

LOCKWOOD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

23141 Shake Ridge Road Volcano, CA 95689

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Agenda - April 22 - 6:00 p.m.

In-person Meeting at Station 151 - 23141 Shake Ridge Rd., Volcano CA
95689

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2458678782?pwd=A5crm1OURrDYy0bUy9xb01rdplZOUJ.1&omn=84776601178>
Meeting ID: 245 867 8782
Passcode: M8SNBf (case-sensitive)

1. Call to order and reading of the mission statement.

LFPD CREED: The principal purpose of this district is the protection of its citizens through the prevention and extinguishing of fires and the protection of life and property. May each action taken by this board be for the benefit of the district and for no other purpose – self serving or otherwise.

2. Establish quorum-roll call

3. Closed session. Closed session Authority:

According to the California Government Code 54957, the Lockwood Fire Protection District Board of Directors reserves the right to hold a closed session for consideration of real property negotiations, pending litigation, threats to public buildings or public access and personnel matters. **No closed session.**

4. Public Comments:

PUBLIC MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA: Discussion items only, no action to be taken. Any person may address the Board at this time upon any subject within the jurisdiction of the Lockwood Fire Protection District; however, any matter that requires action may be referred to staff and/or Committee for a report and recommendation for possible action at a subsequent Board meeting.

5. Discussion Items

6. Action Items

- a. Confirmation of \$911.99 expenditure approval for Equipment Parts from AED Brands
- b. Board Vacancy Interview and possible appointment in accordance with Gov.Code & 17980 (reference OPM section 2010.1.2)

7. Approval of Minutes from Board Meeting of March 25, 2024

Motion_2nd _____ Vote: Yeas _____ No _____ Absent _____ Abstain _____

8. Budget report

9. Chief's Report

10. Committee Reports:

Grant Committee
Fiscal and Planning Committee
Policies and Procedures Committee
Building and Maintenance Committee
Communications and Outreach

11. Auxiliary Report

12. Adjournment

Motion 2nd _____ Vote: Yeas _____ No _____ Absent _____ Abstain _____

Next Board Meeting: Monday, June 3rd.

LOCKWOOD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

23141 Shake Ridge Road Volcano, CA 95689

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Minutes - March 25 - 6:00 p.m.

In-person Meeting at Station 151 - 23141 Shake Ridge Rd., Volcano CA 95689

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87204116099?pwd=rwGivkhh7QzSgOWc2EwhcWbGy3y5Xw.1>

Meeting ID: 872 0411 6099

Passcode: 096357

The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm by Board Director JoAnne McLachlan.

1. Call to order and reading of the mission statement.

LFPD CREED: The principal purpose of this district is the protection of its citizens through the prevention and extinguishing of fires and the protection of life and property. May each action taken by this board be for the benefit of the district and for no other purpose – self serving or otherwise.

2. Establish quorum-roll call

Director JoAnne McLachlan called roll. Those in attendance: Director McLachlan, Director Don Dowell, Director Kelly McGee, Director Cookie Stevens. Those absent: Board President Jan Hewitt. Quorum established.

3. Closed session. Closed session Authority:

According to the California Government Code 54957, the Lockwood Fire Protection District Board of Directors reserves the right to hold a closed session for consideration of real property negotiations, pending litigation, threats to public buildings or public access and personnel matters. **No closed session.**

4. Public Comments:

PUBLIC MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA: Discussion items only, no action to be taken. Any person may address the Board at this time upon any subject within the jurisdiction of the Lockwood Fire Protection District; however, any matter that requires action may be referred to staff and/or Committee for a report and recommendation for possible action at a subsequent Board meeting.

- a. Ellie Routt was given the lectern to introduce herself and express interest in the opening Board position. She shared that she lived in the district, down the street from Station 151, and has 16 years of experience as the executive director of

Mother Lode Land Trust, a local nonprofit organization. She also has experience with grant writing, land management (including wildfire fuel reduction projects), has been a contractor with Amador Resource Conservation District, and during that time wrote several community assistance grants for neighborhood wildfire fuel reduction and investments into building safe ingress and egress routes for fire service personnel. In her time writing grants for Amador and Calaveras counties, she has brought in about five million dollars in grants. She has also written budgets and taken minutes for projects' Boards of Directors. She was born and raised in Amador county, and returned here after college to start a family. She said she would submit her letter of application to LFPD's Board of Directors and to the Elections Office. She thanked the Board for the opportunity to meet everyone and to give everyone a face to put with the name when receiving her letter.

