

Battle Creek Fire Protection District

Minutes for the Meeting August 23, 2022

Call to Order: The meeting of Battle Creek Fire Protection District was called to order at 6:35 pm by Secretary Ray Summers on August 23, 2022 in the Hayward Fire Hall. A quorum was present with Directors, Wayne Kummer, Doug Cogan, Levi Van Sambeek; Directors Leo Van Sambeek and John Esposti arrived late due to other business. Fire Chief Dale Gadbois, and Accounts Manager Garrett Dixon were also in attendance.

Secretary's Report: A motion to **dispense with the reading of the May 12, 2022 minutes** was made by Wayne and seconded by Levi, the motion passed. A motion to ***adopt the minutes without change*** was made by Levi and seconded by Wayne, the motion passed. Ray read the minutes for the special meeting held on July 7, 2022 to address the offer by the BHSWS to purchase a parcel of land from the district. A motion **to approve the July 7th minutes** was made by Levi and seconded by Doug, the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Levi reviewed the district account balances totaling \$516,946.68 and the Fire Department checking account at \$39,874.81. As of August 19, 2022 the total balance of \$556,821.49 is held in our bank accounts, which is up approximately 10%. A motion to ***accept the treasurer's report*** was made by Wayne and seconded by Ray, the motion passed.

Old Business:

The partial release of the lien on the BHFD property by USDA Rural Development was briefly discussed by Wayne reiterating the release was contingent on the proceeds of the sale being applied to the debt and that there was no harm to the district from the sale of this parcel.

A proposal to amend the district's By-Laws was submitted by Leo. As required by Article III a motion was made by Wayne and seconded by Levi ***to discuss/consider the proposed amendments***, the motion passed unanimously. The amendments considered are intended to clarify provisions in the by-laws specifically: editorial changes for readability (Art. II, Sec. II); calling for a special meeting (Art. II, Sec. II, 2); the use of technology when a director cannot be physically present at a meeting (Art. II, Sec. II, 3); poll voting as called for by President (Art. II, Sec. II, 4); and Director responsibilities in Art. II, Sec. V, 6 regarding check signature. Following discussion, with all six directors present, a motion was made by Leo to ***accept all the changes agreed upon during the discussion and submit an updated version of the By-Laws to the directors following the meeting to ensure accuracy***, the motion was seconded by Doug, the motion passed. The approved changes are included in these minutes as an attachment; upon the approval of the minutes the amendments will be adopted.

New Business: The consideration of the Battle Creek Fire Department budget, as well as the tax request will be postponed until the September 13th board meeting.

Fire Chief/Administrator: Chief Gadbois reported:

Battle Creek Fire Protection District

- During the July Custer County Chiefs meeting a proposal was formulated and is to be submitted to the Custer County Commissioners requesting \$690,000 of which \$300,000 will be for a new station, \$300,000 for countywide fire department support, and \$90,000 for a new firefighter/county coordinator position.
- During the Keystone Town Meeting on August 3 the city claimed that due to the Keystone Fire Station's hose testing operations resulted in the city's water system being contaminated by its water system sediments. This "brown" water resulted in upset hotel residents and bed sheets being discolored when washed in the tainted water. Chief Gadbois was challenged as to why he had not notified the city in advance of the testing, he reminded the Town Board members that the station has conducted the same tests, during the same month for the past three years. No action was taken.
- During a courtesy walk-through of Keystone businesses, the Chief introduced himself, answered questions and noted generally good-practices by most business; however, a few with congested aisles and exits were of concern.
- The district conducted emergency rescue training with the SDNG helicopters at Hippie Hole.
- The new rescue equipment and gas meters are in use.
- Staffed a Fire Department display and conducted programs at the Custer County Fair.
- The "Fill the Boot" MD fund-raiser will be over Labor Day Weekend in Keystone, directors are invited to volunteer.
- The Pennington Co. Dispatch Center has reversed a previous informal agreement regarding the intersection at SD 79 and Lower Spring Creek Road within the Rockerville District. Based on response timing of the Rockerville Station and the Hermosa Station it was agreed the both departments would be dispatched simultaneously and that Rockerville would respond to Hippie Hole incidents due to its shorter response to this location. That status has now been changed by the Dispatch Center to alert Rockerville as primary with Battle Creek available on request, in spite of the significantly shorter response time for the Hermosa Station.
- There have been 247 call-for-service calls so far this year, a significant increase over last year.

Next BCFD meeting, specifically to address the Fire Dept 2023 budget and tax request was scheduled for Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 7:00 PM in the Hayward Station. The normal final-quarter board business meeting will be determined at this meeting.

At 8:14 pm a motion to Adjourn made by Leo, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Ray Summers, Secretary