



LITTLE LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



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

MINUTES

December 10th, 2024

OPENING: Tony Madrigal called the regular meeting of the Little Lake Fire Protection District Board of Directors to order at 5:09 PM.

ROLL CALL: Tony Madrigal, Tom Herman, Arnie Mello, Nancy Stipe present; Skip Lucier absent.

MINUTES: Approved by Tom Herman 1st; Arnie Mello 2nd.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report: Tom Herman 1st; Skip Lucier 2nd.

CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS: Michelle Schnitzius reported a few thank you notes came in for an assistance we provided for medical. No public comment.

OLD BUSINESS: **FEE SCHEDULE:** Nothing new to report. Chief Alvarez stated more information was requested which he sent.

BOARD WORKSHOP AGENDA IDEAS: Michelle Schnitzius will pick 3 available dates in February for the board workshop and send an email out.

WEIST LAW RESOLUTION 2024-2: Arnie Mello explained to the board the responsibilities of the District for current and past employees regarding CalPERS. Arnie Mello expressed the importance of a policy and plan to stay on top of the pension. The district is currently looking into a savings plan to assist with the funding the pension. The policy will establish an account that will allow us to be within the proper percentage brackets of not having to much or too little in the account. Funds will be available if



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needed. Tony Madrigal added 1-5% can be funded yearly if needed. Arnie Mello stated if market good and no funds needed the district would not need to contribute during that year. Arnie Mello stated the Section 115 government savings account is what was recommended. Tom Herman asked if the account is with CalPERS will there be restrictions. Arnie Mello was not aware of any restrictions. Motion to adopt Resolution 2024-2 to move forward with pension and policy plan: Tom Herman 1st; Arnie Mello 2nd.

NEW BUSINESS: **HYDRONIC FLOOR:** Chief Alvarez reported a red screen came on the floor system which was an ignitor switch issue. Michelle Schnitzius had a hard time finding someone to service up in Willits. There is a company willing to do so with help from Fred Russell and will be up next Thursday. Deputy Chief Thomen ordered parts to assist with the issue as well.

STRIKE TEAM: Michelle Schnitzius updated the board on strike team payroll and revenue.

BOARD ELECTIONS: Tony Madrigal was voted in as board chair and Skip Lucier vice chair. Motion to move forward with the positions: Tom Herman 1st; Arnie Mello 2nd.

TURNOUTS: Chief Alvarez informed the board there is a 10 year life span no matter the turnout usage per NFPA. Turnouts are extremely costly and a hardship for small departments as pants and a jackets alone are upwards of \$5,000.00 per set. Our current turnouts are from 2005 which were paid for with grant money. Staff has been trying to obtain grants for new turnouts but it is difficult to obtain. Chief Alvarez is hoping to purchase 5 sets this budget season and then continue 5 sets every year. The benefit of spreading out the purchases is the cost and the turnouts will not expire at the same time. Harry So added the association is proactively working on fundraisers to help purchase turnouts as well.

BILLS: Motion to pay bills: Tom Herman, 1st; Arnie Mello, 2nd.



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TRAINING REPORT: Chief Alvarez reported that the last drill consisted of reviewing the ladder truck, with 9 members attending. On December 3rd, Harry So taught a critical thinking treasure hunt with descriptions of objects the firefighters needed to find. Harry So also wrote a list of road names on the whiteboard, and the firefighters had to find the locations without using technology. There are many roads that have been changed through the county and roads that have similar names. EMT recertification will be splinting and patient packaging. Willits Police Department would like to implement another active shooter drill.

FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOC. REPORT: Captain Harry So reported that 12 hams were donated to the food bank. Harry So also volunteered at the senior center for Thanksgiving as well as the turkey toss. The toy run took place on December 1st and we had a great turnout from our volunteers and staff. President and Secretary will be voted on during the December association meeting.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Alvarez informed the board there was an ECHO (not breathing) medical call and the address was not posted. Extremely difficult to find. Chief Alvarez reminded the attendees how important it is to post address signs as it will save a life. There were 722 calls to date. Chief Alvarez will be attending a leadership conference in March. Staff is busy with school life safety inspections and is hoping for completion during their winter break. Tony Madrigal reminded the board school inspections are state mandated.

The meeting adjourned at 6:37 PM.

Tony Madrigal

Tony Madrigal, Chairman

Michelle Schnitzius

Michelle Schnitzius, Secretary

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Closed Session:

Board update on personnel issue.

Adjourned 7:11PM