

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 20, 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, N. Carroll, C. Curtis, M. Evans, B. Easton, M. Karasek, B. Raymond-LaPrease, C. Wilson, Pac B

M. Malone made the motion to approve the September 15, 2025 meeting minutes and M. Harrison seconded the motion. Carried.

<u>Treasurer's Report:</u>	Checking	209,613.26
	Savings	127,140.05
	NY Class General Fund Acct.	861,419.07
	Firehouse Payroll	89,149.69
	Capital Imp. Reserve	173,972.14
	NY Class Capital Imp.	866,037.43
	Apparatus Reserve	59,019.00
	NY Class Fire Apparatus	123,075.98
	Cont. Tax. Stab. Res.	3,687.86
	NY Class Contin. & Tax	43,881.62
	Equipment Reserve	64,988.39
	NY Class Equipment	339,932.24
	NY Class Retirement Fund	56,461.25
	Vouchers	191,122.17
	CODES Checking	1,985.99
	CODES Savings	7,207.63
	NY Class CODES bequest	83,743.51
	Vouchers	0.00

W. Dwyer reviewed the treasurer's report. Reviewed the CODES report. He asked the board to consider moving CODES to separate QuickBooks from the districts, the cost is \$155 a month. Reviewed the district report. The audit request for proposals are due this Wednesday. M. Harrison made the motion to approve the treasurer's report and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried. M. Harrison 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. K. Thompson will review the NY Class accounts.

Correspondence:

- Capital Area Fire Districts Fall Educational seminar- November 1st.
- NYSAFC – Thank you for the gear donation and acknowledgment that all liability has been removed from the fire district.

Chief's Report:

T. Gleeson reported:

Personnel: Newest hire to complete orientation.

Purchase Requests & Notifications:

The SU student from the Community Link program has completed the survey, it has been emailed to the board. He has developed a post card mailer, and would request up to \$5000 for the mailer using the list provided by the dept. Upstate printing is on county contract. There are funds in the Chief's budget. Discussion. M. Malone made the motion to approve the mailing of the survey up to \$5,000 from the Chief's budget and M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried. The survey can be edited at any time, even after the mailer goes out.

During the last department meeting it was decided to remove all alcohol from the stations. The Chief's office appreciates them acting on that. We will review any policies on alcohol use.

- Surplus Requests:
 - Surplus & Dispose or donate:
 - Nothing Currently
 - Surplus and Auction:
 - Nothing currently
- Purchase: see above
 - Nothing Currently

Communications:

- Attended Office of Emergency Management/ Fire Coordinators DIV 1 meeting.

Projects:

- "Apparatus Day" completed – standardized equipment across the fleet. Much closer to dealing with that equipment.
- SCBA Plan & Purchase - reduced the cost by another \$5000
- Final Draft of Town of Lysander FDs Response Order Guide for review.
- M1 & Sq 1 will be scheduled for required repair & service. E11 has work to be done.

Policy:

- SOG # 01-002 Firefighter Classifications (helmet colors) to be removed as it is addressed in Policy 00-039 Personnel Levels. – FF classifications – helmet colors etc. M. Chura made the motion to remove SOG 01-002 and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried.

Natoli:

T. Gleeson reported for Natoli:

- NYS Agency EMS Certification Approved, 3 vehicles certified S-1, S-2 and E-11 – I appreciate his work on this project.

Melchior:

T. Gleeson reported for Melchior:

- Training Update- Drills continue to provide training that is response oriented.

Community Risk Reduction:

Carroll:

- We have put out the QR code for the smoke detector program and will be scheduling those that have made requests. Reynolds Elementary is scheduled for Fire Prevention tomorrow.

Committee Reports

Long Term Planning: Chair M. Malone reported:

- Working on scheduling the next meeting.

New Truck Committee: Chair M. Harrison reported:

- The new E21 is in service, they will be working on installing the seat.
- L1 sale – discussion regarding offer and inquiries. An offer has been made for full price but asking to include equipment. List of surplus equipment was reviewed. The bill of sale for the ladder will need to include wording that we are not responsible for the condition of the equipment, all equipment is as is. M. Harrison made the motion to surplus the hose, hard suction, dry chem extinguisher, traffic vests, gates y's, gas fan, halogen light, TFT nozzles. M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried. M. Chura made the motion to sell L1 at asking price with the surplus equipment included and M. Harrison is to send any offers to the board via email. M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried.
- Old E21 (American LaFrance) did have an inquiry. T. Gleeson stated that there are hand tools available to go with it if that is asked.

Lysander Public Safety: Chair C. LaPrease reported:

- Next meeting November 18th at Plainville FD. Station #1.

Budget & Finance: Chair K. Thompson reported:

- 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. Malone.

