

Battle Creek Fire District

Minutes of Regular Meeting

September 22, 2020

Regular Meeting of Battle Creek Fire District called to order at 6:44 PM by Director Jim DeHaai in the Hayward Fire Hall with Directors Esposti, Summers, DeHaai, Reder, and Van Sambeek, Fire Chief Gadbois, Deputy Chief Lindblom, Accounts Manager Garrett Dixon, and Nathan Kaustinen and Daniel Van Cleave. Patron Phil Lakner was here for a specific item on the agenda.

Summers moved with second by Reder to accept the minutes of July 8th, 2020 meeting as presented. Motion passed unopposed.

Secretary/Treasurer Van Sambeek distributed and presented the financial information attached to these minutes. We still have not received a check from McPherson Auction on the sale of the surplus ladder truck (\$4,500) because a problem with locating a title. We have received a check from Folsom VFD for the surplus Type-6. Moved by Summers and seconded by Esposti to accept the financial report; unopposed.

Unfinished Business and Updates

DeHaai reported that USDA is still pushing for legal opinion that the merger-creation of BCFD was proper.

The sale of the Hayward acreage cannot occur without USDA sign-off. Phil Lakner desires to purchase a pie-shaped wedge of our Hayward lot to improve setbacks of his adjoining property (which will also square up our Hayward lot). He is offering equivalent of \$18,000/acre for the 0.6+ acres, and he will pay all surveying, platting, and subdividing costs – essentially no costs to the Fire District. Summers moved with second by Van Sambeek to resolve that the Board is favorably receptive of the proposal and will proceed with the sale pending USDA approval.

Question was raised as to current USDA loan balance. Original loan was \$389,200 at 4.25% interest. We have made several advance payments as well as the scheduled annual payments (\$20,402). DeHaai volunteered to inquire as to the current principal balance.

New Business

The ladder truck was sold on the McPherson online auction for \$4,500. No payment received yet, pending a replacement vehicle title. The F550 truck and its pump and tank previously declared surplus was sold to Folsom VFD for \$11,500.

Discussion then ensued on the 2021 Budget. In terms of extra ordinary requests: insulation and tin work in the Hermosa Station apparatus bay, sealing of the Hayward Station parking lot is past due, and exterior “spruce up” of the Keystone Station were identified. Otherwise, the Fire Department leadership identified their budget would be like this years’.

Motion by Esposti and seconded by Summers that the District make a 2021 fiscal year tax request of \$403,318, which is the projected maximum allowed within tax request guidelines. Passed unanimously.

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

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to assist the budgeting process in future years, Van Sambeek and Garrett Dixon agree to prepare a running list of extraordinary items since the District was formed.

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 89 calls in Hermosa and 126 calls in Keystone)
- The Department has two firefighters attending structure fighting class.
- Third-party pump testing of was completed and only the Hermosa tender was flagged as having problems. The tender has since been fixed.
- McQueen expects that repairs and new poly tank on Engine 1-6 will be finished within 2 weeks or less.

Deputy Chief Dave Lindblom reported:

- Regarding the "commissioners' money," the Custer County Fire Advisory Board will tentatively grant the District \$24,000 for its radio upgrades and bunker gear.
- A job description for Fire Administrator for Custer County is being developed where the position will be funded out of the County's general fund.
- As a point of information, discussion is occurring regarding a "385 Corridor Fire District" in Custer County. Initially, the district was not to include rural land, but now seems to include all land in western side of the county. There has not been any buy-in by Fire Departments (FYI: the west-side fire departments are Pringle, Argyle, Highlands, and Dewey (Dewey is contracted to Edgemont). The east side of the county is already covered by Fire Districts: Buffalo Gap, Fairburn, and Battle Creek
- The requested 2021 budget for Pennington County Fire Board was approved by the Commissioners and will finally include some funding from "payment in-lieu of taxes."

Other Business

In answer to a question raised at the Annual Meeting, the size of the Battle Creek Fire District is

184,314 acres total with
114,350 acres in Custer County
69,964 acres in Pennington County

Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for December 1st at 6:30 PM. Major topic of the meeting will be approving the Fire Department's 2021 budget using the Fire District's tax request and reserves.

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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