



LITTLE LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



74 E Commercial Street
Willits, California 95490
(707)459-6271

MINUTES

May12th, 2026

- OPENING:** Tony Madrigal called the regular meeting of the Little Lake Fire Protection District Board of Directors to order at 5:03 PM.
- ROLL CALL:** Tony Madrigal, Arnie Mello, Tom Herman, Skip Lucier and Nancy Stipe
- AMEND AGENDA:** Board President Tony Madrigal brought forth a motion to amend the agenda to add a closed session. Tom Herman motioned to amend the agenda 1st; Nancy Stipe 2nd.
- MINUTES:** Approved by Skip Lucier 1st and Arnie Mello 2nd.
- TREASURER'S REPORT:** Motion to accept the Treasurers Report: Tom Herman 1st; Arnie Mello 2nd.
- CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS:** NONE
- OLD BUSINESS:**
- INSPECTIONS:** Fire Chief Eric Alvarez reported that staff sent out 2nd notices for apartment inspections. If staff does not hear back from apartments for appointments then the fire department will just show up. These are state mandated inspections.
- ENGINE 5480 REPAIR:** Chief Alvarez reported that Deputy Chief Thomen has not heard much communication. Engine 5480 is currently in Sacramento. So far \$2400.00 is the running total. Chief Alvarez also added hose is currently on the budget but Deputy Chief Thomen is holding off outfitting a second engine until staff knows



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what Engine 5480 will cost. Some of our hose is from 1984. Tony Madrigal added he is hoping the pump can be fixed, it is the original that came on Engine 5480 which is 20 years old.

WEIST LAW: After our last meeting with Weist Law and Shuster Advisory Group, we are mostly dealing with Shuster advisory Group and will contact Weist Law when needed. Tony Madrigal reported there was a meeting with the Section 115 financial committee prior to the board meeting. Arnie Mello reported the financial committee gave Shuster all of the information for signature cards. Once documents have been signed then staff can transfer the money into the Section 115 account. Arnie Mello informed the board this will allow the District to get ahead of the pension liability. This will allow the district to be proactive towards liabilities. Tony Madrigal and Arnie Mello are the main signers and Michelle Schnitzius and Eric Alvarez are view only for documents.

NEW BUSINESS: **PRELIMINARY BUDGET 2026-2027:** Michelle Schnitzius reviewed the 2026-2027 preliminary budget page by page as the introduction. The Preliminary Budget will be adopted in the June meeting.

BILLS: Motion to pay bills: Arnie Mello 1st; Skip Lucier 2nd.

TRAINING REPORT: Captain So is currently donating his time at Blosser Lane for a Carnival event open house. Fire Chief Alvarez reported to the board there have been an accumulative 307 hours of training so far this years. There was a recent “out of county” strike team class which is the last of the classes to obtain a red card. Recently Deputy Chief Thomen attended a strike team class in Hopland. On May 5th, drill night consisted of ropes knots and hardware with idgewood Ranch, CalFire, and Brooktrails attended. On May 26th an over the embankment class will be held. EMT certification will be circulatory emergencies and on May 13th, the EPI



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syringe draw class will be held which is mandatory for all EMT's. Captain So has recently signed up for 2 fire education classes in July. Captain So also set up a booth at the high school for open house offering fire extinguisher training.

FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOC. REPORT: Association President Chad Leshner was not able to attend. Chief Alvarez announced the Little Lake Fire poker tournament will be held May 30th.

CHIEFS REPORT: Chief Alvarez reported staff has been working on a pallet for the education inflatable which is 700 lbs. Currently staff is looking for a used enclosed trailer to haul the inflatable so other entities can use it. On May 6th, Little Lake Fire hosted the Chiefs meeting in the bay. All Star recently came to the firehouse for a gear presentation. Deputy Chief Thomen is due and staff is looking for a new set. Staff is waiting on repair quote for 5480 in order to determine if staff is able to order hose as the hose is from 1984. The drone was recently used per CHP request. The drone hit a branch and broke a bracket. Chief Alvarez is currently working on parts with the drone company. There was a recent over the embankment call on Highway 20. Firefighters used the rescue and worked with Ridgewood Ranch and CalFire on the incident. CalFire did not have enough rope so firefighters used Little Lake rope to help retrieve the victim. The operation was successful with everyone's help. There was a loose clip that Deputy Chief Thomen found later that affected the wench usage for the operation. Chief Alvarez thanked Deputy Chief Thomen for all the repairs he does for the engines. The in house repairs save the community a lot of money. Chief Alvarez added 5 different radio channels had to be used for this operation.

Suspend to closed session: 6:46 PM



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Report out of closed session: 7:45 PM
Meeting Adjourned 7:46 PM

Tony Madrigal

Tony Madrigal, Chairman

Michelle Schnitzius

Michelle Schnitzius, Secretary

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and employer.***



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Report out of closed session:

Salary negotiations