

Battle Creek Fire District

Minutes of Regular Meeting

July 20, 2021

Regular Meeting of Battle Creek Fire District called to order at 6:30 PM by Director Esposti in the Hayward Fire Hall. Present were Directors Esposti, Summers, Cofoid, Kummer and Van Sambeek, Deputy Chief Lindblom, Assistant Fire Chief Garrett Dixon, and Station Chief Nathan Kaustinen. Director Reder was absent for medical reasons.

Kummer moved with second by Summers to accept the minutes of the Annual Meeting held March 31st, 2021 and an additional between meetings' email motion as presented. Motion passed unopposed.

Secretary/Treasurer Van Sambeek distributed and presented the financial information attached to these minutes. Moved by Summers and seconded by Cofoid to accept the financial report; unanimous.

Unfinished Business and Updates

Esposti reported that he and Katie Hammer of USDA are meeting next week to hopefully resolve the ownership issue with Hayward fire hall. The expectation is that a quit-claim deed will be filed with Pennington County showing Battle Creek Fire District as the new property owner.

Kummer reported on the ladder truck which we attempted to sell by McPherson online auction but had issues with finding a title. Apparently, Keystone Fire Department got the wrong title from the Tea Fire Department, but successfully had the erroneous title registered with the State. Even worse, Tea FD had received the errant title from Sioux Falls Fire Department, who had gifted the truck to Tea FD. Very little likelihood that correct title is still in Sioux Falls FD. In checking with salvage company there is no interest in the truck even though it runs. Kummer will try to get McPherson to re-auction as "running truck with no title."

New Business

The proposed 2022 Budget was then explained by Garrett Dixon.

Motion by Kummer and seconded by Cofoid that the District's 2022 fiscal-year budget be set at \$464,750 (\$462,250 for Fire Department and \$2,500 for District expenses). Passed unanimously.

Van Sambeek moved with second by Summers that the District's 2022 tax request be \$417,896, which passed unanimously. The shortfall between the budgeted expenses and the tax request revenue will be made up by Contract Fire revenue and from reserves. It was further discussed that the monthly transfer from Fire District to Fire Department will be 1/12th the year's tax request, subject to later adjustment.

Fire Chief's Report

Assistant Fire Chief Dixon reported that

- An incident at the Rockyford (April 22, 2021) fire is still being investigated by our insurance. A settlement will likely to be negotiated, although the filed claims and opinions point to no-fault

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- by BCFD.
- Third-party hose testing is almost completed (3 trucks left) and pump testing (7 vehicles by McQueen) is planned for September.
- Fire Department has been on 7 fires year-to-date for net revenue of \$21,780. Commitments for labor is a problem regarding going to more non-local fires. Shortage is in trained volunteers willing to staff shifts. We may need to consider incentives for volunteer firefighters.
- Fire Department was requested to come up with a proposal on recruiting and retaining firefighters, both stipend and volunteer.

Deputy Chief Lindblom reported the Pennington County Fire Board budget request was approved by Commissioners. Most of the Fire Board budget is ear-tagged for communications equipment and new fire halls using Covid money.

The Custer County fire chiefs met and recommended that the \$300 thousand in "Commissioner dollars" be divided as \$200,000 seven-ways (excepting Buffalo Gap) for battery-operated extrication equipment for mutual aid to eliminate the need to wait for search-and-rescue equipment and \$100,000 for seed money to establish a Custer County fire coordinator.

Point of information is that Custer County communications is now compatible with Pennington County's.

The idea of a west-Custer County fire district is still being explored.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for October 12th at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment

Cofoid moved with second by Summers to adjourn – motion was unopposed and Esposti declared the meeting over. Respectfully submitted by Leo Van Sambeek, Secretary/Treasurer