jenna Martin pending their physical and K. Thompson seconded the motion. Carried.

- K. Thompson made the motion to approve the active member application for Brandon Desormeau pending their physical and K. Thompson seconded the motion. Carried.
- M. Chura made the motion to hire 10 more parttime FF/EMTs and M. Malone seconded the motion. Lengthy discussion. Points made during discussion; Area departments are now hiring, and we could lose the people and applicants that we have. When we had no career staff on, and a message was sent out the volunteers did show up. The board has approved hiring up to 25 and we have 23 so we could fill those two openings first. We need to formulate a plan, do we hire FF/EMTs or officers, with a third the career staff will be in the officer's seat more consistently. It would change the interviewing and hiring process if we move in the direction of officers. How would officers be scheduled? Chief Gleeson asked for more time to formulate a plan. A roll call vote was taken for the motion made by M. Chura to hire an additional 10 parttime FF/EMTs and M. Malone seconded the motion; Chura- yes, Thomspson- no, Harrison-no, Malone- yes, LaPrease-no. Motion was not carried. Discussion added to hire to fill the positions we have vacant that were previously approved.
- M. Malone asked if we should be listing apparatus with the new rescue pumper coming in since the current listing has taken so long to sell. Discussion. M. Harrison will contact the vendors and reduce the current engine listing to \$50,000 and get a recommendation for a list price for E21 and R2.

Public comments:

- T. Eckel stated that he has seen county plow trucks use the parking lot to turn around and that may have also added to the damage.
- J. Melchior asked the board to consider meal reimbursements for other nights where training is offered.
- J. Melchior asked about uniform stipends for those that are doing duty shifts. Discussion. The district does have a line item for uniforms. The department's 2% funds could be used for uniforms. Uniform stipends could be based on activity and alarm percentage. The creation of the online store will give us the ability to put some of these things into practice. Chief Gleeson is also working on a uniform policy.

Executive session: K. Thompson made the motion to go into executive session for the resume and employment history of an individual that may lead to their continued employment with the district and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried. 9:10 PM

Returned to open session at 10:09 PM

M. Chura made the motion to reimburse an employee for the dental coverage in the amount of \$458.01 and M. Harrison seconded the motion. Carried.

Meeting dates:

Commissioner's meeting –Monday April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm

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

M. Chura made the motion to adjourn at 10:12PM and M. Harrison seconded the motion. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Speach  
District Secretary