

Battle Creek Fire District

Minutes of the Annual Meeting February 22, 2022

Annual Meeting of Battle Creek Fire District was called to order at 6:31 PM by President John Esposti in the Hayward Fire Hall with Directors Dave Cofoid, Ray Summers, Leo Van Sambeek, Wayne Kummer, Fire Chief Dale Gadbois, and Accounts Manager Garrett Dixon; also in attendance, BCFD residents Levi Van Sambeek and Doug Cogan.

A call to amend the agenda by Esposti to allow Phil Lakner and Barb Caorsi to address their business to the board after the elections and out of the original order was requested and approved.

Election of Directors: Esposti called for nominations to fill two vacancies on the board one each for the Keystone and Hermosa geographic areas. Doug Cogan in the Keystone geographic area was nominated by Esposti; Levi Van Sambeek in the Hermosa geographic area was nominated by Leo Van Sambeek. *There being no discussion, Leo V. moved to **close nominations and to accept the new slate of directors by acclamation.** The motion was seconded by Summers, the motion passed.*

Esposti thanked departing directors Dave Cofoid and Butch Reeder for their work on the board. The new directors were seated.

Election of Officers: Summers nominated Esposti as President, Wayne K. seconded. *Leo V. moved to **close nominations and there being no additional nominations, to accept by acclamation,** Ray S. seconded. The motion passed.* Leo Van Sambeek nominated Wayne Kummer as Vice President; Levi V. seconded. *Leo V. moved to **close nominations and there being only one nominee to accept by acclamation,** Ray S. seconded; the motion passed.* Leo V. nominated Ray S. as Secretary, Wayne K. seconded. *Leo V. moved to **close nominations and there being only one nominee to accept by acclamation,** Wayne K. seconded; the motion passed.* Ray S. nominated Leo V. as Treasurer; Wayne K. seconded. *Wayne K. moved to **close nominations and there being only one nominee to accept by acclamation,** Ray S. seconded; the motion passed.*

2022 Slate of Officers:

- President – John Esposti
- Vice President – Wayne Kummer
- Treasurer – Leo Van Sambeek
- Secretary – Ray Summers

2022 Annual Meeting: Adjourned

New Business: Barbara Caorsi, a BCFD resident and adjacent property owner to the Hayward Station, requested that the board endorse a request by her to Pennington County to vacate a right-of-way easement that lies on her property and adjacent to BCFD property. The County

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Planning and Zoning office requires adjacent property owners sign an affidavit acknowledging the request. Leo V. moved ***that President Esposti sign affidavit representing the BCFD***, seconded by Ray S.; *the motion passed*. John E. agreed to complete the form and have signature notarized.

Old Business: Phil Lakner's request to purchase a portion of the BCFD Hayward Station property has been delayed pending USDA's recognizing the property ownership resulting from the merging of the three districts into the Battle Creek Fire District. A quit-claim deed request to the Pennington Co. Register of Deeds Office has been approved transferring the property to the BCFD and this information has been sent to USDA; USDA subsequently requested our EIS and SAM (statement of award) number. This process is nearing completion and Phil wished to update his request. Lakner and Esposti have "walked" the proposed new boundaries and based on the plotted points in the Pennington Co. RapidMap GIS website the requested purchase of BCFD property is estimated to be 2.8 acres. An engineer's survey will determine the exact size. Wayne K. moved that ***"As USDA has not as yet completed their internal acknowledgement of our property ownership resulting from our merged district and we expect this recognition soon, that this issue be tabled until we hear from USDA"***. The motion was seconded and passed.

Secretary/Treasurer Report: All members having received the 2021 Annual meeting minutes in advance to the meeting it was agreed to dispense with the reading of the minutes. There being no corrections or additions it was moved by Ray S. and seconded by Levi V. to ***approve the minutes to the annual meeting***. Discussion of the meeting minutes to the October 12, 2021 meeting provoked an update on the following items: the ladder truck was sold for \$3,200 with net income of \$2,816, Custer Co. incentive payments of \$28,000 was received, and the Incentive Payments approved were paid to the firefighters totaling \$6,000. A motion to ***approve the October 12 minutes*** was made by Wayne K. and seconded by Ray S., the motion passed. Leo V. provided the status of the 4 checking accounts and reported that the required annual report to Pennington Co. was made. Motion to ***accept the financial report was made*** by Wayne K. and seconded by Levi V., the motion passed. Regarding the Minutes for the Special Meeting held on January 18, 2022 to discuss the funding of four additional full-time firefighters at a cost of \$80,934 for the remainder of 2022 and the increase of stipend pay to \$200 per shift; a ***motion to approve the January 18 minutes*** was made by Leo V. and seconded by Wayne K., the motion passed.

Old Business (continued):

- Esposti reported that during his conversations with USDA they indicated that they were very happy with our payment history and promptness in setting up our EIS and SAM.
- Garret requested authorization for the Chief and Ast. Chief to sign the grant request to SD Wildland Fire; Leo V. moved ***to authorize the Chief and Ast. Chief be allowed to sign grant***, seconded by Levi V., motioned passed.

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- Fire Chief Dale reported:
 - Extractions equipment has been purchased at a cost of \$26,000.
 - A Four-Gas detection meter has been purchased for \$3,000.
 - A 3-Year Sabre Grant was submitted requesting funding for up to 12 employees totaling approximately \$600,000. This includes the 4 full-time employees approved at special meeting on January 18.
 - The BCFD was represented by Chief Debois at the Custer Co. Fire Dist. Banquet where they recognized and thanked the BC Fire Dept. our response to the Sylvan Lake fire. Garret also received recognition coin from Custer State Park for outstanding effort during fire response.
- Updated contacting information for:
 - Wayne Kummer; 24574 Playhouse Rd, Keystone, SD 57751.
 - Doug Cogan; 24440 Oak Meadows Ct, Keystone, SD 57751, 666-4066; email clifford764@msn.com
 - Levi Van Sambeek; 24664 Triple M Ranch Rd, Hermosa, SD 57744, email: Ldvansambeek@outlook.com.
 - Hayward Station; 255-5668.

Next BCFD meeting was scheduled for May 12, 2022 at 6:30 PM in the Hayward Station.

A motion to Adjourn made by Leo V. seconded by Ray S., motion passed

Respectfully submitted by Ray Summers, Secretary