



# LITTLE LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



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

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## MINUTES

September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**OPENING:** The regular meeting of the Little Lake Fire Protection District Board of Directors was called to order by Tony Madrigal at 5:03 PM.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Nancy Stipe, Arnie Mello, Tony Madrigal, and Skip Lucier. Absent: Tom Herman

### MEETING SUSPENDED 5:03 PM

The District recognized Deputy Chief John Thomen for his 40 years of service. A Proclamation was presented to John, as well as a wooden flag. Jeff Donaldson, Manny Orozco, Aaron Branscomb, Michelle Schnitzius, and Tony Madrigal spoke about John, and Nancy Stipe read and presented John with the Proclamation.

### MEETING RESUMED 5:34 PM

**MINUTES:** Motion to accept the August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 minutes: Arnie Mello, 1<sup>st</sup>, Skip Lucier, 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Motion to accept the September Treasurer's Report: Skip Lucier 1<sup>st</sup>, Nancy Stipe 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS:** NONE

**OLD BUSINESS:** **FIREHOUSE:** No update. Michelle Schnitzius is still waiting to hear from ACGC. Arnie suggested writing a letter to ACGC.

**NEW ENGINE 5469:** Deputy Chief Thomen reported the flashlights and handhelds have been transferred to the new Engine 5469, and training has begun. Deputy Chief Thomen hopes for Engine 5469 to be in service in October. Michelle Schnitzius



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informed the board the USDA reimbursement had come through.

**USDA EQUIPMENT GRANT:** Michelle Schnitzius reported to the board the district is waiting on reimbursement.

**AFG GRANT-** Michelle has submitted all the required paperwork that was asked so far. Lexipol is assisting with the grant. This grant will hopefully purchase SCBAs and turnouts.

**NEW BUSINESS:** **DEPUTY CHIEF JOHN THOMEN** – See suspended meeting.

**BILLS:** Motion to pay bills: Arnie Mello 1<sup>st</sup>; Skip Lucier 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**TRAINING REPORT:** Training Officer Jeff Donaldson reported he held a side-by-side UTV class last Sunday. Training Officer Donaldson added he will offer another Type 6 Brush Truck Sunday class. Fire Marshal Eric Alvarez will be attending an upcoming fire inspection class.

**FIRE MARSHAL:** Fire Marshal Eric Alvarez reported he has been working with the hospital regarding EV training. Fire Marshal Alvarez thanked the paper for an educational article published about fire extinguishers and is working on signage for some apartments near Grocery Outlet.

**FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOC. REPORT:** Association president Aaron Branscomb reported firefighters are volunteering their time for EMT standby at the football games. Firefighter Mike Frahm has been volunteering for EMT standby for 20 years.

**CHIEF'S REPORT:** Deputy Chief Thomen informed the board a few engines have been under maintenance. Deputy Chief Thomen had to retrofit a new charger on the rescue as they do not make the older ones anymore. The alternator on the Engine 5485 could not be rebuilt, and a new one was installed.



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CONT.....

Deputy Chief John Thomen's truck recently had a leak, and the entire motor had to be pulled to be fixed. On truck 5403, a plug failed, and Deputy Chief Thomen was happy the whole engine did not have to be removed. There were 47 calls in August. There were 15 fires, 22 rescues/traffic collisions, three calls for service, and seven false alarms. One incident was a fully involved vehicle on Muir Mill Rd. Our quick attack knocked down the fire until Engine 5468 arrived. Another incident was an 11.5-acre fire at mile marker 40. There was also a residential fire at 1750 S. Main Street. Fire Marshall Alvarez noticed the fire was starting to ride up the structure at the corner of the house. Fire Marshal Alvarez was able to knock it down with his quick attack until more assistance arrived. Deputy Chief Thomen thanked Ridgewood Ranch and Brooktrails Fire for their response. Deputy Chief Thomen stated it was turned over to the City of Willits to determine if it was inhabitable. Deputy Chief Thomen also informed the board of a suspicious fire in the Skunk Hollow area. The debris fire caught a PG&E power pole on fire and started arching. The firefighters had to wait for PG&E to turn off power to the lines. Deputy Chief Thomen stated that there was a lot of moisture in the air due to the time of night, which helped keep the fire from spreading. Our firefighters were out from 11 p.m. until 4:30 a.m. on that fire. The fire is under investigation. Deputy Chief Thomen thanked our volunteers for their hard work and dedication to this community. He stated the department would not be what it is today without our volunteers. Deputy Chief Thomen hopes the community thanks a volunteer when they see one. In conclusion, Deputy Chief Thomen wanted to remind the public there is still a state-wide burn ban.



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The regular meeting adjourned to closed session at 6:20 PM.

Closed session meeting adjourned: 7:09 PM.

*Tony Madrigal*

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Tony Madrigal, Chairman

*Michelle Schnitzius*

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Michelle Schnitzius, Secretary/Treasurer

***This institution is an equal opportunity provider and  
employer.***

***Report out:***

***Update on a personnel issue***