

Battle Creek Fire District

Minutes of a Regular Meeting

May 16, 2019

Meeting called to order at 6:12 PM by Jim DeHaai in the Hayward Fire Hall with five Directors, Fire Chief Paul Johnson, Assistant Chief Dale Gabbert, Bookkeeper Garrett Dixon, and one Firefighter. Director Leo VanSambeek was absent due to a previous commitment.

Minutes of the April 4 District meeting were distributed by email before the meeting. The minutes were approved with the following corrections: 1) Name spelling is Tom Fonck rather than Funk, 2) Add Brad Lindbloom to list of those in attendance, 3) On page four where ever the words "snow thrower" appear change to "snow machine", 4) On page three under Chief's Report change "tanker" to "pumper" where it appears, On page 3 change phrase "from the Contract Fire Account" to "with a deposit from the District" Upon motion and second by Cofoid and Summer respectively.

Due to the absence of the Treasure the Financial Report was covered in an abbreviated form and no related actions were taken. It was move by Reder and seconded by Summers to accept the Financials as presented – carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business and Updates

The proposed water company parcel of .62 acres has been evaluated by the Battle Creek Agency, a local real estate firm, and valued at \$15,000.00. This is a Market Analysis to be used for guidance when considering minimal sales price. There is an understanding that the buyer will pay all expenses of the sale.

There as a discussion regarding Phil Lakner's wish to also purchase some Fire District land behind the Hayward Fire Hall. Discussion followed and no action was taken – tabled.

The sale of the Iron Mountain Substation was discussed. There has been a Market Analysis conducted by the Battle Creek Agency which concluded that the value of the building is \$80,000.00 and the land is valued at \$25,000.00. A minimum acceptable sales price of 75% or \$78,750.00 was recommended. President Jim Dehaai will contact the McPherson Auction Services to discuss the details of an on-line sale of the properties.

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The proposed purchase of a new District laptop computer is being research with regard to features and price.

Items from Chief

The firefighter associate degree program through the Department is in motion. It is designed to be an alternative to the one currently offered by Western Dakota VoTech and will hopefully meet the needs of the Department and District for qualified manpower. The Chief is looking for possible housing for up to 6 students who will receive training and work as stipend employees. The Black Hills Health and Education Center is a possible source of housing. Discussion followed and no action was taken.

The Custer County Commission has not acted on the distribution of \$500,000.00 between the County's fire departments. Meeting have been attended and input freely given. Chief Paul Johnson and David Strain will look at proposals for the distribution with the intent of receiving an appropriate share of the total funds.

The purchase of a new ladder truck is still being pursued. A bid was submitted for one, but it was awarded to another fire department. Chief Johnson is researching two other possibilities at \$70,000.00 to \$80,000.00 with varying features such as age, mileage and pump and tank sizes. He will keep us informed.

A replacement for the brush truck may occur soon. A 2011 Ford 350 with 60,000 miles that is white in color, has a utility box, a 400 gallon water tank and a gasoline engine is available at \$30,000.00. This vehicle will need a skid unit and other accessories and expenses. The total price is projected at approximately \$40,000.00. One advantage of this truck, skid unit and accessories is that as this chassis wears out - the skid unit and accessories may be recycled onto a newer chassis - and re-used multiple times.

Chief Johnson requested that any unused funds from the ladder truck be allotted to the brush truck purchase. This idea is under consideration, but no official action taken.

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No news on the power bill for the Hayward Fire Station so there is no report on the effectiveness of the timers and other actions taken at this time.

The use of the Hayward Fire Hall by members of the community was discussed. There is a need for rules and limitations dictated by commonsense and the Department of Homeland Security. The buildings must be locked and equipment secured at all times. The common meeting room is available only for meetings by community board of directors for limited periods of time only. There can be no private parties or community events not related to the fire district or department. The Fire Chief will create a Use Agreement for all users.

The Battle Creek Fire Department is ready for the upcoming fire season.

Pump, hose testing and inspections will occur soon.

The generator, cascade air bottle recharge system and communications tower at the Iron Mountain Substation will soon be moved to Keystone.

The buildings are in good shape for their desired uses. The remodeling projects are nearly completed and will be ready for the upcoming fire season.

Additional Items

There were no other inputs brought before the Board.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 6:30 PM on June 27, 2019 at the Hayward Fire Hall.

Moved by Cofoid & seconded by Summer to Adjourn – passed unanimously

Submitted by: _____, John Esposti

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