

Battle Creek Fire Protection District

Minutes for Regular Meeting
November 20, 2025

There being a quorum, the regular meeting of the Battle Creek Fire Protection District was called to order by President Esposti on November 20, 2025 at 6:33 PM at the Hayward Fire Hall with directors Leo Van Sambeek, Levi Van Sambeek, Casey McNulty and Stuart Adrian; additionally, Fire Chief Dale Gadbois and Administrator Garrett Dixon were in attendance.

Secretary Report

All members having previously received and read the minutes from the September 17, 2025 regular meeting, **a motion to accept the minutes as presented** was made by Casey, seconded by Levi, motion passed.

Treasurers Report

As of November 20, 2025 the District's Total Assets were \$372,651.21, comprised of the following; District Deposit Accounts of \$247,531.67, District Investment Accounts of \$112,268.01, and Fire Department Checking Account Balance of \$12,851.53. District Investment Accounts decreased by \$51,831.77 because the two CD's earmarked for the USDA loan were redeemed in order to help pay off the building loan on the Hayward Fire Station. The remaining CD in the amount of \$109,852.75 matured on October 23, 2025 and earned \$2400 interest. The principal and interest were rolled into a new CD with a 7 month term with an interest rate of 3.350%. Levi noted that to date we have used 85% of the budget. Casey made **a motion to approve the Treasurers Report as presented**, seconded by Leo, motion passed.

Old Business

1) USDA final payment

John reported that the Hayward Fire Hall has been paid off.

2) Skyline Fire adjustment

John reported that the Skyline Fire adjustment has been completed.

3) Tax Levy request and Opt Out submission

John reported that the Tax Levy Request for 2026 has been submitted for \$515,318 in estimated maximum tax dollars available plus \$201,928 in opt out dollars for a total of \$717,246. John was assured by the Auditor's Office that everything was in order.

New Business

- 1) Policy suggestions regarding charging District Residents for services

After discussion of the draft policy proposal from the Department, Casey moved, seconded by Leo, to **approve, with the changes agreed upon, Battle Creek Fire District Policy 25-01, Battle Creek Fire Protection District Billing for Fire Suppression Services**, motion passed.

- 2) Plan 2026 Annual Meeting

After some discussion, Casey made **a motion**, second by Leo, **to hold the annual meeting at 6:30 pm Thursday February 5, 2026 at the Hayward Fire Station and that money be spent to advertise the meeting**. Stuart will have a notification published in the Custer and Hill City papers in accordance with the Bylaws. John, Casey and Levi's terms expire in February. John and Casey affirmed their desire to serve another term. Levi is undecided.

- 3) Food drive participation in Keystone

John thanked the Department for their participation in the food drive.

- 4) Hermosa area/eastern Custer County Ambulance Service update

Leo gave a report on the October 28 public forum in Hermosa where information was provided on the library plans and ambulance district. Leo said that those present at the forum voiced strong support for continuing ambulance service through the formation of an ambulance district. Leo provided additional details on the different ways that a district could be organized. Additional forums are planned.

- 5) Black Hills Energy update

John reported that Jack Bradt had met with representatives of Black Hills Energy in regard to their policy on preemptive shutdowns. Jack provided contact information for the Department.

Items from the Fire Chief/Administrator

Dale reported 285 calls for service YTD.

A new fire fighter, Fallon Lacina, has been hired and has been working for two months now. All seven FTE positions are now filled.

The ISO update will be completed soon.

The annual Battle Creek Fire Fighters Association meeting will be December 2.

The Hermosa parade of lights is December 13. The Department will have several trucks in the parade.

The Department Christmas Party will be held at the Hayward Station on December 17.

In response to the Department's Apparatus Replacement Plan, Garrett discussed the bid he received for a new Pierce Freightliner Responder Pumper from MacQueen Equipment. The sales price for this truck is \$672,325. This truck would replace two older trucks, a type 1 engine and a type 3 engine.

Additional Items from Directors and the Public

Discussion on Website Summary distributed by Stuart. Content and costs are in line with expectations.

Schedule next meeting and Adjournment

The annual meeting is scheduled for Thursday February 5, 2026 at the Hayward Fire Station.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted Stuart Adrian