Brodhead Fire Commission Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2025
5:00 P.M.
Brodhead Fire Station

1. **Call to Order:**
   The meeting was called to order at 5:06 PM
2. **Roll Call to determine if a quorum is present.**
   Present - S. Hazeltine, N. Burkhalter, B. Moon, B. Gritzmaker, A. Schneider, P. Faessler
3. **Motion to deviate from the order of the agenda if necessary.**
   N. Burkhalter made a motion to approve the agenda as it was presented.
   Seconded by A. Schneider
   Motion Passed
4. **Public Appearances: This is the public's opportunity to speak.**
   Each citizen is allowed 10 minutes to address the Commission.
   Amber Foster, owner of Foster Gaming, attended the district meeting to voice her concerns about the business next door, Good Olde Stuff. She is worried about the fire load inside the building and the numerous fire violations that have occurred in the past. She would like to remodel her store, but she doesn't want to invest the time and money in it in case a fire breaks out next door.
   Chief Scheidegger informed the District that he and Chief Raupp had reinspected the business, and the owner stated that he was no longer in business and had not renewed his business license. Fire inspections are conducted on businesses and apartments with four or more units. Since he is no longer in business and does not have apartments with more than four units, it does not fall under fire inspections. B. Gritzmaker mentioned that this issue might now fall under zoning regulations. There was a question about whether he had a current business license or if it had expired. This will be looked into.
5. **Approval of previous meeting minutes. Discussion/Possible Action.**
   Motion to approve the minutes of the Brodhead Fire Commission monthly meeting held on May 2, 2025, as presented.
   N. Burkhalter made a motion to accept the minutes from the May 2, 2025, meeting as presented.
   Seconded by A. Schneider
   Motion Passed
6. **Treasurer's Report- Discussion/Possible Action:**
   Operating Checking Account Balance: **$134,025.75**
   Capital Money Market Capital Fund Balance: **$545,278.16**
   Total Accounts Balance: **$679,303.91**
   Motion to approve the Treasurer's report made by A. Schneider
   Seconded by N. Burkhalter
   Motion passed

7. **Payments of Bills- Discussion/Possible Action:**

Bills paid after the May 2, 2025, meeting:

AT&T $42.99, Brodhead Water & Light $379.42, Blackhawk Tech $160.00, Capital One $621.22
Decatur Dairy $36.55, Design Electric $1,836.00, EcoWater $23.00, EMS Industrial $412.54
Firefighter Pay Leave Work April $727.82, Gasser $17.55, L&S Trucking $772.75,
Lifequest/Fire Recovery $265.51, McNeil & Co $26,830.96, Napa $8.85, Piggly Wiggly $23.76
Pinnow Pharmacy $287.50, Register Print $22.00, Reimburse-Goncher Jr. $462.00,
Sewer-City of Brodhead $134.46, Spectrum $229.90, Speich $318.83, Streamline $200.00,
WE Energies $256.78

Revenue received after the May 2, 2025, meeting:

Brodhead Area EMS $45.22, Fire Recovery USA $1,762.50, Interest $11.67,
Brodhead Fire Inc. $7.00

Motion to approve the payment of bills made by N. Burkhalter
Seconded by A. Schneider
Motion passed

8. **Reports of department activities:**

A. **Firefighters Inc.: Nothing at this time**

B. **Fire Inspector:**

Good Olde Stuff follow-up from last district meeting. Chief Scheidegger was in contact with the owner and arranged a meeting time. Chief Scheidegger and Chief Raupp met with the business owner. The business owner informed them that he is out of business and had not renewed his business license with the City of Brodhead. Since the building is no longer in operation, it is no longer subject to the Brodhead Fire District's business fire inspections. He was asked to move debris from the front door entrance.

C. **Administrative Assistant Reports:**

<u>May 2025</u>

Fire Response: 11, Cancel: 0, MABAS: 5, Lift Assist: 3, MVA: 4, Assist BAEMS: 2, Assist GCEMS: 0
Assist Orfy: 1 (Brodhead 850 in for repairs), Assist 860: 0, 1st Response: 1 (Brodhead 850 in for repairs)

Total 27 calls

D. **Life Quest/Fire Recovery:**

<u>May 2025</u>

Claims Submitted: 7 for $3,833.50
Payments received 9 claims by FRUSA: $6,617.00
Claims Denied: 0
Non-Billable(Other): 0
In Progress: 6

E. **Fire Chief:**

Chief Scheidegger verified the question asked at the last meeting regarding the number of firefighters needed for an engine crew. According to NFPA 1710 section 5.2.3.1.1, Engine Companies shall be staffed with a minimum of four on-duty members, and section 5.2.3.2.1, Ladder/Truck Companies shall be staffed with a minimum of four on-duty members.

