

Battle Creek Fire Protection District

Minutes for Annual Meeting
February 5, 2026

There being a quorum, the annual meeting of the Battle Creek Fire Protection District was called to order by President Esposti on February 5, 2026 at 6:32 PM at the Hayward Fire Hall with directors Leo Van Sambeek, Levi Van Sambeek, Jack Bradt, Casey McNulty and Stuart Adrian present; additionally, Fire Chief Dale Gadbois, Assistant Chief Dave Lindblom and Fire Administrator Garrett Dixon were in attendance, along with firefighters Seth Knutson and Reece Eckroate. In addition, Tom Tennessen, Jason Ives and Joseph Roberts were in attendance.

Year in Review

John Esposti presented the 2025 BCFPD President's Summary (Attachment 1). John highlighted several items from the report, such as the opt out and the paying off of the construction loan on the Hayward station.

Election of Directors

The two year terms of the following Directors are currently expiring; Levi Van Sambeek, Hermosa. John Esposti, Hayward. Casey McNulty, Keystone. All three Directors have expressed a willingness to serve another two year term for their respective areas. There being no nominations from the floor for the Keystone, Hayward or Hermosa areas, Leo **moved to close the nominations**, seconded by Levi, motion passed. Leo **moved to elect the three nominees by acclamation**, seconded by Stuart, motion passed.

New Officer Elections

Casey nominated Levi to continue as Treasurer, seconded by Leo, motion passed.
Casey nominated Stuart to continue as Secretary, seconded by Leo, motion passed.
Leo nominated Casey to continue as Vice President, seconded by Levi, motion passed.
Casey nominated John to continue as President, seconded by Leo, motion passed.

Secretary Report

All members having previously received and read the minutes from the November 25, 2025 regular meeting, **a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve them as distributed** was made by Leo and seconded by Casey, motion passed.

Stuart presented bids from four companies for website design and construction (Attachment 2). Bids ranged in price from \$2250 to \$3500 for the same product. Web hosting ranged in price from \$40/month to \$100/month. Casey moved to accept the bid of \$2250 from Firefly Alley Creative Company, seconded by Stuart. After discussion of web hosting options, Casey amended his motion by adding the words 'and to use the Wix host for one year' at the end of the original motion. The amendment was seconded and carried. The **motion, as amended, to accept the bid of \$2250 from Firefly Alley Creative Company, and to use the Wix host for one year**, was passed with four votes in favor and two abstentions, with Leo and Levi abstaining due to a declared conflict of interest. The cost for this service will be paid by the District.

Treasurer's Report

Levi gave a detailed accounting of the 2025 receipts and expenses. Cash balance on January 1, 2025 was \$470,879. Total receipts for the year were \$677,603. Disbursements for the year were \$749,291. We experienced a shortfall of \$71,688. Earnings on CD and Money Market was \$6,445. Cash balance on December 31, 2025 was \$405,636. Casey **moved to accept the Treasurer's Report**, Leo seconded, motion passed.

Old Business

There was no unfinished business to discuss. Agenda item 'district website proposal' was addressed under Secretary Report.

New Business

John discussed making updates to the Director's Manual Contact List. An updated list will be distributed.

In order to change the signature authority for the bank accounts to reflect the change in officers for 2026, Leo moved, with a second by Casey; **Be it resolved that the Directors of Battle Creek Fire Protection District revise and approve the following signature authorities for the District's and Fire Department's accounts at First Interstate Bank, Rapid City, South Dakota.**

Battle Creek Fire District Accounts

General Operating account:

Signers – John Esposti, Levi Van Sambeek, or Garrett Dixon

Remove – Leo Van Sambeek

Contract Fire account:

Signers – John Esposti, Levi Van Sambeek, Garrett Dixon, or Dale Gadbois

Remove – Leo Van Sambeek

Further, Levi Van Sambeek, Garrett Dixon, and Dale Gadbois will be issued debit cards for the Contract Fire Checking Account

Money Market account:

Signers – John Esposti or Levi Van Sambeek

Certificates of Deposit

Signers – John Esposti or Levi Van Sambeek

Battle Creek Fire Department Checking Account:

Signers – Garrett Dixon, Dale Gadbois, or Levi Van Sambeek

Remove – Leo Van Sambeek

The Directors' vote was unanimous to approve the resolution.

Items from the Fire Chief/Administrator

Garrett requested that the monthly allocation to the Department be increased from \$38,000 to \$42,000 to avoid shortfalls if the tax revenue from the Counties is delayed. Casey **moved to increase the monthly transfer of funds to the Department from \$38,000 to \$42,000**, second by Stuart, motion passed. These transfers will start in March.

Garrett reviewed the income received from contract fires for 2025. To date, \$18,628.44 has been paid to the Department. Payment in the amount of \$11,932.71 is pending. Once paid, total income from contract fires for 2025 will be \$30,561.15. It was clarified that these amounts are net profit after deducting Department expenses (i.e. fuel, payroll).

Garrett reviewed the 2025 Call Report. There were 319 call for service, District wide.

