



LITTLE LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



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

MINUTES

January 9th, 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: Tom Herman, Nancy Stipe, Tony Madrigal, and Skip Lucier. Absent: Arnie Mello
- MEETING SUSPENDED:** The meeting was suspended for the swear-in for Firefighter Brian Amaral and captain promotions. Brian Amaral spoke about living in Willits and becoming a firefighter and a paramedic. Four firefighters were then promoted to captain. Deputy Chief Thomen spoke of the fire department's history and the new captains being promoted. Deputy Chief Thomen informed the board the volunteers are training with the same standards as paid firefighters. The volunteers start as firefighters and then can work up to engineers, and after two years, if they continue training, they can become company officers. The firefighters must have a one-year probationary captain role before becoming a captain. Dion Beckmann, Aaron Branscomb, Harry So, and Mike Wilder were the captains promoted for this ceremony. Congratulations to our new captains.
- MINUTES:** Motion to accept the December 12th, 2023 minutes: Skip Lucier, 1st, Tom Herman, 2nd.
- TREASURER'S REPORT:** Motion to accept the January Treasurer's report: Tom Herman 1st and Skip Lucier 2nd.
- CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS:** No correspondence. Michelle Schntizius thanked Jim and Jeanne King for donating to the fire department.



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OLD BUSINESS: **FIREHOUSE:** Michelle Schnitzius informed the board there is no update. Michelle thanked volunteer firefighter Shane for fixing the gate, as ACGC did not follow through.

NEW ENGINE 5469: Deputy Chief John Thomen reported he is still working on Engine 5469 for service.

AFG GRANT- Michelle Schnitzius reported no update, and the AFG Grant will open up in January 2024.

FEE SCHEDULE: Fire Marshal Eric Alvarez stated he is comparing our fee schedule with other departments to assist with an updated fee schedule.

NEW BUSINESS: **FIREFIGHTERS OATH:** Firefighter Brian Amaral was sworn in as a firefighter.

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

TRAINING REPORT: Training Officer Jeff Donaldson reported January 12th would be CPR, which is mandatory for our firefighters. Training Officer Jeff Donaldson announced he and another firefighter would attend the swift water rescue class on January 19th and 20th, and he added that he completed the Inspector II class. Gregg Smit will host an upcoming USAR class.

FIRE MARSHAL: Fire Marshal Eric Alvarez reported he has been working on business licenses and will start on apartments soon. Fire Marshall Alvarez also stated he is meeting with the City of Willits to review more extensive plans within the City of Willits. There is an upcoming Zoom meeting for a 3rd party plan review company to assist with the larger projects. This Friday will be a Streamline meeting for updates on their software, and a fire prevention meeting next Thursday.

FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOC. REPORT: Association President Aaron Branscomb announced Harry So was voted in as secretary at the last meeting, and Aaron



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Branscomb was voted in as president. Aaron also stated he is working on the Top 10 dinner and will get back to the board when he has a date set.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Deputy Chief John Thomen reported the department finished the year with 632 calls. As of January 9th, 2024, the department was at 14 calls. Ridgewood Ranch has been using Engine 5482, but recently, they purchased another engine, and they no longer need Engine 5482. Deputy Chief Thomen is considering selling the engine as parts are hard to find. Deputy Chief Thomen also stated it is difficult to find drivers for the 1977 tactical water tender and is also looking to sell. Skip Lucier asked if there would be buyers, and Deputy Chief Thomen replied the water tender would be suitable for ranches or other departments with operators.

The regular meeting adjourned to a closed session at 5:45 PM.

Closed session meeting adjourned: 6:31 PM.

Tony Madrigal, Chairman

Michelle Schnitzius, Secretary/Treasurer

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Report out:

Discussed Real Estate matter and update on personnel