

Battle Creek Fire Protection District

Minutes for Regular Meeting
September 17, 2025

There being a quorum, the regular meeting of the Battle Creek Fire Protection District was called to order by President Esposti on September 17, 2025 at 6:31 PM at the Hayward Fire Hall with directors Leo Van Sambeek, Levi Van Sambeek, Jack Bradt and Stuart Adrian; additionally, Fire Chief Dale Gadbois, Assistant Fire Chief Dave Lindblom and Administrator Garrett Dixon were in attendance, along with firefighters Seth Knutson and Derick Bailey-Meier and one member from the Public, Tom Tennessen.

Secretary Report

All members having previously received and read the minutes from the  August 20 , 2025 regular meeting, **a motion to accept the minutes as presented** was made by Leo, seconded by Levi, motion passed.

Treasurers Report

Since it had only been one month since the last report, there were no updates to the Monthly Summary to report.

Old Business

A) Plan for USDA Loan Payment

Leo cashed in the two \$25,000 CD's that were designated for the USDA loan. Those proceeds (\$54,900) and \$16,000 from the District checking account will be used to payoff the USDA loan in the amount of \$70,629.41 on September 22, 2025.

B) Budget

New line items in the Fire Department Operating Budget for 2026 are the Insurance Incentive in the amount of \$25,200 and Building Maintenance in the amount of \$2500. Dale explained that the following changes were made to the budget numbers since the last meeting; Recalculate the 5% pay raise on 7 FTE and increase the pay for 5 Stipend by 10%. The Fire Department Operating Budget will be \$674,746. The 2026 District budget will include \$10,000 for Building Maintenance Capital Outlay and \$50,000 for Vehicle Replacement Capital Outlay, in addition to \$2500 for administrative expenses, for a total of \$62,500. The total budget, consisting of the District Budget and the Fire Department Operating budget will be \$737,246.

Discussion on what to do with surplus funds, if there are any, at the end of the year. The Department would like to see those funds put into the vehicle replacement fund. It was decided that the Board will make that decision at the annual meeting.

Leo made a **motion to adopt a budget for 2026, the major categories being a Fire Department Operating Budget of \$674,746, a District Expense Budget consisting of Capital Outlays of \$60,000 and Expenses of \$2500, with anticipated revenue from the Opt Out of \$201,928 and an estimated tax request of \$515,318 and an estimated insurance reimbursement of \$20,000 for a District Balance of zero,** second by Stuart, motion passed.

C) Skyline Fire Reimbursement Proposal

Dave said that the Department is in the process of formulating a policy that addresses how residents of the District, that are located west of Highway 79 in the Black Hills Fire Protection District, will be billed when there is a billable incident. The policy will be presented at a later meeting. Dave explained that the major points under consideration are; that the policy be administered by the Board, that the Chief will make a recommendation to the Board, that the policy be fair to all residents of the District and that the policy will exempt a tax paying resident of the fire district from the first three billable hours as long as negligence is not a factor.

The discussion then moved to how to respond to the request from Mrs. DeFluiter, in which she asked to be reimbursed for the Battle Creek Fire Department's portion of the bill she received from the state for the fire that started on her property. The total amount billed by the Department was \$3118.25, which included a 5% administrative fee imposed by the state. The Department recommended forgiving the equipment cost of \$2172.

Levi made a motion to reimburse Mrs. DeFluiter for the billed equipment cost plus 5% of that cost, seconded by Leo. Dave pointed out that the 5% was an add-on by the state and recommended not reimbursing for that amount. Levi **amended his motion to reimburse Mrs. DeFluiter for only the billed equipment cost of \$2172, which was billed through the state**, seconded by Leo. John emphasized that this reimbursement was for hardship, not for the property owners claim that this was a double tax. Levi added that this amount should be paid out of the Contract Fire Account. Motion passed.

New Business

No new business.

Items from the Fire Chief/Administrator

Dale reported that ISO would be completed by the end of October.

Fire Department Report

Garrett reported that the pump and ladder testing was done and everything passed.

Additional Items from Directors and the Public

Leo reported that Hermosa Connects is putting together a plan for several community meetings, and suggested that the District and Department give a short presentation and be available for questions from the community. We will plan on participating.

Jack asked if anything new was known about the announcement from Black Hills Energy to shut down power lines during extreme weather conditions to prevent power lines from sparking a wildfire. Nothing new to report.

Schedule next meeting and Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday November 20, 2025.

Meeting adjourned 8:06 pm

Respectfully submitted Stuart Adrian