RESOLUTION: OVERRIDE REAL PROPERTY TAX CAP FOR THE 2026 BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District must adopt a proposed budget for 2026 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 20, 2025, and

WHEREAS, the Board has considered the proposed budget and comments received on the proposed budget on October 20, 2025 at said budget hearing, and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the financial needs of the fire district and fire department for fiscal year 2026 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 2026 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 2026 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 \$2,461,667 and

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

*Chairperson Charles LaPrease) AYE
Commissioner Catherine Thompson) AYE
Commissioner Michael Malone) AYE
Commissioner Michael Chura) NAY
Commissioner Mark Harrison) NAY*

The resolution was thereupon duly declared to have been adopted.

*Dated: Baldwinsville, New York
October 20, 2025*

K. Thompson made the motion to adopt the 2026 Budget as presented with a tax levy of \$2,461,667 and **M. Malone** seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Thompson- Yes, Malone-Yes, Harrison-No, Chura-No, LaPrease-Yes. Carried.

IT Committee: Chair **C. LaPrease** reported that the IT Committee will be holding a meeting on Thursday 10/23.

Personnel: Chair **K. Thompson** reported:

- That the final part-time FF/EMT has been hired and will be finishing his orientation soon.
- C. LaPrease reported that the membership review will be completed on 10/23.

Truck Maintenance: Chair M. Harrison reported that M1 is scheduled for an oil change, S1 for tires and headlights. E11 has a coolant leak, and Colden will be here this week.

Building Maintenance:

- Chair M. Harrison reported that the paving is ongoing. Hills will need to come in and look at the heat at station 2. C. LaPrease reported a minor roof leak at the district office that was addressed today.
- Nothing further on the washer/dryer.

Fire Prevention: Chair M. Harrison reported that Reynolds Elementary fire prevention is tomorrow and Palmer Elementary will be on October 30th.

Old Business:

- K. Thompson discussed the possibility of increasing the LOSAP up to 50 years of service. It would need a public referendum. Discussion. The decision is to wait.

New Business:

- A. Speach reported that the Life Insurance renewal has a .026 increase in the rate but a decrease in the annual cost as we have less people. The cost is \$11,142.98 for 2026. K. Thompson made the motion to renew the life insurance and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried. (M. Chura not present)
- M. Malone made a motion to approve any four of the following individuals to serve on the Board of Elections for the district elections, each to receive a stipend of \$70: Lynn Tanner, Terrie Massaro, Dorothy Dwyer, Dave Speach, Linda Williamson, Mike Williamson, and Kim Branagan. M. Chura seconded the motion. Carried.
- M. Malone made the motion to approve the out-of-district active membership application of Michael Harrison and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Thompson-yes, Malone- yes, LaPrease- yes, Harrison-abstain, Chura- abstain. Carried.
- A. Speach reported that the last step of the Health Insurance Consortium participation is to adopt municipal resolution, sign the municipal cooperative agreement, appoint a director and alternate to the consortium, and appoint representative to the Joint Committee. Discussion. M. Malone made the motion to approve the following resolution and M. Harrison seconded the motion. Carried.

WHEREAS, the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District applied for membership in the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium (the "Consortium"), a municipal cooperative organized under Article 47 of the New York Insurance Law, and

WHEREAS, the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District received notification of approval by the Consortium Board of Directors to become a Participant in the Consortium effective January 1, 2026, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District hereby accepts membership effective January 1, 2026 and

authorizes the Chief Elected Official to sign the **2026** Amendment to the Municipal Cooperative Agreement of the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium as recommended by the Board of Directors.

RESOLVED, That on behalf of the governing body of the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District (municipality/governing body), the Consortium is hereby notified that following individuals are hereby designated to serve as:

Director to the GTCMHIC Board of Directors: Amy Speach- Delegate, Catherine Thompson - Alternate.

Date appointed: October 20, 2025

Effective date: October 20, 2025

- M. Chura reported on alarm statistics: total alarms, scratches, and EMT response. Discussion

Public comments:

- B. Raymond-LaPrease asked when the letters needed to be submitted to be on the ballot for the fire district election. A. Speach reported that the letter needs to be submitted to the district secretary by 5pm on November 19th.
- B. Raymond-LaPrease disputed M. Chura's report on the scratches, EMT activities and response.

Executive Session: M. Chura made the motion to enter executive session for the resume and employment history of an individual that may lead to his or her dismissal and M. Harrison seconded the motion. Carried. 8:06pm. Returned to open session at 9:34pm.

Meeting dates:

Commissioner's meeting – Monday November 17th at 7pm

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

M. Chura made the motion to adjourn at 9:35 PM and M. Harrison seconded the motion. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Speach

District Secretary