

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 May 12, 2025 by Chairperson C. LaPrease.

Pledge to the Flag

Present: K. Thompson, M. Chura, M. Malone, C. LaPrease, M. Harrison, W. Dwyer, A. Speach, T. Gleeson, J. Melchior, M. Speach, Janelle Melchior, C. Curtis, B. Raymond-LaPrease, M. Evans, T. Eckel, M. Karasek, B. Harden, C. Wilson.

M. Harrison made the motion to approve the April 21, 2025 meeting minutes and K. Thompson seconded the motion. Carried.

<u>Treasurer's Report:</u>	Checking	63,780.33
	Savings	365,833.38
	NY Class General Fund Acct.	1,479,678.61
	Payroll account	856.94
	Firehouse Payroll	70,344.92
	Capital Imp. Reserve	172,173.91
	NY Class Capital Imp.	851,203.26
	Apparatus Reserve	58,408.96
	NY Class Fire Apparatus	1,170,354.26
	Cont. Tax. Stab. Res.	3,642.25
	NY Class Contin. & Tax	43,129.99
	Equipment Reserve	64,316.65
	NY Class Equipment	343,832.49
	NY Class Retirement Fund	55,494.20
	Vouchers	150,149.09
	CODES Checking	1,297.95
	CODES Savings	9,610.96
	NY Class CODES bequest	82,027.78
	Vouchers	103,350.77

W. Dwyer reviewed the treasurer's report. Reviewed the CODES report. The reports will look different, but we are working on setting up the reports to provide the same information. Service awards, the audit and the QuickBooks conversion are progressing. M. Harrison made the motion to approve the treasurer's report and K. Thompson seconded the motion. Carried. K. Thompson made the motion to approve the vouchers as audited, and M. Harrison seconded the motion. Carried. C. LaPrease will be the commissioner to review bank statements this month. K. Thompson will review the NY Class accounts.

Correspondence:

- NYSMEC provided the 2026 bid cycle information.
- AFDSNY Fire District Affairs was distributed via email.

- Fire Districts Mutual has provided updated benefit management cards for claimants; they will be made available in each dispatch in case of injury.

### Chief's Report:

T. Gleeson:

- Community Risk Reduction Coordinator position. Lengthy discussion on the job duties, the value to the district & the community, and civil service vs. contract employee. We could hire them provisionally until a test is offered. If the position does not work, the position can be eliminated. K. Thompson made the motion to establish the Community Risk Reduction Coordinator position, not to exceed 40 hours in a two-week period at approximately \$31,200 annually and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken: M. Chura – no, K. Thompson- yes, M. Harrison – no, M. Malone – yes, C. LaPrease – yes. Carried.
- Mandatory training requirements and management of non-compliance. Gear has been pulled for the members that have not completed their physical and annual OSHA training. The chiefs have reviewed various training topics and deemed some to be mandatory topics for drills to maintain proficiency for both interior and exterior firefighters. These will be sent out as mandatory and everyone will have ample opportunity to complete the training but will be treated the same as the mandatory OSHA training.
- Apparatus plan – the determination of status of L1 and the recommended sale of the apparatus. Lengthy discussion on the apparatus plan and the redemption of the bonds. Lengthy discussion on the annual costs of keeping L1. The sale of L1 would eliminate the need to replace some SCBA and in the current market the sale may cover the costs of the SCBA replacement. K. Thompson made the motion to redeem the bonds for L1 and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried.
- Lengthy discussion on apparatus to sell and pricing. We should be getting recommendations from multiple vendors before we decide on a list price. R2 has been recommended to sell for \$70,000 by one vendor. M. Harrison will get multiple recommendations for the American LaFrance (old E21), the Salsbury (current E21), R2 and for L1. K. Thompson made the motion to declare R2 and E21 (Salsbury) as surplus and to move forward with the sale at a price to be determined and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried.

### **Purchase Requests & Notifications:**

- M. Chura made the motion to surplus 25 portable radio batteries that do not work and send for recycling and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried.
- M. Chura made the motion to surplus and sell 28 Motorola XTS1500 Portable Radios – that are not in service –at no less than \$20 per radio and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried.
- Notification to purchase the PFDs and throw bags if we fail to get the grant funding – as soon as we get the no, we will be purchasing what was budgeted.

## **Communications:**

No significant updates at this time. All the chiefs in the town of Lysander will be meeting on developing response plans.

