



LITTLE LAKE FIRE DISTRICT



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

Chris Wilkes
Fire Chief

MINUTES

December 10th, 2019

- OPENING:** The regular meeting of the Little Lake Fire Protection District Board of Directors was called to order by Tony Madrigal at 5:00 PM.
- ROLL CALL:** Present: Tony Madrigal, Skip Lucier, Arnie Mello and Nancy Stipe.
Absent: Tom Herman
- SUSPENDED:** The meeting was suspended for the presentation of the generator.
Meeting resumed at 5:05PM
- MINUTES:** The minutes for the November 12th, 2019 meeting were reviewed and accepted. Motion to accept the minutes: Skip Lucier 1st; Arnie Mello 2nd.
- TREASURER'S REPORT:** Chief Wilkes reviewed the Treasurers Report with the board. Chief Wilkes informed the board the association stipend was paid out this month. Chief Wilkes feels the staff is doing well maintaining the budget as the budget is only at 37% at mid-year. Appendix A and B were reviewed. No change to appendix A and Appendix B is a strike team update.
- CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Chief Wilkes informed the board Daniel Mendoza has submitted a resignation letter due to relocation to another state. Tony Madrigal directed staff to write a letter to Daniel Mendoza thanking him for his time and commitment to the department. Chief Wilkes read a thank you donation letter to the board thanking the department for their service.
- OLD BUSINESS:**
- FIREHOUSE:** Chief Wilkes reported the City of Willits has the firehouse plans as well as the application for the new firehouse and will review them. Chief Wilkes is still not satisfied with the PG&E transformer location but it "is what it is".
- CANNIBIS EXCISE TAX:** Tony Madrigal informed the board there will be an Ad-hoc meeting this Thursday. Tony Madrigal will have more information at the next board meeting.



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EMS: Chief Wilkes reviewed the basics of the local EMS services. Chief Wilkes informed the board the system is delicate and it is demanding for our volunteers. Our calls have increased 150-200 calls due to the ambulance issue. The volunteers are busy with our normal call volume and to add this issue to it is too much to ask of them. Tony Madrigal stated if anyone had any questions please contact Chief Wilkes. Skip Lucier asked about perimeters for the ambulance service. Chief Wilkes stated the perimeters are from the south county line at 101 to Leggett. Nancy Stipe inquired if Laytonville ambulance was included and Chief Wilkes replied yes. Chief Wilkes also informed the board if the ambulances choose to do transfers they also have to offer 911 services. If an ambulance company only wants to respond to 911 calls they do not have to do transfers, but the money is in the transfers. Due to multiple transfers a day many times there is only one ambulance left to serve 60,000 people in the county. If there is a 911 call with the last ambulance the county is often left with 0 ambulances to serve the 60,000 citizens. Nancy Stipe asked the chief if Ukiah has an ambulance. Chief Wilkes stated they do but the ambulance is not staffed 24 hours. There was a recent incident where there were no ambulances available in the county and Ukiah along with Laytonville ambulance had to staff for service. Chief Wilkes stated Medstar is working hard to make the ambulance service work in the county. The college is also working towards a paramedic program. The county would like to eventually go out for a ½ cent sales tax but there needs to be a plan in place for support. A fully staffed ambulance will cost approximately 1.2 million per year. Our budget would not be able to cover an ambulance service to assist the county. Nancy Stipe asked if Laytonville residences pay for their ambulance service in their community. Chief Wilkes replied they pay for 911 service but not transfer services. Tony Madrigal asked about mental health transfers. Chief Wilkes stated many transfers are mental health related going to Redding or St. Helena which takes the ambulance out of service for approximately 9 hours. Arnie Mello inquired if the ultimate responsibility for the ambulance issue is the county. Chief Wilkes stated yes the county is ultimately responsible for providing ambulance service. The CEO is silent according to the chief. The chief stated it is very difficult to get an answer as phone calls and emails are not returned. Arnie Mello asked if the hospitals can contract with transfer services. Chief Wilkes stated that was common and if a plan came about with the ½ cent sales tax he would stand behind it because he would know



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where the tax dollars were going. Skip Lucier asked if there are companies that do transfers only. Chief Wilkes answered yes, in Sonoma County that is what Falck offers. Chief Wilkes added that demographics play a large role as counties like Marin, where people have more health insurance, 911 calls are more profitable and inviting for companies. Arnie Mello thanked Chief Wilkes for the explanations.

NEXUS STUDY: Chief Wilkes reported the study is well underway. Chief Wilkes informed the board that once finished the staff will run through the Board of Supervisors and county counsel for approval. Tony Madrigal asked what we can do in the meantime if a development comes in. Chief Wilkes stated Blaire from the Nexus study asked for any project referrals and he can calculate the fees.

GENERATOR REPLACEMENT: A tour of the new generator was given in the beginning of the board meeting.

EMERGENCY VEHICLE REPLACEMENT: Chief Wilkes informed the board a Dodge Ram 3500 was purchased. The pump and tank from the previous vehicle will be used to save funds. The Ram should be delivered in 4-6 weeks.

NEW BUSINESS: **ELECTION:** Election of 2020 officers for Board President and Vice President were held. Skip Lucier motioned to have Tony Madrigal remain as president. Motion to accept Tony Madrigal for president: Skip Lucier 1st; Arnie Mello 2nd. All ayes. Tony Madrigal motioned to have Skip Lucier remain as vice president. Motion for Skip Lucier for vice president: Tony Madrigal 1st; Arnie Mello 2nd. All ayes.

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

TRAINING REPORT: Training Chief Eric Alvarez reported the last drill of the year was a jeopardy learning exercise. 90% of the questions were fire related and 10% apparatus. 4 volunteers attended fire 3A class. 3 volunteers have almost completed their EMT. The EMT final is this Thursday then the national registry will be next. Training Chief Alvarez helped with the high school scrubs class final which was ropes and knots. Training Chief



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Alvarez will hold a fire extinguisher training class at Northbrook on Monday.

FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOC. REPORT: Training Chief Alvarez reported the toy run on December 1st consisted of 5 apparatuses. There was a great turnout with volunteers. The staff appreciates the dedication the volunteers have to this community. The crab feed will be on Feb. 1st, 2019 but the location is yet to be determined as there is no longer a working kitchen at the firehouse. Nancy Stipe asked what the school children do now that there is not an open firehouse on Commercial St. for their yearly visits. Training Chief Alvarez stated he takes the engines to the parks or takes the engines to the classrooms. Skip Lucier announced the Willits Lions and Boy Scouts will hold a Chamber mixer/open house on January 17th at the new Boy Scout hut.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Wilkes reported that the call volume to date is 780 calls. Chief Wilkes is very proud of our volunteers. One call in particular was a major extraction on Highway 162 with major injuries and an unstable vehicle. The volunteers had to chain the vehicle to stabilize it. The hydraulic tools were used and worked out great. The volunteers did an amazing job and saved a life yet again. Chief Wilkes thanked the board for allowing the purchase of the tools. Chief Wilkes reported Assembly Bill 85 was passed. This bill puts the responsibilities of inspections on the districts even the volunteer districts. The staff is currently working on the schools and over Christmas break more schools will be completed. The staff has been busy with calls so they are doing the best with the time they have. Tony Madrigal stated he joined them for the inspections that were completed and it was time consuming as they had to go to room to room. Chief Wilkes informed the board Aaron Branscomb has been a huge help to the department. Aaron is now the volunteer safety officer. A safety officer makes sure the scenes are safe and the volunteers have the correct gear.

Motion to adjourn at 7:05PM

Tony Madrigal, President

Michelle Schnitzius, Secretary/Treasurer

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