The station's roof gables have buckled and become loose. Chief Scheidegger contacted the company that installed them, and they provided him with an estimated $10,000 to repair the station. The wrong gables were installed 12 years ago. Stone Mill will be the contractor making repairs as soon as parts arrive.

9. **Old Business:**

   A. **Update on Innovation Grant Planning: Discussion/Possible Action**

   Brodhead Fire & Brodhead Area EMS, Orfordville Fire, Footville Fire, a Retired Fire Chief from Hartford, and two members from Innovation Planning conducted a kickoff call for the Innovation Grant on May 22, 2025. The discussion focused on current and future challenges, thoughts on shared services, and ideal steps. Innovation planning will reach out to each municipality involved to schedule a meeting with them and the fire departments and EMS personnel involved. No date has been set up for future meetings.

   B. **Placing an ambulance in Brodhead Fire Station: Discussion/Possible Action**

   Lengthy discussion on placing an ambulance in the station.

   B. Gritzmaker requested estimates for the cost of an ambulance. The district was provided with six examples, including a utility vehicle that Chief Scheidegger was looking for and ambulances ranging from 2011 to 2024, costing $95,500 to $245,500. This does not include the equipment needed to be inside the ambulance.

   Chris Searles inquired about the purpose of having an ambulance stationed at the fire station. B. Gritzmaker mentioned this was his motion. B. Gritzmaker mentioned four reasons why

   1. Chief Scheidegger asked about a smaller vehicle for First Response calls and MVA accidents. (For the record, Chief Scheidegger asked for a small utility vehicle, not an ambulance.)
   2. There is space in the station to house an ambulance.
   3. It would be a revenue source.
   4. There is money in the capital fund to purchase an ambulance.

   Chris Searles asked, given that Brodhead 850 would have two ambulances by September, how would the ambulances be paged to calls? Who would be the primary ambulance? S. Hazeltine mentioned that it would be up to the municipalities and who they want to contract with.

   S. Hazeltine summarized how Orfordville's ambulance service, which operates with three part-time employees, would cost roughly $730,000 for 24/7 coverage.

   It was also mentioned that an ambulance is not a huge money maker. Medicare patients have a set amount they may get, but there is no guarantee of payment for other types of calls.

   Chris Searles mentioned that the municipalities had received the ambulance service for years for free. Within the last few years, however, an assessment of $30.00 per capita for ambulance service was imposed on the municipalities. The City of Brodhead's assessment was roughly $97,000 for coverage.

   N. Burkhalter mentioned that Brodhead Fire and Brodhead EMS are not working together.

   C. Searles said the firefighters and EMS personnel work well together and train regularly. Eleven firefighters also run on Brodhead 850 out of the 24 members of Brodhead Fire, so it's hard to say they don’t work together when most personnel are the same on both departments. The board's upper management can not see eye to eye at this time.

B. Gritzmaker motioned to table the discussion on placing an ambulance in the Brodhead Fire Station.

Seconded by N. Burkhalter

10. New Business :

A. Paid on Premise- Job description, number of calls, hours worked: Discussion/Possible Action

Admin Assistant Oborne could not print out the Paid on Premise job descriptions. She reviewed the number of calls the current paid on-premise employees have made during their time on call. More information will be provided at the next district meeting.

11. Commission Comments or Questions:

Commission's opportunity to speak about anything, not a specific agenda item.

Gritzmaker wanted it on record that the City of Brodhead had signed the amendment to the agreement, stating that if the City left the Fire District, it would leave with nothing.

12. Discussion/Possible Action on future agenda items and next meeting date and time:

Next meeting date: Tuesday, July 1, 2025, at 5:00 PM

13. Motion to adjourn.

Motion to adjourn at 6:57 PM by N. Burkhalter

Meeting adjourned

Minutes Typed By: Heather Oborne
6/17/2025 at 2:23 PM