

MINUTES

May 14th, 2019

- OPENING:** The regular meeting of the Little Lake Fire Protection District Board of Directors was called to order by Tony Madrigal at 5:01 PM.
- ROLL CALL:** Present: Nancy Stipe, Arnie Mello, Skip Lucier, Tom Herman and Tony Madrigal
- MINUTES:** The minutes for the April 9th, 2019 meeting were reviewed and accepted. Motion to accept the minutes: Tom Herman 1st; Arnie Mello 2nd.
- TREASURER'S REPORT:** Chief Wilkes reviewed the treasurer's report with the board. Chief Wilkes explained to the board we are still expecting revenue from the strike teams. Anderson Valley was audited for the Delta and possibly we could be as well which is causing the delay. In clothing the district purchased 3 dry suits which were funded by a donation. We had our Measure J election cost deducted from the county this month in 86-2231. Motion to accept the treasurer's report: Tom Herman 1st; Nancy Stipe 2nd.
- CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS:** NONE
- OLD BUSINESS:** **FIREHOUSE:** Tony Madrigal asked Arnie Mello to fill the board in on the finance part of the firehouse. Arnie Mello informed the board our insurance bond boosted the rating from A+ to AA. The insurance company will back us if we were to get into financial trouble and we would have to repay the insurance company. This insurance policy will save the tax payers money. Due to the financial stability of the district we were able to get a loan for 28 years instead of 40. Arnie Mello followed through with informing the board that all of the paperwork is completed and should be completed by May 16th. Arnie Mello also reported if the annual payment is less than the revenue from Measure J, the difference will go into a special fund and after 7 years we will have the option to put the funds toward the debt. Chief Wilkes informed the board Dennis is

moving forward and hoping to have updated plans shortly. Arnie Mello is concerned about losing the City of Willits code enforcement officer Chris Morgan. This may slow the process for the firehouse. Chief Wilkes stated we may have to send our plan checks out to a 3rd party. Chief Wilkes informed the board that Roots of Motive Power has the original fire department bell from the Babcock collection. The bell is bronze and about 530lbs. The staff is currently working on the location for the bell in the new fire station. The house at 52 Humboldt has been purchased and the staff is currently waiting for progress.

NEW BUSINESS: **AUDIT:** Zach was unable to attend and Michelle will email the board with his current available dates.

PRELIMINAR BUDGET: Chief Wilkes reviewed the preliminary budget with the board. The staff did not add revenue from PROP 172 and strike team as they are not dependable. The revenue from 52 Humboldt will also be a loss in our revenue. Chief Wilkes reviewed fund by fund and explained the funds that had the most changes. Calpers had an increase this year; however Arnie Mello stated we are very fortunate to have it so low. Nancy Stipe asked if it will continue to rise. Arnie Mello stated it was possible but he foresees improvement. Compensation increased due to strike team last year and clothing increased due to the increase rate in structure gear. Once we confirm any additional revenue, we will add to the revenue in the budget.

CANNIBIS EXCISE TAX – Chief Wilkes informed the board he will be meeting with the ad-hoc committee to discuss. The fire department is a huge part of public safety. Arnie Mello stated the fire department plays a crucial role with these facilities and we need to be a part of the process. Chief Wilkes stated it is taxing on the fire departments with the time, equipment and training for what is needed to operate as the city's fire marshal for these facilities. Firefighters will need to be trained on flammable solvents etc..... .

BILLS: Motion to pay bills; Tom Herman 1st; Skip Lucier 2nd.

TRAINING REPORT: Training Chief Alvarez was not in attendance. Chief Wilkes reported we are working with wildland training. 23 people completed the hose pack testing including Ridgewood Ranch.

FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOC. REPORT: Harry So is the newest secretary for the association. The association is also working on new signers at Savings Bank.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Wilkes reported the call volume for last month was 52. Deputy Chief Thomen has been busy with maintenance on the engines. Ladder truck testing is Wednesday. 1989 ladder truck looks new because of our Deputy Chiefs maintenance. All supplies came in for the BLS update. Ambulance service in Willits has been limited. Ambulances make more revenue with transfers therefore leaving the area often without an ambulance. Chief Wilkes is not sure where the ambulance service is headed. As of June 1st, ambulance service of level 1 or below will require our volunteers to respond which will be taxing on our volunteers. Tom Herman inquired if Mendocino Hospital had an ambulance. Chief Wilkes stated they do but the hospital is for sale. Chief Wilkes stated public safety shut offs will happen this year. Holly Madrigal asked how much lead time people will get. Chief Wilkes stated should be 72 hours. Chief Wilkes would like citizens to take these shut offs seriously. Air quality sent an email May 1st requiring burn permits from their facility. Our burn permits will be valid until May 31st, after that an Air Quality permit will be required. Chief Wilkes stated if Air Quality wants to issue permits, they need to follow thru with smoke checks. Chief Wilkes does not want to the added burden to our volunteers and if we are constantly responding on their smoke checks we will bill.

Meeting adjourned to closed session at 7:02PM

Tony Madrigal, President

Michelle Schnitzius, Secretary/Treasurer

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