

Battle Creek Fire District

Minutes of Regular Meeting

July 8, 2020

Regular Meeting of Battle Creek Fire District called to order at 6:38 PM by Director Jim DeHaai in the Hayward Fire Hall with Directors Esposti, Cofoid, Summers, DeHaai, Reder, and Van Sambeek, Fire Chief Gadbois, Deputy Chief Lindblom, Accounts Manager Garrett Dixon, and Nathan.

Minutes of the 2020 Annual meeting were discussed, and one correction made: Assistant Chief Dave Lindblom was also present. Cofoid moved with second by Reder to accept the minutes as presented.

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

Unfinished Business and Updates

DeHaai reported that USDA still has heartburn over the procedure for the merger-creation of BCFD. Moved by Summers with second by Cofoid to hire an attorney to document the merger's legality and compliance with state law. Motion passed unanimously. The sale of the Hayward acreage cannot occur without USDA sign-off.

Dale Gadbois reported that the Hayward signage will require digging and moving some rock and at Hermosa the new sign might be installed in place of the old sign and the old sign mounted on the firehall.

New Business

The ladder truck was sold on the McPherson online auction for \$4,500. No payment received yet, pending a replacement vehicle title.

Discussion on the F550 brush truck ensued. The truck has a pending engine problem (common problem with these 6.4-liter diesel engines), has 83,000 miles, and only fair tires. Moved by Summers with second by Cofoid to declare the F550 truck and its pump and tank surplus, offer it for sale to Folsom VFD for \$11,500. If Folsom declines the purchase, the truck should be listed with an online auction service with a reserve price of \$11,500. Motion passed unanimously.

Regarding other surplus equipment, City of Keystone has requested the 60-kW generator (which it turns out they originally donated to the fire department). Discussion followed concerning the very cooperative attitude and beneficial activities by Keystone relative to the Fire District and Keystone Station (for example, mowing, snow removal, and parking lot maintenance). Moved by Summers and second by Reder that City of Keystone be re-donated ownership of the generator conditioned on its removal.

Discussion about a small old military trailer at Hermosa Station that is unused. Moved by Summers and second by Reder that the trailer be declared surplus and that Fire Department offer it for sale by silent auction internal to its Firefighters. Motion passed unanimously.

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

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Fire Chief's Report

Chief Gadbois reported some items about the status of the Fire Department as follows:

- Year to date the Department has had 107 calls (52 in Hermosa and 55 in Keystone)
- The Department has 37 members, including 14 putting in stipend shifts. The shifts are being covered but just barely.
- Dave Lindblom was promoted from Assistant Chief to Deputy Chief
- Garrett Dixon was promoted to Assistant Chief (and will continue as Accounts Manager)
- Chad Youngberg was named as Hermosa Station Chief
- McQueen expects that repairs and new poly tank on Engine 1-6 will be finished within 2 weeks or less.
- The new cascade trailer is fully operational.
- Fire Department will be receiving a no-match required grant of \$4,800 to be used for grain-bin rescue equipment and training. The Department is in communication with New Underwood Department, who earlier got such a grant, for guidance.
- Pennington and Custer counties have both been generous in supplying PPE (for Covid virus protection) and their dispatchers have been reminding responders to take precautions.
- The District received 45 gallons of fire-suppression foam from Pennington County.
- The Hayward Station must have its septic system inspected – expected to cost \$170 for such pump and peek service.
- District has not yet received the VFAQ grant (see email approval described in March 3rd meeting minutes)
- The Department's activities at the July 3rd Mt. Rushmore fireworks were well planned and executed. Prepositioned hoses were placed at several locations in Keystone so a downtown structure fire could be fought even without trucks, maps were distributed showing locations of water sources and the dump tank and pump on the creek. Additional personnel manned each of the 3 stations. No spot fires were caused by the fireworks at Mt. Rushmore. A near-by lightning strike after the event caused some excitement.

Deputy Chief Dave Lindblom reported on developments at the Pennington County Fire Advisory Board.

- The Budget Committee expects that communications will require \$750,000 in infrastructure spread over next 5-7 years. Pennington Co. Commissioners have pledged \$100,000 per year from the \$1.5-1.8 million it receives as in-lieu of taxes from Federal government.
- The \$4,000 BCFD was to get this year will likely be postponed until 4th quarter at earliest.
- Foam purchased by Pennington County will still be available to Departments.

Regarding Custer County Fire Advisory Board and its county-wide study, proposed costs will be more than its expected worth, so it is likely dead. The Commissioner's money might end up being used for communications upgrade (which BCFD has basically completed already). BCFD, at a minimum, should request the \$11,156 it paid in 10% match and for new handhelds for its communications upgrade.

Accounts Manager Garrett Dixon reported:

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- Our insurance payment will come due in August: \$21-22,000 for buildings and vehicles
- Pennington County will not be cost-sharing on 3rd-party testing this year
- Contract-fire and Mt. Rushmore firework's support invoices totaling \$5,141 were submitted
- Garrett Dixon's Engine Boss has been signed off and submitted to State. Nathan is preparing his application.

Other Business

Reder reported that the District's improved ISO-rating from 7 to 5 will benefit homeowners and that Chief Gadbois had quickly provided the needed paperwork for the insurance company.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for September 27th at 6:30 PM. Major topic of the meeting will be reviewing the Departments proposed budget and preparing the District's 2021 tax request to counties.

Adjournment

Summers moved with second by Reder to adjourn – motion was unopposed and DeHaai declared the meeting over.

Respectfully submitted by Leo Van Sambeek, Secretary/Treasurer

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