## **Projects:**

- Cribbing has been received and placed on E11 (and training) getting a cart for it.
  - M. Harrison made the motion to surplus and dispose of the old cribbing and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried.
- Image Trend Fire reporting is live – great progress.
- Hose Standardization is nearly complete. We will be trained on the new standard, and it will be deployed in June. The 4 inch is still not in. Discussion on surplus hose due to the potential sale of L1. There is a farm operation that is interested in buying. We will have a disposition plan and a realistic replacement schedule. The plan is to budget a set amount each year to prepare for bulk purchase along with a replacement plan and money to reserve plan. Discussion to create a spreadsheet to track replacement plans and line items in reserve. This will give us the ability to plan but we are not held to the plan, we would have flexibility if something else were to come up.

## **Policy:**

- Included in Deputy Chief Natoli report, no other significant updates.

Natoli: Chief Gleeson reported for Chief Natoli

- Switched O2 Supply to Haun – reduces the cost and it is a much easier process.
- New EMS Bags deployed.
- The Risk Management and Respiratory Protection plan is well developed.

Melchior:

- Training Update
  - Missing 1/3 of people to observe skills. – are you moving them to another level? Discussion. Still working out the process.
  - Upcoming training:
    - extrication and vehicle stabilization
    - Search.
    - Hose loads.
    - RIT training.
  - UTV for a training class – will be using the state UTV instead of ours.

## Committee Reports

**Long Term Planning:** Chair M. Malone reported that he will schedule a meeting after Chief Gleeson and C. LaPrease return with information from the Station Design conference.

**New Truck Committee:** Chair M. Harrison reported that the final inspection is on schedule for July 15-18<sup>th</sup>. K. Thompson made the motion to approve the travel for M. Harrison and M. Speech to South Dakota for the final inspection and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried.

**Lysander Public Safety:** Chair C. LaPrease

- The next meeting is June 17<sup>th</sup> at BCSFD at 7PM
- There will be training offered at Lysander Public Safety meeting on Firefighter Contamination Reduction and Cancer Prevention.

**Budget & Finance:** Chair K. Thompson reported that she has provided the 2026 Budget timeline.

**IT Committee:** Chair C. LaPrease had nothing new to report.

**Personnel:** Chair K. Thompson reported that 2 part-time FF/EMTs were offered position, one has started and one we are waiting to hear back.

**Truck Maintenance:** Chair M. Harrison reported that on May 15<sup>th</sup> Krown will be power washing the apparatus to prepare for the undercoating to be done in June or July. E11 repair is complete. L1 will be repaired this week.

**Building Maintenance:** Chair M. Harrison reported that we are finalizing the specification for the paving project to go out to bid. An overhead door spring popped at station 1 and they will be here tomorrow to repair. C. LaPrease reported that he has called contractors for the roof repairs at the district office, this is ongoing.

**Fire Prevention:** Chair M. Harrison reported that McNamara is scheduled for May 28<sup>th</sup>.

#### Old Business:

- Training stipends. K. Thompson reported that she provided another draft of a proposed training stipend policy. Lengthy discussion. All agreed that they want to move forward but needs further changes as discussed.
- M. Malone provided a quote for the washer and dryer for Station #2. The quote needs more details and more information is needed.

#### New Business:

- M. Chura asked M. Malone if he had an update on a youth program and it was reported that there is currently only one youth member.

#### Public comments:

- B. Raymond-LaPrease asked about an update on the money spent on the website. C. LaPrease will look into it.
- M. Chura reported on alarm statistics. March – average of 3.43 volunteer, 1.75 paid, EMTs 2.8 and 2.9 on apparatus per call. 75 alarms and we are still having scratches by volunteers at various times. Lengthy discussion on hiring more part-time FF/EMTs,

possibly to consider full-time. Employees that are not taking shifts do get a phone call to see what they can give us and how we can support them if something is going on. Weekends and holidays are a problem everywhere. We may need to consider supplemental insurance. Further discussion. M. Chura made the motion to hire up to 5 more parttime FF/EMTs and M. Malone seconded the motion. Roll call vote. M. Chura-yes, K. Thompson- yes, Harrison-no, M. Malone- yes, C. LaPrease – no. Carried.

Executive session: C. LaPrease 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 K. Thompson seconded the motion. Carried. 9:52 PM

Returned to open session at 10:29 PM

Meeting dates:

Commissioner's meeting –Monday June 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

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

K. Thompson made the motion to adjourn at 10:30 PM and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Speach  
District Secretary