



# LITTLE LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



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

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## MINUTES

March 12th, 2024

- OPENING:** Tony Madrigal called the regular meeting of the Little Lake Fire Protection District Board of Directors at 5:03 PM to order.
- ROLL CALL:** Present: Arnie Mello, Nancy Stipe, Tony Madrigal, Skip Lucier and Tom Herman
- MINUTES:** Motion to accept the February minutes: Skip Lucier, 1<sup>st</sup>, Arnie Mello 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- TREASURER'S REPORT:** Motion to accept the March Treasurer's Report: Arnie Mello 1<sup>st</sup> and Tom Herman 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Michelle Schnitzius informed the board the fire department received two thank you acknowledgments for false alarms on 101 N. Lenore and the Chamber of Commerce.
- OLD BUSINESS:**
- FIREHOUSE:** Deputy Chief Thomen reported Rick, the plumber, stopped by and fixed the mezzanine leak. Rick also ordered a new part for the spigot for the outside leak by the bay door. Michelle Schnitzius added Marty from ACGC was supposed to stop by and fix the Association room door but did not show. Deputy Chief Thomen stated we still had to wait for hot water; however, he was informed if the dishwasher were on, it would be quicker for hot water in the showers.. Michelle Schnitzius informed Skip that she had forgotten to ask him to review the firehouse binders. Arnie Mello suggested if we fix the door ourselves, we send ACGC the bill.
- NEW ENGINE 5469:** Deputy Chief John Thomen informed the board he is still outfitting the new engine. Due to a strike team, he was unable to get Engine 5469 into service. Deputy Chief Thomen he did have time to remove everything out of the old Engine 5469, so it is ready to return to OES.



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**AFG GRANT-** Michelle Schnitzius reported no update. We can table until further notice.

**FEE SCHEDULE:** No update.

**NEW BUSINESS:** **NEW DUTY RIG:** Deputy Chief Thomen explained to the board the history of our duty rigs. He informed the board there was a Ford offered locally, but it was white, and after researching, it would cost up to \$20,000 to have it painted. Utility 5443 and duty rig 5403 broke down. Utility 5443 is unrepairable, will not drive over 50 MPH, and will not pass smog, but duty rig 5403 could be fixed locally. Deputy Chief Thomen reported the importance of working duty rigs for our firefighters as often they are first on the scene. Deputy Chief Thomen informed the board that he was concerned insurance was going to total duty rig 5403, but they decided not to. Deputy Chief Thome would like to move duty rig 5403 as a utility vehicle, purchase a new duty rig for response, and keep the Ford Expedition for classes and local area. Nancy Stipe asked what year the Expedition was, and Deputy Chief John replied that it was 2011. Training Officer Jeff Donaldson is using the Expedition for now, but there is no water supply. Tony Madrigal added that Michelle Schnitzius has a call into the USDA for a grant to help with the purchase. Motion for purchase of the new duty rig up to \$120,000: Tom Herman 1<sup>st</sup>, Arnie Mello 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**BILLS:** Motion to pay bills: Skip Lucier 1<sup>st</sup>, Tom Herman 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**TRAINING REPORT:** Training Officer Jeff Donaldson stated the last training session was extrication training at TNT Salvage, and the in-classroom portion for the wildland series was completed as well. Carl Magann offered a command series at Mendocino College but had to cancel due to a lack of attendance. S290, wildland behavior, will be the next two weekends, and so far, 3 people have signed up. At the end of April, Laytonville will offer an embankment scenario on Dos Rios Rd. Training Officer Jeff Donaldson is still waiting for the date and will attend with Engine 5430. There will be a USAR class offered



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in May or June, and it will take place at Station 541 and Branscomb Mill.

**FIRE MARSHAL:** Division Chief Eric Alvarez reported Interwest, a third-party plan review company, is putting a package together of what they offer and, when completed, will email it to Eric. Division Chief Eric Alvarez has been busy with business inspections and working on updating MSPFlow. Tony Madrigal added businesses need to contact the fire department before they sign a lease and open up. Division Chief Eric Alvarez will develop a packet for new businesses, and Michelle Schnitzius will add it to the website. Before people invest money into a business and sign a lease, they need to verify the building is safe to move into. Many new business owners commit to a lease, prior to making sure the building is habitable for their business.

**FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOC. REPORT:** Association President Aaron Branscomb was not in attendance. Michelle Schnitzius updated the board that the association will have a poker tournament on April 27th, 2024, for a fundraiser at Sparetime Supply.

**CHIEF'S REPORT:** Deputy Chief John Thomen reported task force 2150C was assigned locally for the snow storm from February 29th to March 5th, 2024. One Type 6, four Type 3's, and a Dozer. During their strike team, they responded to a body recovery and a multi-casualty incident; CPR was in progress for five inmates. Two Type 3 engines were sent to the post office in Leggett. Deputy Chief John Thomen reported strike teams were spread out from Arcata to Southern California. There were 58 calls in February.

The regular meeting adjourned at 6:01 PM.

*Tony Madrigal*

Tony Madrigal, Chairman

*Michelle Schnitzius*

Michelle Schnitzius, Secretary/Treasurer



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