

Battle Creek Fire District

Minutes of Regular Meeting

October 12, 2021

Regular Meeting of Battle Creek Fire District called to order at 6:31 PM by Director Esposti in the Hayward Fire Hall. Present were Directors Esposti, Summers, Cofoid, Kummer, Reder, and Van Sambeek; District Chief Gadbois; Assistant Fire Chief Garrett Dixon, and Firefighter Brandon Smith.

Kummer moved with second by Summers to not actually read the minutes for previous meeting, unanimous approval of his motion. After hearing no discussion on the printed minutes, motion by Reder and second by Kummer to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting held July 20, 2021 as presented. Motion passed unopposed.

Secretary/Treasurer Van Sambeek distributed and presented the financial information attached to these minutes. Moved by Cofoid and seconded by Reder to accept and approve the Treasurer's financial report; unanimous approval.

Unfinished Business and Updates

Kummer reported that the ladder truck will be sold on an online auction by McPherson as "a running truck with no title" with bid closing on October 18th.

AFC Dixon reported that the Contract Fire aspect for the District has responded to 12 fires year-to-date with a total invoice of \$40,617.13 of which \$22,298 has already been paid.

Esposti reported that he and Katie Hammer of USDA have agreed that a quit-claim deed should be filed with Pennington County showing Battle Creek Fire District as the new property owner. Consensus of the Board was that reasonable lawyer fees could be incurred to prepare the deed and have it filed.

FC Gadbois reported that the Hayward Station sign is still not installed.

New Business

None

Fire Chief's Report

Fire Chief Gadbois reported that

- Mike Helgerson, a Box Elder FD employee, was interviewed for and has accepted the position of Station Captain.
- District calls year-to-date are 320 compared to 280 last year. Roughly broken down as 58% medical, 12% vehicle accidents, 11% wildland, 8% fire alarms (all false alarms), 3% structures, and 6% other (service calls, community outreach, etc.).
- At the Pennington County Fire Fighters' Banquet,
 - Jim Lintz was a nominee for Lifetime Achievement award

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- Firefighters Laura Adrian and Karri Nickel were recognized for completion of Structures – First Class
- Length of service awards were presented to Loren Lintz (35 years), Dave Lindblom (30 years), and Rob Jackson (10 years).
- At July meeting, Fire Department was requested by the Board to come up with a proposal on recruiting and retaining firefighters, both stipend and volunteer. Chief Gadbois reported a multi-prong approach:
 - Apply for Safer Grant to hire more fulltime firefighters within a 3 to 5 yearlong grant period. The grant would require a total of at least nine fulltime firefighters – probably not feasible at this time
 - Alternative staffing approaches
 - Manning the Hayward Station instead of both the Keystone and Hermosa Stations
 - Reducing the shifts from 24 hour to 12 hours (say 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM during which most calls occur).
 - Paying tenure-based bonuses to encourage additional staff participation
- All hose and pump testing are now completed for the year.
- An incident occurred at Keystone Station where a truck door sustained \$10,365 damage (insurance adjuster) but the building only minor damage. Root cause was inattention by veteran firefighters.
- District is negotiating a contract/MOU with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for responding to fires on reservations without formal notification on individual fires (immediate call outs).

Following the Fire Chief's report, Cofoid moved that the Fire Department, in recognition of their *responding to emergencies during Covid, pay its 7 or 8 "essential employees," whether fulltime or stipend, up to a \$500 incentive payment and volunteers up to \$250, as defined by the Chief in consultation with his "staff."* Such payments to be made before Thanksgiving and not to exceed \$10,000 total. Second by Summers and passed unopposed.

Van Sambeek reported that all the signature re-authorizations have been straightened out at the bank.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be the District's Annual Meeting, which was scheduled for February 22nd, 2022, at 6:30 PM in the Hayward Station. It was noted that the BHEC chili supper will be in Hermosa School on February 15th.

Adjournment

Van Sambeek moved with second by Summers to adjourn – motion was unopposed, and Esposti declared the meeting over at 7:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Leo Van Sambeek, Secretary/Treasurer

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