



LITTLE LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



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

MINUTES

January 14th, 2025

- OPENING:** Tony Madrigal called the regular meeting of the Little Lake Fire Protection District Board of Directors to order at 5:00 PM.
- ROLL CALL:** Tony Madrigal, Skip Lucier, Arnie Mello, Nancy Stipe present; Tom Herman absent.
- MINUTES:** Approved by Skip Lucier 1st; Nancy Stipe 2nd.
- TREASURER'S REPORT:** Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report: Arnie Mello 1st; Skip Lucier, 2nd.
- CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None
- OLD BUSINESS:**
- FEE SCHEDULE:** Chief Alvarez reported the fee schedule is close to completion for an action item at the next board meeting.
- BOARD WORKSHOP AGENDA IDEAS:** Michelle Schnitzius announced the board workshop date will be February 18th, 2025 at 10AM.
- TURNOUTS:** Chief Alvarez reported staff is looking into purchasing 5 sets of turnouts. LN Curtis should be bringing turnouts to try on at the end of January. Top responders will get the new sets.
- NEW BUSINESS:**
- 2025 FIRE CODE ADOPTION:** Chief Alvarez is currently looking into the 2025 fire code. Chief Alvarez stated Matt Keizer from Ukiah Valley offered to assist with process when needed. Arnie Mello asked if Matt Keizer will view the changes that have been made. Chief Alvarez confirmed he will assist with changes as



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there have been many additions in 2025. Tony Madrigal added Matt Keizer is not only a Fire Marshal but also a building inspector. Tony Madrigal added the City of Willits is also looking into adopting the 2025 building code. Chief Alvarez stated it is a procedure to adopt the ordinances.

MONITORED ALARM SYSTEM: Chief Alvarez is looking for board opinion on monitored alarm systems based on businesses with certain occupancy and hazards. There are many businesses that are not open 24hours and are not monitored. A fire may not be detected until too late and spreads to other businesses. The pros are early notification and protection of surrounding buildings and lives in nearby properties which may be occupied. By catching a possible fire disaster early, it can save lives and cost of replacement. The cons are the cost could be upwards of \$7,000.00 depending on size of building. Skip Lucier mentioned it may be difficult for small businesses and what was the current square footage rule. Chief Alvarez stated 5,000 square feet is the current trigger or high storage hazard. Nancy Stipe asked if all businesses had smoke detectors. Chief Alvaraz stated yes, that is a requirement but those are often not heard in the middle of the night. Tony Madrigal added the mounted system would notify 911 as well as a loud horn for evacuations if necessary. Chief Alvarez suggested we visit this situation at a later date.

SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) PURCHASE: Chief Alvarez informed the board in 2007 the belt-mounted regulator (BMR) for the self-contained breathing apparatuses the department was using became non-NFPA compliant and parts and service starting phasing out. In 2009 after researching and hands on testing of the three major SCBA manufactures, the department settled on replacing the MSA BMR packs with the current NFPA complaint Sperian Warrior breathing apparatuses. Over the next 6 years the staff continued to purchase the Sperian SCBA packs until all out dated and non-complaint packs were replaced, 22 total. Chief Alvarez added in 2015 Honeywell purchased Sperian and many NFPA upgrades were added. In 2021 Honeywell stopped production of the SCBA's which left fire departments, including



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ours, with packs that parts were no longer available for, therefore unable to safely maintain the packs. In 2023 we were forced to look for a different SCBA pack and we purchased 5 of the Scott X3 PRO 4.5 packs. When a grant is available and multiple packs are able to be purchased, it brings hardship to the department when they expire at the same time. If there was a continuation of grants for the replacement purchases, that would be great and we could continue. However, that is not usually the case so it is recommended to purchase 5 packs at a time, therefore all packs will not expire at the same time for replacement. Total remaining packs that are needed for replacement is 21. Chief Alvarez informed the board the replacements will take place over time. Chief Alvarez also added that Deputy Chief Thomen was able to piggy back off of CalFIRE's rate for the packs. Captain So added the new thermal imaging masks costs about \$5,000.00.

BILLS:

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

TRAINING REPORT:

Captain Harry So reported there were approximately 784 calls for 2024. EMT class on January 8th, 2025 and 4 members started EMT class in Laytonville. On January 28th, 2025 CPR/First Aid will be offered.

FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOC. REPORT: Nothing to report

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Alvarez informed the board school inspections are completed.

Letters have been sent to let the schools to let them know what the issues were. Letters have been sent out to hotels/motels for appointments for state mandated life safety inspections. The county sent an apartment list to Chief Alvarez so the state mandated inspections can begin. Captain So will be attending a drone workshop coming up as well as a 1A and 1B class. Arnie Mello asked if the department had a drone, Captain So replied no, these classes are just learning for the future. Chief Alvarez is working with the police department for active shooter classes. City of Willits has reconciled Measure I, so the district is up to date.



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The meeting adjourned at 6:23 PM

Tony Madrigal

Tony Madrigal, Chairman

Michelle Schnitzius

Michelle Schnitzius, Secretary

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