

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 21, 2026 by Chairperson C. LaPrease.

Pledge to the Flag

Present: K. Thompson, M. Malone, C. LaPrease, M. Harrison, M. Speech, W. Dwyer, A. Speech, T. Gleeson, C. Curtis, M. Evans, B. Raymond-LaPrease, B. Easton, T. Webster, Pac B

M. Malone made the motion to approve the December 15, 2025 meeting minutes, the December 29, 2025 year-end meeting minutes, and the January 5, 2026 Organizational meeting minutes and M. Speech seconded the motion. Carried.

<u>Treasurer's Report:</u>	Checking	229,708.30
	Savings	174,731.12
	NY Class General Fund Acct.	557,922.74
	Firehouse Payroll	22,317.72
	Capital Imp. Reserve	89,378.33
	NY Class Capital Imp.	874,158.63
	Apparatus Reserve	42,264.11
	NY Class Fire Apparatus	124,230.13
	Cont. Tax. Stab. Res.	3,701.43
	NY Class Contin. & Tax	44,293.14
	Equipment Reserve	55,887.00
	NY Class Equipment	601,377.23
	NY Class Retirement Fund	56,990.72
	Vouchers	81,808.26
	CODES Checking	1,557.22
	CODES Savings	6,430.65
	NY Class CODES bequest	71,380.85
	Vouchers	0.00

W. Dwyer reviewed the treasurer's report. Reviewed the CODES report. Reviewed the district report. Discussion regarding and separating it from the district report either in a separate spreadsheet or their own QuickBooks. B. Dwyer will look into the cost. M. Malone made the motion to approve the treasurer's report and M. Harrison seconded the motion. Carried. Discussion regarding vouchers. B. Dwyer will email the vouchers the Friday before the meeting and any last minute vouchers will be in a separate folder the night of the meeting. K. Thompson made the motion to approve the vouchers as audited, and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried. C. LaPrease presented a voucher from the December 15th meeting that was marked hold but due to the lengthy executive session there was no opportunity to discuss it. The voucher was for dues for the NYS Chiefs Association for multiple years for the outgoing commissioner. Discussion. C. LaPrease made the motion to pay the voucher to reimburse M. Chura and M. Speech seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken- Speech- no, Thompson – no, Malone- no, Harrison – no, LaPrease – no. Motion was not carried. K. Thompson will be the

commissioner to review bank statements this month. K. Thompson will review the NY Class accounts.

Correspondence:

- K. Thompson submitted a letter of notification that she serves as a director on the not for profit Riverview Cemetery Board and wish to be covered under the fire districts insurance policy as such.
- The Fire District Affairs was received and distributed.
- Our annual insurance review is scheduled for February 23rd.
- The districts has received two freedom of information law requests.

Chief's Report:

T. Gleeson reported:

Personnel: No Report

Purchase Requests & Notifications:

Surplus Requests:

- Surplus and Auction:
Scissors lift – Discussion. There is possibility of a private sale and if not get it listed on auctions international.
- Surplus & Dispose or donate:
 - Discussion regarding the remaining cloth hose. FF Tom Webster uses the cloth hose to make decorative flags to be used for charitable donations. He explained that he donates them to Wounded Warriors International FF Cancer Foundation, Alzheimer's Association and occasionally one off donations for fund raisers. K. Thompson made the motion to declare surplus the cloth hose, approximately a pallet, and M. Harrison seconded the motion. Carried. K. Thompson made the motion to donate the hose to T. Webster to be used for charitable donations and C. LaPrease seconded the motion. Carried.
 - Helmet liner # 340 & Helmet red shell SN#10060426. Helmet was modified and requires disposal. Discussion. K. Thompson made the motion to declare surplus and dispose of the helmet and liner and M. Speach seconded the motion. Carried.

Purchase:

- M. Speach made the motion to approve all the officers attendance at the Port City Fire Conference at approximately \$150 per person and anyone else interested as approved by the Chief and M. Harrison seconded the motion. Carried.
- M. Speach made the motion to approve up to 4 members to attend "Take the Door" search training & pre-pay the registration with payback agreement, up to \$800 per person and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried.

Communications:

- Received a request from the NYS Troopers to use the tower and station #2 training room from March 16-March 20th, they have certified instructors and will have an EMT on scene. M. Malone made the motion to approve the NYS Troopers request and M. Speach seconded the motion. Carried.
- Meeting with Phoenix Chief. Very good alignment of mission. Will be working towards combined drills. One training a month is the goal.
- Request permission to approach the Department to discuss donations from trading in the SCBA (that was part of the original agreement) or any check received that says – thank you for installing my smoke detector - to fund CRR programs including the purchase of CO detectors. Would like the OK to start the conversation – all in agreement.

Projects:

- Annual Testing & Servicing of equipment being scheduled. Holmatro will be here tomorrow.
- E11 will be going to Colden to have them look at the noise for testing and diagnostics. They have done some research to determine what it may be. This will be under warranty as they have been aware of the ongoing issue. Sunday E21 will switch to E11.

Policy:

- Retirement system discussion.
 - Discussion. We built this year's budget with 384-d for three firefighters for 24/7 coverage. The 384-D Plan is standard in the area. It is important to keep in line with other fire departments to keep BCSFD competitive. For BCSFD any buy back applies to the Tier 2 people, approximately 9 people. The longer we wait it will cost more. It will eventually go away; it is not a forever contribution.
 - K. Thompson made the motion to adopt the NYSPFRS 384-D plan and one-year final average salary enrollment for all eligible members and M. Speach seconded the motion. Carried.

