

Battle Creek Fire District

Minutes of a Regular Meeting

August 22, 2019

Meeting called to order at 6:33 PM by Jim DeHaai in the Hayward Fire Hall with five Directors (DeHaai, Esposti, Reder, Summers, and Van Sambeek), Fire Chief Paul Johnson, Bookkeeper Garrett Dixon, Brad Lindblom, and several Firefighters in attendance. Director Cofoid was absent for family reasons.

Minutes of the June 26th District meeting were distributed by email before the meeting. A comment is inserted that in reference to item #6, "The bumper from old truck will not be swapped onto the new truck." The minutes were approved upon motion by Summers and second of Esposti.

Van Sambeek presented the Financial Report As of July 26, 2019 (the monthly closing date for bank statements using an abbreviated balance sheet and bank statements. No related actions were taken and it was move by Summers and seconded by Reder to accept the financials as presented – carried unopposed.

Unfinished Business and Updates

The Southern Hills water accepted our counteroffer of net \$14,000 for the 0.62 acre land parcel next to Hayward fire station. Some surveying and document preparation remain, but after the closing, all money received is to be paid against the USDA building loan.

The Iron Mountain Substation received a bid of \$89,571.06 by McPherson Online Auctions. Some charges (closing costs and title insurance) will reduce the amount received.

After some discussion, Van Sambeek moved that proceeds from the sale of the substation be used by the District first make the equivalent of two annual payments on the USDA loan (approximately \$40,800) and second put the remainder in certificates of deposit, which will be identified on future financial reports as "earmarked for Hayward Building loan payments." It was further discussed that additional District funds could be used to supplement (round up) the amount of the CDs, particularly if doing so would get more favorable interest rates. The motion was seconded by Summers and passed unopposed.

After the meeting, an August 28, 2019 email motion was acted on, "To authorize the sale of the Iron Mountain Substation located at 24660 Iron Mountain Road, Keystone, SD 57751 to Mike Langbehn for the purchase price of \$89,571.06 and to authorize Jimmy R. DeHaai, President of Battle Creek Fire District, to sign any and all closing documents on behave of the seller (Battle Creek Fire District)." This email motion was made by DeHaai, email seconded by Van Sambeek, and passed unanimously by responding emails.

New Business

Chief Johnson proposed that the 2020 Budget might increase by 3 to 4 percent compared to 2019's, but that the Department had not yet prepared a detailed budget. The 2020 workman's compensation insurance cost should be less that the \$20,000 estimated for 2019. Last year's District budget was

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\$401,000 for Fire Department, \$20,400 for USDA building payment, and \$2,500 for District operations for a total of \$424,000. If the Fire Department cost increases by \$14,000 and other two District budget items stay the same, the total 2020 District budget will be \$438,000.

After a short discussion that basically centered on the need to fund the budget without significant income expected from out-of-district fire income and an informal stipulation during the districts' merger that the new District's tax request would not exceed 1 mil, Van Sambeek moved with second by Esposti, "That the District request tax funding from Custer and Pennington Counties in an amount equivalent to 1 mil per thousand of assessed valuations." Passed unopposed.

Items from Chief

1. An issue has arisen for Truck #6-3 which will affect its sale. (Truck #6-3 was to be sold -- estimated sale price was \$13,500 -- when replaced by the recently purchased Type 5. The new issue is an oil leak from the 6.4 liter diesel motor, which might cost more than \$10,000 to fix. Discussion centered on whether to sell the truck with full disclosure of the problem or to drive the truck until it died. DeHaai asked that further discussion be tabled until the next meeting.
2. The new ladder truck is in service and residing in Keystone station. The truck was purchased for \$98,000. The old ladder truck runs but pump is inoperable. Summers moved with second of Esposti that the old Type 1 (Truck 1-3) be declared surplus and that the Fire Chief dispose of the vehicle as appropriate. Motion passed unopposed.
3. The replacement Type-6 brush truck (actually a Type 5, 2011 Ford-350 with 60,000 miles with utility box, 400 gallon water tank, and gasoline engine) was purchased for \$30,000 and will be in service by mid-September. As reported last meeting, the skid unit and wheel-well modifications and suspension-spring replacements are underway.
4. As was reported last month, the pump on the Engine #1-6 in Keystone is "broken." At that meeting, the District authorized up to \$25,000 to repair the pump, as in the Department's opinion, "the truck is good enough to warrant such repairs." Now, however, the cost is estimated at between \$50- to 60,000 and will take the rest of the year to repair. An independent opinion from the McQueen mechanics is that it is still worth repairing because the truck would have a value of \$300- to 500,000). Fortunately, the District's insurance might cover as much as 75 percent of the cost. An insurance claim number has been received and the repairs are moving forward under the earlier authorization.
5. Several patrons reported to the Fire Chief and Directors that "the District's trucks and firefighters looked sharp" at the Custer County Fair parade. It was an impressive display of equipment!
6. The parking lot at Hermosa is repaired. Cofoid negotiated a deal with Croel to provide concrete in exchange for the previously declared as surplus air compressor.
7. The firefighter associate degree program through the Department is still being pursued. Hiring is an issue and will become tougher as Ellsworth AFB and the Oglala tribe will both be hiring additional staff. Nonetheless, the Department needs to be "picky" about who we hire because of safety and value of the equipment. Volunteers are always welcome and encouraged to become involved with the Department.

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Additional Items

No action or updates on the first draft of "Meeting-Use Policy for Fire Halls" since Gadbois is out of town. The policy is still under review and being revised and corrected. As a side note Dale and Sarah are congratulated on their new son, Riley.

No other items were brought before the Board.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 6:30 PM on October 10, 2019 at the Hayward Fire Hall.

Adjournment

Moved by Van Sambeek & seconded by Reder to adjourn – passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted by Leo Van Sambeek, Secretary/Treasurer