5. Discussion and Possible Action Items

A. Acceptance of Letter of Resignation from Board President Jan Hewitt

This letter, dated March 7th, 2024, was sent to the Board, Secretary and Chief. Director McLachlan mentioned it had circulated prematurely elsewhere, including but not limited to in the Ledger Dispatch publication the previous Friday, March 22nd, but was officially being announced tonight. She also shared that the original circulations of the Board Vacancy announcement contained an error, and that the election of the new Board member would take place in November 2024, not on December 6th, 2024, as was the case when the resigning Board member had served less than half of their term. The announcement of the Board vacancy would be published again in the Ledger Dispatch and additionally in the Upcountry News, as well as on LFPD's website and social media. Director McLachlan apologized again for the mistake, but reported that the exact election code had been placed into the Operating Procedures Manual. She also encouraged those interested to submit their letter of application by April 9th.

Director Stevens expressed that Board President Jan Hewitt would be missed, as she was very diplomatic, listened to both sides and always asked the right questions. Director Dowell added that President Hewitt had taken the Board from some of its darkest days to some of its best.

Motion to approve Letter of Resignation from Board President Jan Hewitt: Director Dowell

Motion_2nd: Direction Cookie Stevens

Vote: Yeas 4 No _____ Absent 1 Abstain _____

B. Announcement of Board Vacancy

It was generally agreed that there had already been plenty of this covered in the previous item, with the addition of the Ledger Dispatch article and Nextdoor post. It was reiterated that these articles were required to be published for 15 days (meaning there would be additional publications in the Ledger Dispatch and Upcountry News for as many publications as each had left during that time.

Ellie Routt asked if Board President Jan Hewitt had served less than half of her 4-year term. Board Directors Don Dowell and Cookie Stevens confirmed that President Hewitt had served a year and a half of her current term, although it wasn't her first. It was clarified that the Board member **elected** into the vacant position

beginning April 22nd would serve until the election date in November 2024, after which that applicant or another would need to be formally elected.

Director Dowell reiterated that the letters of application would need to be submitted by April 9th, and suggested that a closed session be held prior to the next Board Meeting to finalize details, to prevent community attendees having to wait outside in case of cold or inclement weather like during the last closed session.

Director McLachlan added that the Board would prefer to have applicants also attend the April 22nd Board Meeting. Director McGee recalled that her application process was at a public meeting, at which she was asked questions. Director Dowell confirmed that this would be the case again, as it is an interview process, but simply that certain personnel questions are closed session only matters. Directors Dowell and McLachlan agreed to ensure all was done in accordance with the Brown Act.

Jackie Vaughn asked if this position still had to go to ballot if the temporary Board member was uncontested at the time of the formal election. Directors McLachlan and Dowell confirmed that they would still have to hold the election, but that the temporary Board member would simply win that election by running unopposed.

C. Discussion and Possible Action of Review of LFPD Resolution to consider dissolution and annexation to AFD

Director Dowell expressed concern that, if the LAFCO process was not canceled by the time of the formal election, that there would be no LFPD or Board of Directors left to elect a candidate for. He said that the survey results suggested the community would be against consolidation, annexation or dissolution.

Director McLachlan mentioned it was important to understand that the 67% of YES survey responses was 67% of 356 total respondents; With 356 being 32% of 1098, that meant the 67% YES vote was sampled only from 32% all of parcel owners in the district. Director Dowell countered that in an election, votes aren't counted by the total number of registered voters, but by the number of those registered voters who voted. Director McLachlan said that, while true, she was concerned that the survey response hadn't provided an adequate enough pulse check on whether or not it would be worth the money to draft a ballot measure proposing a parcel tax increase, as it didn't seem to show that enough people were concerned with or invested in what happened to LFPD with regards to consolidation. She pointed out that even if LAFCO discovers consolidation is the best path forward for LFPD, enough objections from the public can force it to a vote, giving those opposing consolidation a chance to win the vote.

Director McLachlan asked to share her personal opinion, which was that in 2018, a CAL FIRE Chief worked hard to revitalize LFPD from barely functioning to 14 members strong, and since AFD distancing themselves from LFPD, things have gone back downhill and a lot of the camaraderie LFPD firefighters felt dissipate, they simply followed to AFD. Director Stevens also added that, as the LAFCO process does not necessitate a vote of any kind on consolidation, dissolution or annexation, allowing the process to continue is part of hearing both sides, and that one side of this argument had been making itself more heard via newspapers and social media, which people had been using to try to foment various levels of unease and negativity. She shared her opinion that consolidation could mean greater access to team trainings and Station 152 seeing more staffing. She

said it was concerning to see so many people eager to say that AFPD could only be capable of doing “all kinds of bad stuff” to LFPD if they consolidated.