Natoli:

- Meters: all have been calibrated; gas has been ordered.
- Continuation of the training agreement with Brian Falise. Discussion. The Chiefs office does find value of a different perspective on EMS training. The cost is \$1800 for one year. We can use this to establish our own training program, and we would not have to recert through the region. Gleeson reviewed the contract. K. Thompson made the motion to renew the contract with Brian Falise and M. Harrison seconded the motion. Carried.
- Special Tax Zones: Data has been collected, need to decide thresholds and start the legal process if decided to proceed. Natoli explained how special tax districts work. Recommending manufacturing, processing facilities, apartments, row homes, large medical facilities. Need to establish a dollar amount for zones. In the information

provided to the BOFC, the highlighted are property classes in our district. These facilities have a higher frequency of more hazardous incidents that require specialized equipment and/or training. We are already giving them more service with CRRS and preplans. Discussion. This is similar to businesses paying a higher rate for national grid. The process would be to identify the properties and value, gather the data and hold a public hearing, then based on the hearing make the determination to proceed in the Special Tax Zones. M. Malone made the motion to proceed in moving forward with the Special Tax Zones and K. Thompson seconded the motion Carried. K. Thompson made the motion to proceed in gathering the data for apartments, row homes, storage, manufacturing, commercial properties with an assessed value of \$500,000 or more to be considered, and M. Speech seconded the motion. Carried.

Melchior: Gleeson reported.

- One final SCBA Training and then rollout. New SCBA on the rigs Thursday or Friday.
- Melchior has been researching online training platforms to achieve 100 hours of training that the state recommends and we are very close to having information to present on that.
- Working with several members on personnel levels and required training and many people signed up for training.

Carroll: Gleeson reported.

- Received the Digital Fire Extinguisher Trainer, purchased through Lysander Public Safety Group. Will have it for a demonstration at the next Commissioners Meeting.
- Total smoke detector installs 2025 – 67 detectors at 10 residences. 2026 – 24 at 4 residences.
- SOP revision in progress: malfunctioning detectors will be replaced initially, with an appointment scheduled afterward to install the remaining detectors.
- Two facility walk-throughs have been scheduled at Giovani Foods and Fluid Power Sales to review and update pre-plan information.
- A meeting is being planned with the CPR group to review the updated AHA curriculum and training requirements, discuss the use of electronic feedback manikins, and address future planning needs.
- Request permission to approach the Department to discuss community donations generated from the smoke detector program to be allocated to CRR programs.

Committee Reports

Long Term Planning: Chair M. Malone had nothing to report.

New Truck Committee: Chair M. Harrison reported he had an inquiry on R2.

Lysander Public Safety: Chair C. LaPrease reported:

- Next meeting is on March 17th at a location TBD at 7PM.

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

IT Committee: Chair C. LaPrease

- Power DMS renewal. A. Speach will verify the number of users.

Personnel: Chair K. Thompson had nothing to report.

Truck Maintenance: Chair M. Harrison reported that E11 will be going to Colden next week.

Building Maintenance:

- The pressure washer replacement was delivered; it just needs to be installed.

Fire Prevention: Chair M. Harrison, fire prevention report is now covered under N. Carroll.

Old Business:

- C. LaPrease provided information on the Member Review Policy and is looking for input on revisions.

New Business:

- NY Deferred Compensation Plan. Discussion. There is no cost to the district and gives employees and option for pre-tax investment to retirement. K. Thompson made the motion to adopt the following resolution and complete the necessary paperwork to enroll in the NY Deferred Compensation Plan for the Fire District and M. Speach seconded the motion. Carried.

Belgium Cold Springs Fire District
Adoption Of The State of New York Deferred Compensation Plan

WHEREAS, the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District wishes to adopt the Deferred Compensation Plan for Employees of the State of New York and Other Participating Public Jurisdictions (the "Plan") for the voluntary participation of all eligible employees; and

WHEREAS, the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District is a local public employer eligible to adopt the Plan pursuant to Section 5 of the State Finance Law;* and

WHEREAS, the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District has reviewed the Plan established in accordance with Section 457 of the Internal Revenue Code and Section 5 of the State Finance Law of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Plan is to encourage employees to make and continue careers with the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District by providing eligible employees with a convenient and tax- favored method of saving on a regular and long-term basis and thereby provide for their retirement;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby:

RESOLVED, that the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District hereby adopts

the Plan for the voluntary participation of all eligible employees; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the appropriate officials of the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District are hereby authorized to take such actions and enter such agreements as are required or necessary for the adoption, implementation, and maintenance of the Plan; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Administrative Services Agency is hereby authorized to file copies of these resolutions and other required documents with the President of the State of New York Civil Service Commission.

Adopted the 21st day of January, 2026, at a meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District.

I hereby certify that the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District is a local public employer within the meaning of Section 5 of the State Finance Law and that the adoption of the Plan has received all required approvals of any local governing body or officer and otherwise complies with local law.

Belgium Cold Springs Fire District

By: Amy Speach
Fire District Secretary

- The 17th Annual Onondaga Fire Coalition Legislative Breakfast is Saturday January 31st if anyone is interested.
- The next Central Region Fire District Association meeting is Monday January 26th if anyone is interested.

Public comments: None

The BOFC will adjourn the meeting after the vouchers are reviewed. The payment of the voucher for MES for the in-service will be tabled for more information. D. Natoli is tasked with obtaining the additional information to bring to the next meeting.

Meeting dates:

Commissioner's meeting Monday February 23rd at 7pm.

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

M. Speach made the motion to adjourn at 9:07 PM and M. Harrison seconded the motion. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Speach
District Secretary