



LITTLE LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

1575 Baechtel Rd. Willits, California 95490
(707)459-6271

Chris Wilkes
Fire Chief

MINUTES August 10th, 2021

- OPENING:** The regular meeting of the Little Lake Fire Protection District Board of Directors was called to order by Tony Madrigal at 4:58 PM.
- ROLL CALL:** Present: Arnie Mello, Skip Lucier, Tom Herman, Nancy Stipe and Tony Madrigal.
- MINUTES:** Motion to accept the July meeting minutes: Tom Herman 1st; Arnie Mello 2nd.
- MEETING SUSPENDED 4:59PM:** Meeting suspended for Bill Carter and Brian Bartholomew spoke about the Explorer program. Brian informed the board the program original started with Ben O'Neil but Ben had to take a leave of absent. Brian is excited with the new young people that want to join the program. Bill and Brian are happy to see the enthusiasm of the new recruits. The explorers will be limited to certain calls and will be mentored. Nancy Stipe asked the ages of explorers. Bill Carter stated 14-21 years of age. Brian stated he is waiting for the District's OK with the program and they will move forward. Chief Wilkes stated it would be nice to purchase them a different uniform so the volunteers know the explorers on scene. Skip Lucier stated he will look into additional funding for the uniform. Tony Madrigal stated if the consensus is to move forward with the program the district can help with the liability insurance. Chief Wilkes stated we will develop a resolution at a future board meeting to start the program. Tony Madrigal stated he is good with it as long as insured. Bill Carter asked if they can start the P.O.S.T paperwork right away. Skip Lucier responded yes. Brian asked who will follow up on the liability. Skip Lucier stated he would follow up.
- TREASURER'S REPORT:** Chief Wilkes stated Appendix A and Appendix B do not have any significant changes. Chief Wilkes stated 86-2120, Maintenance of Equipment had new tires and lettering paid out and Fund 86-2150, Memberships paid out on Lexipol for policies.



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Minutes August 10th, 2021
Page 2

CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chief Wilkes stated the house next to us, Sheila Persico and her father, sent a nice thank you card. They were happy with the fence and taking care of the area.

OLD BUSINESS: **FIREHOUSE:** Chief Wilkes stated he received a project update 15 minutes before the board meeting and will read it through when he can. The apparatus bay is being painted and power has been completed. Chief Wilkes also reported the correct flag pole will be put up next week.

NEW ENGINE E5469: Chief Wilkes reported Administrative Assistant Michelle Schnitzius is working with WestAmerica on the loan process. Staff is still hoping for the USDA grant. Tony Madrigal asked if we can ask USDA for a grant for SCBA's. Chief Wilkes stated he hopes so as the cost has increased to \$26,000.00 for two. Costs to meet NFPA standards are going through the roof. Chief Wilkes stated it is difficult for small departments to keep up with the rate increases.

NEXUS STUDY: Chief Wilkes stated he is still hoping the Nexus Study will be on the September 14th, 2021 agenda for Board of Supervisors meeting.

GRAND OPENING, RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY AND FUNDRAISER: Chief Wilkes informed the board the staff is working on invitations and everything is coming together.

NEW BUSINESS: **EXPLORER PROGRAM:** Please see suspended agenda above.

BILLS: Motion to pay bills: Tom Herman 1st; Arnie Mello, 2nd.



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Minutes August 10th, 2021
Page 3

TRAINING REPORT: Training Chief Eric Alvarez reported the last drill nights were a review of the recent calls. An obstacle course was set up in a recent drill and went over well with the firefighters. There were 2 over the bank calls in 3 days with critical injuries. The next drill Eric will cover over the embankment. There are many new members that need the experience. Fort Bragg Fire assisted with one of the calls on Hwy. 20. On August 12th, 2021, Training Chief Alvarez will talk to children at the museum about outdoor safety. Tony Madrigal stated the last two trainings have been informative.

FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOC. REPORT: Association President Aaron Branscomb reported firefighter Ashley Roach is off probation.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Wilkes reported the assessment book with the county has been completed. The new program was time consuming but it is now completed. Chief Wilkes reported Chief Noyer spearheaded the PG&E grant funding through the county. We are looking at a UTV that will help out in the outskirts of the areas that are difficult to get to in emergencies. This UTV has a great purpose and may save lives. The district had 72 calls last month which included 16 fires, 23 EMS 18 traffic collision's and the rest were miscellaneous calls. Chief Thomen saved a house on a fire call located on Locust St. He was the first on scene and used his pump and tank. All duty rigs have a pump and tank except the Chief's vehicle. Chief Wilkes thanked the board for allowing the pump and tank purchases.

Regular meeting adjourned to closed session: 5:47PM
Out of closed session: 6:24PM
Meeting adjourned.

Tony Madrigal, President

Michelle Schnitzius, Secretary/Treasurer

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