

Battle Creek Fire District

Minutes of a Regular Meeting

January 9th, 2020

Meeting called to order at 6:34 PM by Director Jim DeHaai in the Hayward Fire Hall with Directors Esposti, Cofoid, Summers, and Van Sambeek present. Fire Chief Paul Johnson, Bookkeeper Garrett Dixon, Brad Lindblom, and several Firefighters in attendance. Director Reder was absent for family reasons.

Minutes of the October 6th District meeting were distributed by email before the meeting and available in hardcopy at the meeting. A correction was made that the meeting was called to order by Ray Summers and that Cofoid was in attendance instead of Reder. It was also noted that at the October 6th meeting the 2020 District Budget of \$420,484 and the 2020 Fire Department Budget of \$417,982 were approved following a motion to approve by Esposti and second of Cofoid. The District Budget recognizes combined \$382,849 in tax receipts expected from Pennington and Custer Counties. The Fire Department budget will be funded with monthly payments of \$31,904 from District Account and \$3,136 from the Contract Fire account. The minutes were approved upon motion by Summers and second of Cofoid.

Van Sambeek presented the DRAFT Year-End Cash Statement (financials as of December 31, 2019). After discussion, it was move by Summers and second of Esposti that Van Sambeek should send the report to the counties. A copy of the actual statement presented to the Counties' Auditor is attached to these minutes.

Unfinished Business and Updates

The District's 2020 Tax Request was formally approved by the counties at \$382,849, which represents an actual 0.97 mil tax levy.

DeHaai reported that the USDA says it needs additional documentation on the forming of the Battle Creek Fire District as a legal entity. Beyond the Resolution to merge the districts and minutes of the organizational meeting and the election results of the Hayward patrons (where the USDA loan originated), all of which USDA already has; we are not sure what to do. DeHaai will ask the County Auditors, to help reconcile the USDA request.

The Hayward land sale is proceeding. The Pennington Co. Planning Commission recommended approval of our requested plat change and their recommendation was forwarded to the County Commissioners.

New Business

Regarding hiring of a new Fire Chief, to replace departing Chief Paul Johnson, the consensus of the Directors was to advertise the position internally within the Battle Creek Fire Department. The Directors noted that the Battle Creek Firefighters Association endorses promoting Assistant Chief dale Gadbois to Chief. Motion by Summers and second of Van Sambeek to advertise the Chief's position and hire internally. The motion passed unanimously and DeHaai directed Garret Dixon to distribute the position description to all BC Fire Department members.

Battle Creek Fire District – 13730 Highway 40 – Keystone, SD 57751

BattlecreekFD@yahoo.com – EIN:82-248-1697 – (605) 255-5268 answering machine

Battle Creek Fire District

The date for the Annual Meeting was set as March 3, 2020 at 6:30 PM in the Hayward Fire Station. Legal notices will be posted by DeHaai. As a side note, each of the three Directors with expiring terms (John Esposti, David Cofoid, and Butch Reder) indicated their willingness to be nominated as incumbents for their current positions.

Motion by Van Sambeek and second of Cofoid to amend the Bylaws to allow the signature of the District's Bookkeeper on District checking accounts' instruments in addition to the Directors. Passed unopposed.

Fire Department Report

1. Truck Status
 - a. Ladder Truck is in service
 - b. Type-5 is still being serviced, but no rush is being requested
 - c. Waiting on parts for McQueen's repair of pump on Engine 1-6
 - d. No action to date on old Ladder truck (Considering listing on an online auction)
2. The memberships for the Department increased by eight new members but had a loss of 3 or 4.
3. No recent progress on station signage
4. Dave Lindblom reported that Custer County Commissioners still want a comprehensive fire plan/study from all firefighting entities before proceeding with any grant decisions.
5. The new federal law on minimum-wage earners versus salaried employees means that any employee with less than a \$35,568 annual salary must be paid overtime to bring them up to that threshold before excess hours can be considered part of the regular salaried-hours. The options are for our full-time hires: 1) Pay an hourly rate of at least \$9.30 per hour with overtime as required or 2) Increase salaries to at least \$35,568 per year. The salary increase would add approximately \$27,000 to the 2020 budget for the three full-time positions.

Motion by Esposti and second by Cofoid to obey the new federal law regarding our salaried individuals by raising their salaries to at least the \$35,568 level retroactive to January 1, 2020 and to add approximately \$27,000 to the Fire Department 2020 budget to accommodate this increase. Motion passed unopposed.

6. Captain Allen resigned to accept a position with Piedmont FD at a higher salary (his salary with BCFD was \$27,000).
7. Workman's Compensation expense on state contracts now has a 5% markup to cover reporting expenses.

Additional Items

BCFD is part of a substantial communications' grant recently received by named grantee Rockerville FD. Our portion of the total grant will be \$240,000 which will require a 10% match. Fire District has already paid its pre-award portion (\$6,400 of the \$24,000). It is still uncertain when the remainder is due. The grant allows the District to upgrade to the future communications standards a couple years earlier and at a much lower cost to the District. Great job to all who assisted in the grant application.

Battle Creek Fire District – 13730 Highway 40 – Keystone, SD 57751

BattlecreekFD@yahoo.com – EIN:82-248-1697 – (605) 255-5268 answering machine

Battle Creek Fire District

The Battle Creek Firefighter Association Christmas was well attended by Firefighters and the District Directors.

No other items were brought before the Board.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 6:30 PM on March 3rd, 2020 at the Hayward Fire Hall. As stated earlier this will be the Annual Meeting, but regular business will also be conducted.

Adjournment

Moved by Cofoid and seconded by Summers to adjourn – passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted by Leo Van Sambeek, Secretary/Treasurer

Battle Creek Fire District – 13730 Highway 40 – Keystone, SD 57751

BattlecreekFD@yahoo.com – EIN:82-248-1697 – (605) 255-5268 answering machine