



LITTLE LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



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

MINUTES

July 14th, 2026

- OPENING: Tony Madrigal called the regular meeting of the Little Lake Fire Protection District Board of Directors to order at 5:07 PM.
- ROLL CALL: Tony Madrigal, Tom Herman, Skip Lucier and Nancy Stipe
Absent: Arnie Mello
- MINUTES: Approved by Tom Herman 1st, Nancy Stipe 2nd.
- TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report: Tom Herman 1st, Skip Lucier 2nd.
- CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE
- OLD BUSINESS: INSPECTIONS: Fire Chief Eric Alvarez informed the board there is only one inspection left to complete for hotels. Staff will just need to stop by the hotel, as the hotel is not returning calls for an inspection appointment. Apartments will be starting soon.
- ENGINE 5480 REPAIR: Chief Alvarez informed the board that the cost to fix the Engine was \$5,600.00 and was relieved that the engine did not need a new pump. Staff spent the entire day outfitting the engine so the engine can be in service as soon as possible. We may need to purchase one more tablet for tablet command. Tony Madrigal thanked staff for taking the time to outfit the engine. Captain So took photos of the engine before removal of the supplies to help with putting everything back.



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WEIST LAW/SHUSTER ADVISORY GROUP: Tony Madrigal informed the board the account has been set up. Michelle Schnitzius added there will be a resolution at the next meeting to transfer funds.

NEW BUSINESS: **ENGINE 5464: ACTION**
Tony Madrigal is looking for approval from the board to assist Ridgewood Ranch with repair to their engine. Ridgewood Ranch is a mutual aid partner as well as under Little Lake Fire Protection District's umbrella. Tony informed the board Ridgewood Ranch is a huge asset to Little Lake Fire and the Willits community. Tony Madrigal suggested helping with half of their bill not to exceed \$3,000.00. Motion to pay up to \$3,000.00 for repairs: Tom Herman 1st; Skip Lucier 2nd. Nancy Stipe added we are lucky to have them.

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

TRAINING REPORT: Captain So informed the board that there are 387 group training hours to date. On June 30th, firefighters had nozzle training. July 4th water fights were successful. At the recent captains' meeting, Captain So reviewed gates, FlowMSP, strike team paperwork, and tablet command. Training was canceled on 7/7/26 as the volunteers have been extremely busy at the community events. On July 1st, 2026, EMT will consist of a BLS Update and Splinting. Captain So signed up for two classes but, due to scheduling, was not able to attend. Tony Madrigal thanked staff and volunteers for volunteering in the community and going on calls for two weeks straight. .

FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOC. REPORT: Association President Chad Leshner was not able to attend. Captain So informed the board 4th of July coverage went well. Captain So also thanked Amber and Bryan from Brooktrails Fire Department for their assistance with coverage over the 4th of July events.



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CHIEFS REPORT: Chief Alvarez stated there were 63 calls last month. Many of the calls were due to the earthquake. Ridgewood Ranch, Brooktrails, and CalFIRE all staged for mutual aid. Ukiah Valley Fire also called to assist if needed. When incidents like this happen, it is a reminder for the community and fire departments of what can happen. Chief Alvarez met with Davey at the City of Willits and surveyed businesses around town. Many businesses had damage. After staff inspected businesses, Little Lake Fire staff continued to survey homes in the community to see if anyone needed assistance. Chief Alvarez stated staff is working on organizing Station 541. Two volunteer responders are out on medical leave. Chief Alvarez recently received a recruitment kit for volunteers. Staff will pass out fliers around town for interest. Chief Alvarez is hoping to get more responders for our community and the fire department. The community does not realize there is no 24-hour paid staff at the department. Chief Alvarez thanked Tom Herman for his assistance on the log yard and asphalt plant plans. Staff is trying to recover costs through Fire Recovery on accidents; however, many drivers do not have insurance, so the department takes a loss on those consumables used.

Meeting Adjourned 6:02 PM
Motion to adjourn meeting: Skip Lucier 1st; Nancy Stipe 2nd.

Tony Madrigal

Tony Madrigal, Chairman

Michelle Schnitzius

Michelle Schnitzius, Secretary

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