



LITTLE LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



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

MINUTES

September 8th, 2026

- OPENING: Tony Madrigal called the regular meeting of the Little Lake Fire Protection District Board of Directors to order at 5:01 PM.
- ROLL CALL: Tony Madrigal, Tom Herman, Skip Lucier and Arnie Mello
Absent: Nancy Stipe
- MINUTES: Approved by Tom Herman 1st; Skip Lucier 2nd.
- TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report: Arnie Mello 1st; Skip Lucier 2nd.
- CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE
- OLD BUSINESS: INSPECTIONS: Chief Alvarez was not in attendance. Tony Madrigal informed the board that staff has completed all of the hotels, motels and starting schools and apartments soon.
- WEIST LAW: Table for New Business for a Resolution discussion.
- NEW BUSINESS: FINAL BUDGET: Discussion of the addition of an E2 Tool, Mini Cutter and the body isolation kits to the final budget. Motion to adopt the final budget 2026-2027: Tom Herman 1st and Arnie Mello, 2nd.
- RESOLUTION 2026-5: Resolution 2026-5 will allow the transfer of funds for the Setcion 115 trust of \$290,000.00. Motion to accept Resolution 2026-5: Tom Herman 1st,



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Arnie Mello 2nd. All Ayes. Absent: Nancy Stipe

BODY ISOLATION KIT: Chief Alvarez was not in attendance. Tony Madrigal stated the body isolation kits were added to the final budget in the amount of \$1,000.00. Tony Madrigal explained the body isolation kits protects the firefighters from deceased victims that excrete body fluid. Each duty rig will be fitted with one. This is for firefighter safety and protection. Our Deputy Chief was recently exposed to bodily fluids on a call. Motion to accept the addition: Tom Herman 1st and Skip Lucier 2nd.

E2 TOOL/MINI CUTTER: Tony Madrigal explained to the board that the batteries for our hydraulic cutters are becoming obsolete. The staff is looking into a new, more efficient battery-powered cutter. We will assign the combo tool we currently have to Engine 5480 for cutting fences, doors, etc. A battery tool will be much easier to use on calls than hydraulic tools, especially over embankments. The E2 Tool will be more efficient for emergencies.

ENGINE HOSE 5485, 5480 and 5450: Tony Madrigal informed the board that all ordered hose has been labeled and placed on the proper engines.

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

TRAINING REPORT: Captain So was not in attendance due to a fire. Tony Madrigal informed the board that there have been many over-the-embankment calls lately. Training has consisted of the capstan and rope system. Tony Madrigal added that staff have been discussing an advanced engineering training course, which Deputy Chief Thomen will instruct. Very few people can operate the ladder truck, so staff is hoping this course will assist in additional drivers for the future by teaching more engineers how to drive it.



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FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOC. REPORT: The association is gearing up for Halloween and Harvest Moon.

CHIEFS REPORT: Chief Alvarez was not in attendance. Tony Madrigal reported he would like a finance committee meeting and update at a future board meeting. Staff is currently working on the job description for the vacant position. Chief Alvarez arrived at 6:55 PM. Chief Alvarez updated the board on the body kits and tools that were discussed. He added when bodies are down for a few days before discovery, the body decomposes and bodily fluids are extracted. The kits will assist firefighters to prevent getting splashed in the face and body with the fluids. Chief Alvarez thanked Tom Herman for assisting with maps and gates. Accurate maps are helpful especially when people do not want to post their addresses. Not posting addresses will delay medical calls, as it makes it extremely difficult to find the home. Tom Herman also suggested staff look into ONYX for mapping. On September 29th, 2026, Chief Alvarez and Deputy Chief Thomen will be attending a lithium battery class. Captain So will be taking a lithium battery class online.

Meeting Adjourned 6:09 PM

Motion to adjourn meeting: Arnie Mello 1st; Skip Lucier 2nd. .

Tony Madrigal

Tony Madrigal, Chairman

Michelle Schnitzius

Michelle Schnitzius, Secretary

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