

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 February 23, 2026 by Chairperson C. LaPrease.

Pledge to the Flag

Present: K. Thompson, M. Malone, C. LaPrease, M. Harrison, M. Speech, W. Dwyer, A. Speech, D. Natoli, J. Melchior, N. Carroll, Janelle Melchior, C. Curtis, M. Evans, B. Raymond-LaPrease, B. Easton, G. Roziok, Pac B, T. Blackwell

T. Blackwell with McNeil & Co. provided a summary of our insurance coverage. T. Blackwell left the meeting following his review.

M. Harrison made the motion to renew the insurance with the update the vehicle agreed values and authorize A. Speech to sign the renewal documents and M. Speech seconded the motion. Carried.

M. Malone made the motion to approve the January 21, 2026 meeting minutes and K. Thompson seconded the motion. Carried. K. Thompson made the motion to approve the February 12, 2026 special meeting minutes and M. Harrison seconded the motion. Carried.

<b><u>Treasurer's Report:</u></b>	Checking	195,979.19
	Savings	95,179.90
	NY Class General Fund Acct.	53,326.41
	Firehouse Payroll	53,129.69
	Capital Imp. Reserve	89,679.78
	NY Class Capital Imp.	877,097.22
	Apparatus Reserve	42,433.04
	NY Class Fire Apparatus	350,178.32
	Cont. Tax. Stab. Res.	3,713.92
	NY Class Contin. & Tax	44,442.03
	Equipment Reserve	56,090.01
	NY Class Equipment	603,398.82
	NY Class Retirement Fund	207,686.53
	Vouchers	66,964.43
	CODES Checking	1,157.22
	CODES Savings	6,453.34
	NY Class CODES bequest	71,599.16
	Vouchers	0.00

W. Dwyer reviewed the treasurer's report. Reviewed the CODES report. Reviewed the district report. B. Dwyer has applied for an extension for the Annual Financial Report (AFR). M. Harrison made the motion to approve B. Dwyer to attend the 2-day financial training in Cortland with an estimated cost of \$360 to the district and K. Thompson seconded the motion. Carried. K. Thompson made the motion to approve the treasurer's report and M. Harrison

seconded the motion. (M. Malone stepped out briefly) Carried. K. Thompson made the motion to approve the vouchers as audited, and M. Harrison seconded the motion. Carried. M. Speech will be the commissioner to review bank statements this month. K. Thompson will review the NY Class accounts.

### **Correspondence:**

- Commissioners that are also members of the fire department are required to disclose their membership as a conflict of interest. Commissioners LaPrease, Malone and Harrison submitted letters last year and Speech has submitted a letter as a new commissioner.
- Fire District Affairs was received and distributed.
- CAFDA – Financial training March 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> in Cortland.

### **Chief's Report:**

T. Gleeson- D. Natoli reported.

Personnel: Crandall Resignation, McKinney Resignation – due to conflicts.

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

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

### **Communications:**

- Limited external communications, conversations have been internally focused.

### **Projects:**

### **Policy:**

- Officer in Charge Policy. Lengthy discussion. No motion made.

**Natoli:** nothing to report\_

### **Melchior:**

- Training update
  - Completed mandatory training in person.
  - Started role specific training. Scene support and SCBA.
  - Working on training calendar for the year.
  - SCBA – a couple more people to get FIT tests and finish training.
  - Online training for volunteer and career. In discussion with online vendors to get prices for training. This will help track 100 training hours required for career FF/EMTs.
  - EMS- will work on scheduling Brian Falise to come in to conduct training.

- Discussion regarding training.

### **Carroll:**

- Demo the Fire Extinguisher Prop after he can do a demo.
- Total smoke detector installs starting November 2025 – 67 detectors at 10 residences. In 2026 – 78 at 13 residences.
- Meeting with Lynn Tanner at Radisson and she is going to put info about the smoke detector program in the Radisson newsletter. Word of mouth has been huge with the program.
- Did three facility walk-throughs Agrana Fruits, Giovani Foods and FluidPower Sales.
- We gathered Pre-Plan information and requested a couple of things to make our response more efficient.
- 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.
- Will attend the next department meeting to ask about community donations generated from the smoke detector program to be allocated to CRR programs. Start purchasing CO detectors.
- Look into car seat installation and inspections as a possibility.
- Norm talks to the homeowners about safety while the crew is doing the installation.

### **Committee Reports**

**Long Term Planning:** Chair M. Speech reported that there have been continued conversations on the special tax zones. D. Natoli provided a document to summarize the proposed special tax zones. Lengthy discussion. K. Thompson made the motion to hold a public hearing on March 23, 2026 at 6pm to consider the following resolution and M. Speech seconded the motion. Carried.

