

Battle Creek Fire District

Minutes of a Regular Meeting

August 22, 2018 6:30 PM

Meeting called to order by Jim DeHaai in the Hayward Fire Hall with all six directors, Fire Chief Paul Johnson, Bookkeeper Garrett Dixon, and four firefighters present.

Minutes of the July 26th regular meeting had been distributed by email before the meeting. By an unopposed vote, the minutes were approved as presented upon motion and second by Cofoid and Summers, respectively.

Treasurer Van Sambeek distributed a set of financial reports from the District's QuickBooks. The financial (cash) summary, as of August 22nd, 2018, shows:

District General Checking Account	\$ 361,241.94
Hermosa Checking Account (pending 2 outstanding payments)	\$ 5.10
Prepaid Fire Department Operations account	\$ 26,414.06
Contract Fire Account Balance	\$ 148,772.39
CD – USDA required Hayward Building Payment	\$ 25,000.00
Total	\$ 561,433.49

The Wildland (Contract) Fire “accounts receivable” is not included in the above cash tally. Esposti and Reder moved and seconded approval of the financial report.

Unfinished Business and Updates

DeHaai reported that

- Signage changes are being worked on but not update as of now
- Tender is scheduled for certification testing next week
- BHEC will be approached on Hayward's 3-phase switchover this winter

New Business

DeHaai initiated discussion on our 2019 budget and tax request. For 2018, our tax request (1.00 mils) after final assessments generated \$362,142. The deadline for our 2019 budget's tax request is September 1, 2018. An unforeseen expense this year and going forward is a change in workmen's compensation to 17% of all labor including

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contracted pay (wildland contracts have negotiated labor rates without workmen's comp. provisions – we can try to re-negotiated in January 2019).

Fire Chief Paul Johnson was called upon to present his proposed budget, which was prepared in conjunction with three Assistant Fire Chiefs. A \$70-80,000 net increase in the budget is expected compared to 2018 (including \$17,000 more in workmen's compensation and other changes in the way FICA is charged.) A breakdown of the proposed budget is attached. Esposti recommended that we check how other Departments and Districts are handling the workmen's comp and FICA, particularly as relates to deducting employer's portion from negotiated labor rates.

Moved by Reder with second by Cofoid that the District adopt a \$424,000 District budget for 2019 with \$401,000 as an operating budget as proposed by the Fire Chief, \$20,500 for the Hayward building payment, and \$2,500 for District expenses. The motion passed unopposed.

Moved by Van Sambeek and second by Summers that the 2019 tax request be submitted in the amount of \$362,142 or the amount represented by 1.00 mil, whichever is greater. The understanding being that the approximately \$60-80,000 difference between the total budget and actual taxes received from the counties being made up by wildland (contracted) firefighting from 2018 and 2019 and from reserves. The motion passed unopposed.

Fire Chief Johnson reported on the status of the District's firefighting capabilities. He touched on many topics including:

- An on-going contract with the State for burning slash piles
- Surplus equipment sales are basically completed: Folsom purchased the military-type tender for \$15,111.13
- All shifts are being covered at both Keystone and Hermosa, no complaints have been made to the Fire Chief, and numerous firefighters have participated in lots of training.
- By October or November, the District should be able to qualify for an improved fire rating (patrons in the heart of the District should get at least an ISO rating of 7 vs. the 8 or 9 rating currently for Hayward and Hermosa areas).

The District still needs to decide on the status of the Iron Mountain Substation, which is currently vacant. District is paying for the substation's minimum electricity charge, insurance, and propane for in-floor heat. The building was paid

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for with a USDA grant about 5-7 years ago, and the land was donated. DeHaai checked with USDA for any restrictions on disposition or renting of the building – Pennington County office has no knowledge of the building – nedd to check with Custer County office.

Public Participation

None

After comparing calendars, the next regular meeting of the Directors was set for the Hayward Station on November 8th at 6:30 PM.

Motion by Van Sambeek and second by Cofoid to adjourn. Hearing no objection, DeHaai adjourned the meeting.

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