Interim Chief Binz shared that he missed the group onboarded during Chief Withrow’s time at LFPD and it was unfortunate that so many had left, but assured everyone that the 4 core responders who had always been most active were still with LFPD, and they had been the core 4 responders before the volunteer boom. Director Dowell added that the agreement with AFPD that was rescinded was simply an addendum, and that the JOA still exists; LFPD can still participate in joint training. Director Stevens said it had been uplifting to the involvement and engagement level during this time.

Long-time Lockwood district resident John Baldwin said that the percentage response to the Parcel Tax Increase survey postcards was a good response rate for these kinds of initiatives, but was based on partial information, and that it seemed like part of the LAFCO exercise is to obtain and present the missing information. He said that as a member of the community, his personal opinion was that it would be premature to terminate the LAFCO process before it could deliver its findings, which he thinks would be an essential component of making the best decision. Director Kelly McGee agreed that it would be premature to terminate the process, as the process was begun to discover whether independence *or* consolidation would be viable solutions.

Sharon Dowell said that LAFCO don’t know anything about firefighting, they only know what we tell them, so we tell them what we want them to hear and then they can repackage that information to us at a Town Hall meeting. She shared a concern that during the LAFCO meeting, some of LAFCO Executive Byron Damiani’s public notes said “Rob [Withrow] will massage the numbers ... and make [it/them] work”. She said she did not think it smart to consider LAFCO as having any wisdom to impart upon anyone, and reiterated that the only information they have is what they’re given.

Director McLachlan said her understanding was that LAFCO looked at facts present in budget information provided by their clients, in this case both of LFPD and AFPD, and to consider whether LFPD can or cannot afford to staff their stations. Additionally, she mentioned that the training process to get someone qualified to permanently assume the role of Fire Chief would add costs.

Director Dowell pointed out, to get back on track with Sharon’s input, that Byron wasn’t a firefighter and relied on information provided by LFPD about its inner workings, after which AFPD would provide their own information; He said that this was where “the Chief” [Rob Withrow] would “massage” the information until it worked to his satisfaction, which was hard to see as unbiased. Director Dowell also informed Director Stevens that this comment was present in Byron’s textual account of the LAFCO meeting, which the Board members had read.

Director McLachlan mentioned that if the LAFCO process were canceled, there would become an immediate need to address qualifications for, and training of, a permanent Fire Chief for LFPD. There was some discussion about experience requirements for Fire Chiefs, showing records of who is currently qualified to assume command positions, and many people wishing to keep LFPD the way it is.

Chief Binz said he had looked through the requirements provided by the State Fire Marshal, and reported these requirements as follows: EMT certification and 4 Chief officer trainings. Directors McLachlan and Dowell agreed that it was not unreasonable to train someone and furnish proof of these training to prove their qualifications as Fire Chief.

Jackie Vaughn said that the Board has only really been thoroughly exploring LAFCO and options afforded by its process, forgoing other funding mechanisms. She suggested stopping the LAFCO process and drafting a ballot proposing the increased parcel tax for an estimated 3-4 thousand dollars, that way even if the ballot fails to secure an affirmative vote, LFPD haven't already spent 10 or more thousand dollars on the LAFCO process. Director McLachlan said that this was a good observation, and mentioned that a previous Treasurer believed that, at the rate LFPD's expenditures were going, revenue would not remain enough to keep LFPD afloat. One of the options proposed to find a way to keep LFPD financially viable was to investigate if consolidation would be worthwhile, and that analyses on this subject were what LAFCO existed to provide.

Lockwood and Amador Firefighter and district resident Erik Jones took the lectern to share some thoughts. He shared additionally that he was an EMT and a local business owner who employed people in the Lockwood district. He said his concern was that the survey response was being viewed as 67% YES votes from all total parcel owners, rather than of the 32% of parcel owners who responded. He also said there was the chance that not everyone who receives one will understand it well enough to feel qualified to weigh in, particularly if it's the first they're hearing about the topic central to the opinion check, and that there's no way to know how many people threw the surveys away, thinking they were simply more junk mail. With regard to Chief Withrow, Jones said, it's much more about what he brought to LFPD on a training and engagement level, with his particular fire service experience, than who he is as a person; He inspired excitement in people and motivated them to get involved. Erik said that Chief Withrow's approach to prospective volunteer outreach was what got Jones and his husband Brian motivated to get involved, and that this outreach got lots of people involved, trained and equipped in a timely fashion. Erik said that this motivated him to lose weight and join LFPD, which took him from a once participant in the joint AFD/LFPD Volunteer Fire Academy to now teaching classes in this same Academy. He said he was disappointed to think that we could be so closed-minded as to think that joining with AFD, with whom LFPD already works, could steal Lockwood's history or legacy as a district, or diminish anything the community has built together. He confirmed that there were certainly a group of 4 very dedicated and reliable volunteers with a long history of reliable and excellent service, and thanked Chief Binz and Firefighters Rob Roe, Seth Babcock and Rich Fugere. He added that it's worth remembering that having access to the mentorship of a career firefighter not only experienced in the fire service, but in teaching others effectively, had been a huge draw for his own and others' involvement. He said that Chief Withrow's experience both serving and teaching and his access to AFD's teams and equipment had been immeasurably helpful in fostering growth and camaraderie, and that having someone to quickly arrange for LFPD firefighters to train at AFD stations helped LFPD firefighters quickly learn how to respond efficiently in tandem with another department. Jones said that, unfortunately, outside of the statutory requirement of joint response, that recent tensions which flared up during the consolidation debates had now strained and diminished this partnership compared to its past iteration. He said that this district needs experience and team strength, and that too many conversations were focused only on money and parcel taxes, and wished to appeal to the community as a volunteer firefighter that folks consider what's best for those who volunteer their time to serve, and who are actually the ones responding to calls and providing service that represents LFPD.

