

MINUTES
August 13th, 2019

OPENING: The regular meeting of the Little Lake Fire Protection District Board of Directors was called to order by Tony Madrigal at 5:07PM.

ROLL CALL: Present: Tony Madrigal, Nancy Stipe, Tom Herman and Arnie Mello
Absent: Skip Lucier

MINUTES: The minutes for the July 9th, 2019 meeting were reviewed and accepted. Motion to accept the minutes: Arnie Mello 1st; Nancy Stipe 2nd.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Chief Wilkes explained to the board the reimbursement process with the firehouse. The reimbursement process should be fairly quick once invoices have been submitted to Lorie Adams from Adams & Ashby. Once Lorie receives the invoices for reimbursement, she will submit the package to US Bank and in return US Bank will reimburse the invoices within a few days. Tom Herman agreed this way will be fairly quick in the reimbursement process. Chief Wilkes informed the board we will submit a resolution to the board at the September meeting for an additional Savings Bank account for the firehouse. Arnie Mello asked why we will be opening a separate account. Chief Wilkes responded the EFT reimbursement will be an easier transaction in a separate account and often with the county the EFT's are not placed in the correct account. Motion to accept the Treasurers Report: Tom Herman 1st; Arnie Mello 2nd.

CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS: John Haschak recently toured the Firco project and was impressed. Primrose to KOA which comes out at Exley Lane is also an ongoing project. Mr. Haschak had a meeting with the CEO earlier today and the CEO is interested in setting up a meeting with the fire chiefs. Arnie Mello asked if these areas are just for strictly emergencies. Mr. Haschak stated only for emergencies. Chief Wilkes added these areas are for firebreaks. If there is an emergency we can use to evacuate. The airport is a recognized staging area as well. Tom Herman inquired about the

Pine Mountain side. Mr. Haschak and Chief Wilkes both stated they have done a great job in Pine Mountain as well.

OLD BUSINESS: **FIREHOUSE:** Chief Wilkes announced the hazmat/asbestos for the firehouse and the Humboldt House has been completed. Chief Wilkes stated he received an email from Dennis Dong and our plans are 75% complete. Tom Herman inquired if we will be able to go out to bid by spring. Chief Wilkes thought so as the project is moving forward. Tom Herman asked Chief Wilkes if he could contact Dennis Dong about the economy of scale doing both demolitions on one contract. Chief Wilkes stated he would. Chief Wilkes also informed the board the corner office of the firehouse had to be cut to satisfy the City of Willits visibly requirements. The office is now smaller. Tony Madrigal also inquired if the City of Willits will have underground power. Chief Wilkes stated he is not sure when that grant fund will happen.

CANNIBIS EXCISE TAX: Tony Madrigal reported there will be an upcoming ad-hoc meeting with the City of Willits and there will be more to report on at the next board meeting. Chief Wilkes stated the City of Willits is in the process of selecting 3 applicants for dispensaries. The fire district is protecting all the current and future facilities and have already had a fire in one of the facilities.

NEW BUSINESS: **EMS:** Chief Wilkes reviewed with the board the history of the ambulance service and what they offer. Chief Wilkes stated in the Health & Safety Code 2.5, state statute it is the county responsibility to provide ambulance service. LEMSA has contracted out to CVEMS which provides medical direction, plan and implementation of the EMS system, monitors training and recertification. Arnie Mello asked if we can transport. Chief Wilkes stated we do not have a permit to transport. Tom Herman asked if the services are a franchise or contracted. Chief Wilkes stated it is a contractor owned agency, no JPA and it is a non-profit company. The ambulances here are by permit. The ambulance service prefers transfers over 911 calls as they receive more revenue. At one point the county had plenty of ambulances but when Vera Health was sold to Falc, the paramedic was pulled out of Covelo and Willits went from 24 hour ambulance service to 12 hour. CVEMS is working on a systematic plan and trying to reorganize the process. They are now putting out an RFP with hopes to fix the ambulance issues. Ukiah has mostly medical aides. By volume that is where most of the revenue is. Fire departments in general know what's best for their areas not the Fitch study or CVEMS. They do not address fire department concerns. Arnie Mello asked if the current RFP will

include Ukiah and if not he does not see anyone wanting to bid. Chief Wilkes stated he is correct. Chief Wilkes is the technical advisor for the ambulance committee and he cannot get any response from the county on this issue. Chief Wilkes stated our call volume has increased dramatically due to the ambulance shortage. Chief Wilkes stated this is a serious issue. Tom Herman asked what the actual date is for the RFP. Chief Wilkes responded there is a schedule online on the county website. Tony Madrigal asked if the EMS is also involved in disasters. Chief Wilkes responded yes, when disaster strikes they are the medical directive. However during the Mendo complex fires we had no representative from CVEMS ambulance service here in Mendocino County. If there is an MCI call, the first ambulance cannot leave the scene. The next arriving ambulance could be coming from South Ukiah which is not safe. So this CVEMS policy does not work for this area. Tony Madrigal stated you almost have to know where the next ambulance is before you call an MCI. Chief Wilkes agreed. The Chief wants to make sure our district is taking care of properly. Tony Madrigal suggested when there is not a lot on the agenda in the future, we should add educational updates on this issue. John Haschak stated he believes the RFP's are due in September and implemented June 2020. Arnie Mello asked if the City of Ukiah and the RFP requirements are still at odds, will the bids assume they have the Ukiah area. Chief Wilkes stated yes. Allison from the media asked when we will know if Ukiah is pulling out of the EOA. Chief Wilkes was not sure.

BUDGET UPDATE: Chief Wilkes informed the board we recently signed a PROP 172 agreement and will be added to the final budget revenue. Allison asked if the increased call volume due to the ambulance service affects the budget. Chief Wilkes reported it does affect the budget as cost in fuel increases and volunteers jobs and family time away. Many of our volunteers do not get paid when they respond to a call. We do not have the budget to add on additional full time staff.

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

TRAINING REPORT: Training Chief Eric Alvarez recently attended an active shooter drill at the hospital. 3 scenarios were given; Roots restaurant, ER and the pharmacy. This drill is put on once a year and a great learning experience for everyone. The last drill night took place in Pine Mountain. 6 engines attended and they surveyed the areas and structures. The last Boy Scout tour attended last week. That was the end of the season for their public education.

FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOC. REPORT: Airport day is this Saturday. There is a new date for the Association fundraiser

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Wilkes reported the call volume is up to 480 as of today. One of the recent calls was an over the bank rescue. Our department is dependable and well trained with over the bank rescues. Mapping has been completed and currently they are learning about the program. Arnie Mello asked if the mapping program was easy to update. Chief Wilkes replied yes it is. We are also looking into Verizon for our services for the Ipads and phone. The generator is fully installed at station 541. The district is preparing for power shutoffs. Chief Wilkes announced there will be a generator safety class at Willits Power. Our call volume will go up due to improper generator usage and installation so he is hoping the public will educate themselves on the proper usage and installation.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35PM

Tony Madrigal, President

Michelle Schnitzius, Secretary/Treasurer

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