

Battle Creek Fire Protection District

Minutes for Regular Meeting
May 13, 2025

There being a quorum, the regular meeting of the Battle Creek Fire Protection District was called to order by President Esposti on May 13, 2025 at 6:34 PM in the Hayward Fire Hall with directors Leo Van Sambeek, Levi Van Sambeek, Casey McNulty, Jack Bradt, Stuart Adrian; additionally, Fire Chief Dale Gadbois, Assistant Chief Dave Lindblom, and Administrator Garrett Dixon were in attendance, along with a member of the public, Dennis McMillan.

Secretary Report

All members having received and read the minutes from the February 20, 2025 Annual Meeting, the March 20, 2025 Special Meeting, and the April 24, 2025 Special Meeting in advance of the meeting, **a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the minutes as written** was made by Casey and seconded by Leo, motion passed.

Treasurers Report

As of May 13, 2025 the District's Total Assets were \$306,620.70, comprised of the following; District Deposit Accounts of \$102,134.23, District Investment Accounts of \$164,099.78, and Fire Department Checking Account Balance of \$40,386.69. Levi reviewed the Fire Department Monthly Summary. Leo made **a motion to accept the Treasurer's report**, seconded by Casey, motion passed.

Old Business

John initiated a discussion on an early payoff of the loan on the Hayward Fire Hall. The estimated remaining principal is \$68,000. Funds to accomplish a payoff could come from the CD's that the District holds, or a combination of CD's and cash from the Money Market Savings. After discussing the issue and deciding that an early payoff of the loan was the preferred option, Leo **moved to cash out the two USDA CD's and use cash from the Money Market Savings to tentatively payoff the loan mid September 2025**, seconded by Casey, motion passed.

John has submitted the Opt Out paperwork to the Custer and Pennington County Auditors. Increased tax receipts from the Counties will be available to the District in calendar year 2026. Discussion ensued on how to better communicate with the District residents. The Fire Department currently has a Facebook page that is periodically used, although feedback from the public that attended the April 24 Special Meeting indicates that not that many people use Facebook. Alternative strategies were discussed, such as a website, or more fully utilizing outreach that the towns of

Hermosa and Keystone currently use. It was decided to post meeting notices with the Hermosa Happenings Page and the Keystone Happenings Page one week in advance of a meeting, and to provide this same information to the towns administration for posting in their glass cases. Garrett was requested to post a notice to Facebook on upcoming meetings as well.

New Business

Discussion about the need and/or desirability of having an attorney on retainer to advise the Board when needed. Over the last several years, the only need for an attorney was when Quit Claim Deeds were needed to be written for the sale of the Spokane substation. More recently, an attorney could have provided guidance during the recent Opt Out process, however, answers to questions that arose were eventually addressed by the SD Secretary of States Office. Dave is going to solicit some advice on the subject for the Board to consider at a later date.

In order to pay for the additional mechanical repairs on the ladder truck, Leo **moved that \$13,182 be transferred from Contract Fire Checking to Fire Department Checking**, seconded by Levi, motion passed.

Report from the Fire Chief Gadbois

- 98 calls for service YTD, running ahead of a year ago
- resignation of one FTE, individual will remain on volunteer roster
- remodel at Keystone Station completed
- ladder truck is back after repairs, but there seems to be a hydraulic issue as well
- pack tests recently completed, 12 red cards issued

Report from Administrator Dixon

- the pump repair (37,859.75) was covered by insurance, Department paid 2000 deductible
- someone is lined up to look at the hydraulics on the ladder truck

Items from the Public

Dennis asked if the Department was pursuing grant funding. The fire chief and administrator explained what grants were available and which ones the department has applied for and/or received. Dennis asked if the Department was going to out of state fires. Chief Gadbois explained how the end of the Fire Tech Program at Western Dakota Tech has resulted in a shortage of individuals available to the Department, and a consequence of that is fewer Engine Bosses, all resulting in an inability to send crews out of state. More emphasis is going to be given to contract fires within the state.

Respectfully submitted by Stuart Adrian