

Battle Creek Fire Protection District

Meeting Minutes for May 11, 2023

There being a quorum, the quarterly meeting of Battle Creek Fire Protection District was called to order on May 11, 2023 at 6:35 PM by Vice President Leo Van Sambeek in the Hayward Fire Hall with Directors John Esposti, Ray Summers, Casey McNulty, Levi Van Sambeek, Jack Bradt and Fire Chief Dale Gadbois, Asst Chief Dave Lindblom and Fire Administrator Garrett Dixon also in attendance.

Secretary Report: All members having received the February 9, 2023 Annual meeting minutes in advance to the meeting a ***motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes*** was made by Leo V. and seconded by Levi V., the motion passed. Ray S. noted that the signature page for the amended By-Law signed on February 9, 2023 was dated incorrectly, a pen-and-ink change to your copy should suffice. There being no additional corrections or additions to the minutes it was moved by Leo V. and seconded by Levi V. to ***approve the minutes to the February 9, 2023 meeting minutes***, the motion passed.

Treasurer Report: Levi V. provided the following reports: a review of the account balances for the General Operating fund, Contract Fire and Money Market funds totaling \$181,553.20 as of May 5, 2023. The investment accounts include three Certificate Deposit instrument totaling \$154,158.70. One CD is a guarantee for the loan payment USDA as required by USDA, another earmarked for the USDA loan; this CD is currently earning only 0.1% and will be converted to a new CD which should earn over 4% in the current market. A fourth CD in the amount of approximately \$102,000 was allowed to mature and cashed to pay down the loan principle resulting in the reduction of the asset value from last year. The current USDA loan principle is \$149,188.65; it was noted that with the sale of a portion of the district's property (excess to needs) valued at approximately \$52,000. When applied to the principle this will bring it down to below \$100,000 and enable retirement of this loan in three years. Motion to ***accept the financial report was made*** by Casey M. and seconded by Ray S., the motion passed.

Old Business:

- Regarding the sale of 2.75 acres portion of district property to Phil Lakner, John E. reported that the engineering work has been completed and that he signed the necessary documents on behalf of the Fire District for submission to the Pennington Co. Planning Commission. He estimated 2 – 3 months before the actual sale to be completed. No additional actions on our part are required.
- As noted in the previous meeting, the Hermosa Station is still titled to the Hermosa Volunteer Fire Department. A review of the archived Hermosa Fire Protection District minutes by Dave Lindblom highlighted the following from the December 26, 2017 meeting minutes: New Business ***"Motion and second to repay the Hermosa Volunteer Department \$20,000 that the department used to purchase the lot that the fire hall sits on. And to transfer Hermosa Fire Protection District certificate of deposit #8022 to the department for this purpose. Motion carried."*** Additionally, the Hermosa board in a resolution dated April 11, 2017 stated ***"be it resolved that the Hermosa Fire Protection District agrees to form the new Battle Creek Fire***

Battle Creek Fire Protection District

Protection District and transfer all assets and liabilities to the new Battle Creek Fire Protection District effective May 31st, 2017. Dave Lindblom stated that when attorney Brad Gordon was given these board actions, he thought this sufficient to document the transfer of the Hermosa property and facilitate a Quick Claim Deed transfer.

New Business: No new business.

Fire Chief/Administrator Report: Chief Gadbois:

- A Type VI Crew was requested and sent to a Halsey, NE approximately 250 mi distance. The crew was there 5 days and netted approximately \$5,200.
- Currently have 15 – 18 active members of the department which includes some younger members from Rapid City. Unfortunately, we have been unsuccessful in recruiting from the local community.
- Phil Lakner's wife was injured in a fall and hospitalized, she is currently undergoing rehab in Custer.
- The Department is having a fundraiser for the past Pennington Co. Deputy Sheriff killed in WI recently.
- Reported that that the Custer Co. Fire Chief's fund has approximately \$390,000 remaining with \$90,000 committed to their Fire Coordinator and tentatively \$150,000 to the Highlands Fire Dept for covered storage of their vehicles. The remaining \$150,000 to be distributed to the other departments equally. This distribution has not been agreed to as yet. There is some concern that Custer Co. does not have a contingency fund to cover expenditures of a major fire requiring external resources that would be a county liability. This issue was mentioned by Asst Chief Lindblom based on an actual situation with Pennington County.
- Governor Noem's offer of \$5 million to the over 350 volunteer departments within the state of South Dakota results in very little for each department; but, the gesture is much appreciated and needed.
- Asst. Chief Dave Lindblom reported that Pennington County's Fire-Year Fire Fund negotiations has produced a proposal that would give the BCFPD \$2,500 every three years.

Additional Items from Directors: Jack B. mentioned that the US Forest Service is currently writing a new Forest Service Plan and asked if we were involved in that process. Dave L. suggested that that is an issue that should be address by Jerome Harvey the Pennington County Fire Administrator.

Next BCFD meeting was scheduled for September 7, 2023 at 6:30 PM at the Hayward Station.

A motion to Adjourn made by Leo V. seconded by Casey M. motion passed; the meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Ray Summers, Secretary