Dave reported on his meetings with Custer County, where it appears that the formation of a new district on the west side of the county is not going to happen, so there are now conversations on the possibility of County Fire doing a opt out for the west side Departments. In Pennington County, they are looking at getting a self contained Cascade Unit on a truck. Dave also gave an update on the status of Senate Bill 36. SB36 sets a standard for wildfire mitigation for electric utilities and provides for limits on liability if the mitigation plan is adhered to.

Additional Items from Directors

Leo gave an update on the progress of forming an Ambulance District to replace the ambulance service being provided by the Rapid City Fire Department.

Schedule Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next meeting will be Thursday April 16, 2026 at the Hayward Fire Hall.

Meeting Adjourned 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted Stuart Adrian

2025 BCFPD PREDIDENT'S SUMMARY

February 5, 2026 (6:30 PM)

Location: Hayward Fire Station

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

The 2025 Annual Meeting was held Thursday, February 20, 2025. Elections were held and Stuart Adrian, Jack Bradt and Leo VanSambeek were elected to two-year terms each. The following board members were nominated and elected to the following positions: 1) President – John Esposti; 2) Vice President – Casey McNulty; 3) Secretary – Stuart Adrian, 4) Treasurer – Levi VanSambeek. A Special Meeting was scheduled for March 20, 2025 to “determine the size and duration of an Opt-Out for subsequent tax year/s to meet future budget shortfalls.” The district Fire Chief and district administrator's reports were presented.

A Special Meeting was held March 20, 2025 to discuss the tax Opt-Out for coming years. The board decided unanimously to initiate a tax Opt-Out in the amount of \$225,000.00 per year for five consecutive years starting in 2026.

A Special Meeting was held April 24, 2025 to act on petitions presented to the District in response to the initiated tax Opt-Out Resolution by the board on March 20, 2025. The rules governing petitions were explained to the board and audience. The petitioners admitted that the petitions were not in compliance with the governing rules. They wished to present the petitions anyway, realizing that they would need to be rejected by the board. The board unanimously voted to reject the petitions because they were not self contained and not all pages were properly notarized. A question and answer session followed.

A regular meeting was held on May 13, 2025. The Secretary and Treasurer's Reports were presented and approved. The district board responded to community member's request to use posters and social media to announce meeting dates and times. Items of discussion included the possible need for a district legal representative, funds for the repair of equipment and vehicles, and generation revenue from grants and sending district resources to out-of-district incidents.

A regular meeting was held on August 20, 2025. The Secretary and Treasurer's Reports were presented and approved. A plan was made to pay off the USDA loan on the Hayward Fire Station with the proceeds from CD's when they mature and the interest received. Creating a district website was discussed, and a proposal with cost estimates will be presented at future meetings. The process of crafting the 2026 budget based on the best available data with an equipment replacement plan was outlined and started.

A regular meeting was held on September 17, 2025. The Secretary and Treasurer's Reports were presented and approved. Two CD's were cashed in and the principles and interest received were applied to the outstanding balance on the USDA loan on the

Attachment 1

Hayward Fire Station. A total payment of \$70,629.41 was made on September 22, 2025 to the USDA satisfying a 40 year mortgage in roughly 15 years. The 2026 budget was discussed and passed. The reimbursement for equipment usage fees on the Skyline Fire was discussed and a reimbursement of \$2,127.00 was agreed upon.

The 2025 Tax Levy Request was submitted to the Pennington County Auditor's Office for a total of \$717,246.00.

A regular meeting was held on November 20, 2025. The Secretary and Treasurer's Reports were presented and approved. The board reviewed, revised and then adopted the proposed Battle Creek Fire District Policy 25-01 for Fire Suppression Services. The annual meeting is scheduled for 6:30 PM, Thursday, February 5, 2026 at the Hayward Fire Station. The meeting will be advertised in the two local newspapers, social media and posters. The Battle Creek Fire Fighters participated in the Keystone Food Drive by hoisting and monitoring a food collection box at the Keystone Fire Station. Board members attended the forum in Hermosa on October 28th regarding the formation of an Ambulance District and library improvements. Board member Jack Bradt met with Black Hills Energy and received information regarding the policy on preemptive power shutdowns. A bid of \$672,325 has been received for a new Pierce Freightliner Responder Pumper to replace two older vehicles.

Respectfully submitted
John Esposti, President
BCFPD 5 February 2026

Attachment 2

	<u>WEBSITE DESIGN & TESTING</u>	<u>HOSTING</u>	<u>DOMAIN RENEWAL</u>
(1) Midwest Marketing	\$2500	\$50/month	\$15/year
(2) Firefly Alley	\$2250	\$40/month	\$15/year
(3) Dakota Q	\$3500	\$80/month.	\$15/year
(4) DOT Marketing	\$3500	\$100/month	\$15/year

All of the above bids are for the same basic product;

1. Developer will create a website of up to 6 pages
2. Battle Creek Fire Protection District will own the finished product
3. The site will be optimized for mobile devices
4. Basic hosting service
5. Training will be provided so that we can manage the website content ourselves