The Board of Fire Commissioners of the Belgium Cold Springs Fire District will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 23, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. at Belgium Cold Springs Fire Department Station #1 at 7920 River Road Baldwinsville, NY, to bring before and listen to the public comments of the residents of the said Fire District on the whether the Board of Fire Commissioners should approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF THE BELGIUM COLD SPRINGS FIRE DISTRICT, TOWN OF LYSANDER, COUNTY OF ONONDAGA, STATE OF NEW YORK (THE "DISTRICT"), AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF MULTIPLE SEPARATE TAX ZONE(S) WITHIN THE FIRE DISTRICT FOR THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF FUNDING THE PURCHASE, MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF SPECIALIZED FIRE APAPRATUS AND RELATED EQUIPMENT, AND SUPPORT STAFFING RESOURCES, AND SPECIALIZED TRAINING OF PERSONNEL NECESSARY FOR PROTECTION OF MULTIPLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES, AND APARTMENT COMPLEXES, AND COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES WITHIN THE TAX ZONES.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a copy of the tax parcels included within the district is on file in the town clerk's office of the Town of Lysander and with the fire district secretary for public inspection.

This hearing is held in accordance with Section 176 (11-c) of Town Law.  
By order of the Board of Fire Commissioners.

Amy Speach,  
Fire District Secretary

The committee and the chiefs met with an architect to begin assessments of each building. This would require digitized plans of the buildings and the tower at an estimated cost of \$100. M. Speach made the motion to have the plans digitized and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried. Discussion.

**New Truck Committee:** Chair M. Harrison reported things re going well with the new E21.

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

- Next meeting is on March 17<sup>th</sup> at a location TBD at 7PM.

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

**IT Committee:** Chair M. Speach

- Power DMS renewal is for a range of 100-124 users, and we are currently at 98 members. M. Speach made the motion to renew the contract and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried.
- C. LaPrease made the motion to replace 2 of the security cameras for up to \$2500 and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried.
- M. Speach reported that we met with the Garam Group to review our services.

**Personnel:** Chair K. Thompson reported that J. Laakso has been hired to fill one of the vacancies. D. Natoli asked about adding the third FF/EMT to each shift as budgeted, He made the recommendation to amend the Officer in Charge (OIC) Policy and move forward with the staffing plan. He recommended adopting the policy up to the middle of the second page that addresses the career staff and then work on updating the volunteer section. Lengthy discussion. K. Thompson made the motion to adopt the Office in Charge Policy as amended to exclude the volunteer portion and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried. K. Thompson made the motion to move forward with adding a 3<sup>rd</sup> FF/EMT to each shift and M. Speach seconded the motion. Thompson, Speach, Malone and LaPrease in favor. Harrison opposed. Carried.

**Truck Maintenance:** Chair M. Harrison.

- M. Harrison asked about the status of the gator repair. J. Melchior reported that he was calling this week to get it in. M. Harrison spoke to the vendor, and they were going to make it a priority.
- Discussion regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Knox key. Northwest FD needs to supply them.

- The issue with E11 was the u-joint.
- Discussion regarding selling the used apparatus. Reduce E11 to \$42,000, E21 (American LaFrance) reduce to \$39,000 and list R2 on Auctions International. These will also all be reduced on the insurance.

**Building Maintenance:**

- The heat issue at the district office is resolved.
- The roof leaks will be looked at in the spring. Discussion about possibly looking into the roof heating wires to prevent ice buildup.

**Old Business:**

- Policy review- nothing new for the Membership Review Policy. K. Thompson made the motion to approve the revisions to the Mandatory Training Policy and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried.

**New Business:** nothing to report.

**Public comments:**

- J. Melchior asked about the district's plans for retention. Lengthy discussion. A meeting is scheduled for Sunday at 11am to open up the dialogue with the fire department to talk and brainstorm regarding retention.
- B. Raymond-LaPrease expressed concerns about the Security Camera and Building Access Policy and the cost of the website.

**Executive Session:** K. Thompson made the motion to enter executive session for the resume and employment history of an individual that may lead to his or her employment and M. Malone seconded the motion. Carried. 9:34pm.

Returned to open session at 10:14pm

The BOFC will adjourn the meeting after the vouchers are reviewed.

**Meeting dates:**

Commissioner's meeting Monday March 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

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

M. Malone made the motion to adjourn at 10:34 PM and M. Harrison seconded the motion. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Speach

District Secretary