

Battle Creek Fire Protection District

Meeting Minutes for September 7, 2023

There being a quorum, the quarterly meeting of Battle Creek Fire Protection District was called to order on September 7, 2023 at 6:35 PM by President Esposti in the Hayward Fire Hall with Directors Leo Van Sambeek, Ray Summers, Casey McNulty, Levi Van Sambeek, Jack Bradt additionally, Asst Chief Dave Lindblom and Fire Administrator Garrett Dixon also in attendance.

Secretary Report: All members having received the May 5, 2023 meeting minutes in advance to the meeting a ***motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes*** was made by Leo V. and seconded by Levi V., the motion passed. Ray S. noted that the Pennington Co. District Board Information report completed and submitted. There being no additional corrections or additions to the minutes it was moved by Leo V. and seconded by Casey M. to ***approve the minutes to the May 5, 2023 meeting minutes***, the motion passed.

Treasurer Report: Levi V. provided the following reports: a review of the account balances for the General Operating fund, Contract Fire and Money Market funds totaling \$207,539.72 as of September 5, 2023. The investment accounts include three Certificate Deposit instrument totaling \$154,292.25. The above CDs have matured and are currently earning 4%; this rate is only available for 7 months. The Fire Department account balance \$47,149.50 resulting in the total assets for the Battle Creek Fire Protection District at \$408,981.47. Levi then gave an assessment of the budget progress. Year-to-date (August 2023) reimbursements to the fire department are \$343,202.74 which is 67% of budget. Payroll is at 65% of budget with \$135,530 remaining to budget. Three areas are over budget: Workman's Comp., 176%; Fuel, 137%; and Vehicle & Building Insurance, 112%. Workman's Comp. is high due to a portion of the previous year's premium being paid in the current year. Motion to ***accept the financial report was made*** by Ray S. and seconded by Leo V., the motion passed.

Old Business:

- Regarding the sale of 2.75 acres portion of district property to Phil Lakner, John E. reported that the engineering work has been completed and reported that the survey defined the property at 119,000 sqft. yielding a sale price of \$49,421.90. As noted in previous meetings Phil Lakner will be paying all fees. No additional actions on our part are required.
- The Hermosa Station land transfer has been completed. The two-stage transfer process was completed through the services of an attorney. Total attorney fees are \$936.15. As this expense was not anticipated in our budget a motion ***to pay the legal fees of \$936.15*** was made by Leo V. and seconded by Casey M., the motion passed. Dave Lindblom commended the board for resolving this issue, stating it was "good governance".

New Business:

- The Annual County Tax Levy Request is due by October 1, 2023 for the 2024 tax year. There was some discussion regarding the impacts that inflation has had on the Fire Department; particularly in the budget areas of fuel, insurance, utilities and workman's comp. Unfortunately, these areas are generally not included in the calculations of the Consumer Price

Battle Creek Fire Protection District

Index (CPI). The County, in projecting tax revenues, uses 3% which does not adequately cover the cost of operating the district's operations. For the upcoming budget year, a motion **to authorize John E. to submit a Tax Levy Request to Pennington Co. for \$460,836** was made by Casey M. and seconded by Leo V., the motion passed.

Fire Chief/Administrator Report:

Asst. Chief Lindblom:

- Reported he has attended a couple of minor meeting with specifics to report.
- The County Fire Advisory Board will be returning to an every month schedule after they determined a quarterly interval to be inadequate.

Administrator Dixon:

- Attended the Custer Co. Fire Advisory Board meeting and reported that a vote to merge the Fire Districts in western Custer County will be called by the County Commissioners.
- A total of 251 calls thus far this year compared to 255 last year at this time.
- Garrett made a request to the board for \$6,500 to purchase a winter Propane Contract. A motion **to transfer \$6,500 to the Fire Department for a winter Propane Contract** was made by Leo V. and seconded by Levi V., the motion passed.

Additional Items from Directors: Jack B. mentioned that the US Forest Service Manager has been replaced.

Next BCFD meeting was scheduled for November 30, 2023 at 6:30 PM at the Hayward Station.

A motion **to Adjourn** made by Jack B. seconded by Ray S. motion passed; the meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Ray Summers, Secretary