

The special meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District was called to order at 6:00 pm on August 4, 2025, by Chairperson C. LaPrease.

Present: K. Thompson, M. Malone, M. Chura, M. Harrison C. LaPrease, A. Speech, T. Gleeson, J. Melchior, B. Raymond- LaPrease, A. Tearney, Pac B (6:30PM), C. Curtis and M. Evans (6:50PM)

- M. Chura made the motion to accept the proposal from Yardsmith for the snow removal and salting and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried.
- K. Thompson made the motion to for the Board of Fire Commissioners to send a letter of nomination to the Association of Fire Districts of the State of New York for Amy Speech to be placed on the ballot for the position of Secretary.
- Storage of the NYS Troopers trailer – lengthy discussion. The storage of their trailer is not feasible.
- K. Thompson presented some preliminary information on the 2026 Budget. A lengthy discussion followed. The following topics were discussed:
  - Adding a third person to each shift
  - We are going to continue to see growth in our district.
  - Tax districts – corporations would pay a higher rate than residents.
  - A positive environment/culture of the department will help to keep people.
  - The career staff are filling the shifts on their own and covering openings when they can.
  - Volunteers are responding and filling duty shifts when they are notified that a shift is empty or one person is on.
  - We need to be proactive to add a third career FF/EMT on shift.
  - Look into the possibility of 4 full-time FF/EMTs, you may be surprised at the cost.

T. Gleeson reported:

- The generator at Station #2 was in a failed condition. The technician came the same day, and it is up and running. They will be coming back to provide additional service. They will be providing a quote for annual maintenance.
- There are a couple of vehicle repair issues but those are being resolved during the annual preventative maintenance.
- There is \$700 budget to buy a ladder, a telescoping ladder would be beneficial but would need an additional \$100. All in agreement, to purchase the telescoping ladder.

### **Policy Review:**

T. Gleeson provided some background on the thought process of these policies. They are supported by OSHA, best practices and NFPA Standards. J. Melchior added that having the standards and proficiency in a policy will allow the chiefs to hold people accountable for maintaining their skills.

- **Personnel levels:**
  - Lengthy discussion on the following:
    - These changes will get us up to standard and are fire service best practices.
    - The training standards are for everyone's' health, safety and wellness.
    - Some training can be done in house, and some will need to be through county EM/OFPC.
    - The officer qualifications give more guidance to and the ability to process up.
    - The officer qualifications are in line with the E91 qualifications.
    - Implementation will be done over time.

- All of this is to keep everyone safe. Doing the right thing for our people and getting them home. We cannot be there for the public if we don't protect ourselves first.

C. LaPrease made the motion to approve the Personnel Level policy as amended and M. Chura seconded the motion. LaPrease, Malone, Chura and Thompson in favor. M. Harrison opposed. Carried.

- **Respiratory Protection Plan:**

- Discussion on the following:
  - The policy heavily references OSHA.

M. Harrison made the motion to approve the respiratory protection plan as amended and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried.

- **Risk Management Plan:**

- Discussion

M. Malone made the motion to approve as amended and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried

T. Gleeson thanked the board. This is a big step and sets us up to move forward.

Public comments: None.

Meeting dates:

Special Election Tuesday August 5<sup>th</sup> 6-9PM  
Next commissioner's meeting- August 18th 7PM sta. 1  
(All meetings at station #1 until further notice)

M. Chura made the motion to adjourn at 9:20 PM and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Speach  
Secretary