



LITTLE LAKE FIRE DISTRICT



74 E. Commercial St. • Willits, California 95490
(707)459-6271 • Fax (707)459-7898

Chris Wilkes
Fire Chief

MINUTES October 8th, 2019

- OPENING:** The regular meeting of the Little Lake Fire Protection District Board of Directors was called to order by Tony Madrigal at 5:09PM.
- ROLL CALL:** Present: Tony Madrigal, Skip Lucier, and Tom Herman.
Absent: Arnie Mello and Nancy Stipe
- MINUTES:** The minutes for the September 10th, 2019 meeting were reviewed and accepted. Motion to accept the minutes: Tom Herman 1st; Skip Lucier 2nd.
- TREASURER'S REPORT:** Chief Wilkes reviewed the Treasurers Report with the board. Transportation and Travel was high due to fuel and increased calls. Maintenance of Equipment was high due to a repair on 5401 and replacing the City of Willits backhoe tires which were compromised from a structure fire on Robert Drive. We have invoiced the owner of the Robert Drive structure for reimbursement of the tires. Equipment 86-4370 and Education and Training 86-2187 both had Ipads added. Tom Herman asked if the run books were on the Ipads. Chief Wilkes stated yes they have them and have been used on calls. Chief Wilkes stated the Ipads were a great addition and much needed.
- CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS:** John Haschak informed the board he was in a phone conference this afternoon regarding the public safety power shut offs. Ukiah, Redwood Valley and Hopland have been affected. EOC will be open in the morning at the County of Mendocino. Tom Herman also mentioned Humboldt County was affected as well. Chief Wilkes spoke with PG&E representative Allison Talbot and there is a lot of misinformation on Social Media. Chief Wilkes hopes if there is a power issue due to mother nature (for example a tree falling) PSPSO will not be blamed as would not be PG&E's fault. John Haschak added there is no gas station in Willits that has a generator as far as he knows to obtain gasoline. He stated Coyote Valley in Redwood Valley will have a generator and fuel available to the public. Skip Lucier asked if the power is shut down if the cell towers will be too. Chief Wilkes stated he does not believe there are generator backups for the towers.



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OLD BUSINESS: **FIREHOUSE:** Chief Wilkes informed the board Dennis Dong is currently working with his utility engineer for our current PG&E issues. A prospect for location is the city park. The PG&E application has been submitted and we are awaiting a response from PG&E. The utility location has to be confirmed prior to submitting plans to the City of Willits. Tom Herman stated it is important we are out to bid late winter, early spring. Skip Lucier added bidding early spring would be the best. Tom Herman suggested a follow through with Dennis Dong for a timeline. Chief Wilkes stated he will follow through. Tom Herman asked if the Humboldt House was still in the process of being moved. Chief Wilkes informed the board as far as he knows it is.

CANNIBIS EXCISE TAX: Tony Madrigal informed the board he toured Blosser Lane and N.Lenore facilities this morning with the City of Willits. He stated there was a smaller and larger operation. Tony Madrigal feels the City of Willits has a better understanding from the tour of the responsibility the fire department has with these facilities. Tony Madrigal also stated Chief Wilkes has a good working relationship with the facilities and the tour was well received. Chief Wilkes added the Type 6 signoffs are critical from a Fire Marshal's standpoint. Therefore it is important for the City of Willits to understand why a percentage is being pursued. Until they tour the facilities and actually see the responsibility of the fire department they will not understand. Safety for the firefighters is important. Tony Madrigal stated the tax will be used for a Fire Marshal to do the inspections. Tom Herman stated the presentation of the facilities and Chief Wilkes explaining the impact to the firefighters was important. Tony Madrigal informed the board there will also be equipment we need to buy to accommodate the fire marshal services for these facilities.

EMS: Chief Wilkes informed the board the County of Mendocino proposed a 3/8 cent sales tax to fund EMS. Chief Wilkes stated he is leery as of now as he does not understand the exact direction of this tax, however more information should come forth which will explain more. Chief Wilkes explained we are bare bones with EMS. Our area is at level 0 daily and we are responding to many medical calls we normally would not be responding to. Hopefully soon the LEMSA will be figured out and this issue will be resolved. Chief Wilkes stated in the providers meeting it was said they wanted the local county fire chiefs input which sounds good but they usually do what they want anyways. Chief Wilkes feels the public



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needs to put pressure on the county and realize that this is a problem. Tony Madrigal asked if there is a plan on how to divide up the 3/8 sales tax income. Chief Wilkes replied as of now there is not. Tom Herman stated unless there is a compelling argument it will be difficult to get a super majority vote. Tony Madrigal asked if it would include the coast. Chief Wilkes replied he would hope so. He feels the priority for the ambulance service is transfers and not 911 calls. Chief Wilkes feels there is strong support from the Board of Supervisors which he appreciates. Skip Lucier asked if our area is the only affected area. Chief Wilkes stated he feels it is statewide. Chief Wilkes also stated that there is IGT money out there for public agencies for ambulance reimbursement when there is a loss, however it is a process and he is not sure how it works. Chief Wilkes did state he felt the 911 ambulance service should be a public entity and not dictated by profit.

2019 FIRE CODE ADOPTION: The 2019 Fire Code adoption will be revisited at a future date. There are changes that are currently being made with the fire code.

NEXUS STUDY: Chief Wilkes stated a professional service was hired to study the impact fees for our district. Chief Wilkes stated the idea behind it is to make sure the fire department can provide enough service to the growing need of new development in our area. Skip Lucier inquired if the formulas for impact fees are based on square footage. Chief Wilkes stated yes and storage units, housing and manufacturing will result in more calls and a hardship on the volunteers as well as equipment. Chief Wilkes informed the board that consulting agencies have their own formulas. Hopland Fire is currently going through the Nexus Study and the Chief will follow up with Hopland for more information.

NEW BUSINESS: **2018/2019 EOY:** Michelle reviewed the final end of year budget. There were no significant changes from the preliminary budget. Michelle informed the board the staff will reflect strike team and firehouse on an additional appendix and not on the treasurer's report.

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RECONVEYANCE 52 HUMBOLDT: Chief Wilkes informed the board the reconveyance has been finalized and the house is all cleared with Redwood Empire Title Company.

FIREFIGHTER SAFETY: Chief Wilkes is concerned about traffic control and firefighter safety. Drivers do not slow down and it is very dangerous. Chief Wilkes requested a sign from Caltrans that we can operate as first responders to slow people down. In 2017 there were 84 vehicle accidents in the mile marker 40 area. Traffic control is always the most dangerous part for our volunteers as people do not pay attention.

OES and ABH DEPLOYMENT: The chief stated the staff is on their 3rd deployment for standby. The chief is hoping to receive invoices soon for the previous deployments.

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

TRAINING REPORT: Chief Wilkes informed Tom Herman fire hose is available for trailer chains.

FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOC. REPORT: No report

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Wilkes stated he has been meeting with OES over evacuation routes for Pine Mountain. Chief Wilkes is researching grant money to assist with this process. Chief Wilkes is hoping to get funds to help purchase informational items such as magnets for refrigerators with evacuation routes. Tom Herman added there are several areas residents can shelter in place depending on where the fire is. Chief Wilkes informed the board he would like to move \$110,000.00 out of fund balance available to vehicle replacement.

Motion to adjourn the meeting Tony Madrigal 1st; Tom Herman 2nd at 6:23PM

Tony Madrigal, President

Michelle Schnitzius, Secretary/Treasurer

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