Erik praised Firefighter Seth Babcock, who had recently responded solo in Engine 6526 to a vegetation fire because personnel retention hasn't allowed for enough staffing at Station 151 to additionally dispatch Engines 6520, whereas in the past, when 2 or 3 personnel frequently staffed the station on weekdays, Firefighter Babcock wouldn't have had to respond alone to a vegetation fire. He said that, as a landowner and employer in the district, he didn't see how LFPD would be any better off independent if this is maintained at the detriment of service quality or firefighter safety. He suggested that the LAFCO process not be stopped, also added that meeting minutes shouldn't be taken out of context, offering an example that "massage the numbers" couldn't be referring to the fact AFPD's parcel owners just went through a parcel tax increase themselves, and that this could mean AFPD or LAFCO needed to now consider how AFPD's district residents might respond to AFPD absorbing LFPD and suddenly having the added expenses of fully staff 2 additional stations with career and volunteer personnel, right after AFPD's residents just began paying more in parcel tax. He says he doesn't think LFPD wants to throw money into AFPD any more than AFPD wants to throw money into LFPD. He requested that context not be assumed before it was provided, that the Parcel Tax Increase survey on its own not be assumed to indicate the totality of community opinion, and that the independent process be allowed to continue if the Board couldn't or wouldn't reach a decision itself.

Jackie Vaughn asked if the joint trainings were still happening; Chief Binz responded that LFPD is still offered these opportunities and is participating in them as needed, such as Hazmat and Driver/Operator certification courses. He said that if LFPD had new volunteers still requiring Academy experience, they would be participating in those as well, but that there was currently no need, and finally added that he and Chief Withrow have maintained their positive working relationship.

Director Dowell suggested the LAFCO process be canceled or put on hold until after a Parcel Tax Increase measure could be drafted for vote on the ballot, which could take up to 9 months, during which time the LAFCO process could reach completion. Director Stevens posed the idea of holding a Special Election, but Director Dowell replied that this would cost LFPD a lot of money to hold.

John Baldwin stated that \$10,000 is white noise compared to the cost of maintaining equipment, and suggested that the information provided by LAFCO be acquired and used to inform the ballot measure language and forward momentum on decision making.

Lura O'Brien shared that she lives with FF-EMT Rich Fugere and hears a lot about this cyclical discussion every day from Rich, and agrees firmly with Erik Jones. She also said that, as a lawyer with the Sacramento Board of Supervisors, she personally believed that LFPD needed an assessment. She said she can't guess what LAFCO say in this assessment, and that it didn't seem like anyone else in the room truly did either, but that this was part of the whole point of conducting such an assessment or analysis, and that LFPD would benefit from letting the LAFCO analysis continue to fruition. Lura said she agreed with John Baldwin that \$10,000 is a drop in the bucket compared to the level of expenses LFPD might be on the hook for independently to maintain grounds and equipment, so any analysis conducted to learn the feasibility of other options needed to continue. She added that Station 152, which is right near her house, very often goes unstaffed due to the current low level of volunteers, and said it was very clear that LFPD needed an assessment of some kind.

Brian Jones took the lectern to speak, introducing himself as a current resident, former LFPD volunteer firefighter and EMT, and still technically a volunteer in the capacity that LFPD Station 151 is one of the locations out of which he continues to teach CPR and First Aid certification classes. He shared that he was in favor of letting the process continue forward, as although an increase in parcel tax could certainly fund apparatus repair, it would not necessarily pay for growth in volunteer numbers, or the necessary increases in qualified staff to train volunteers and keep the stations staffed. He said he doesn't see how it's realistic to expect a parcel tax increase to fund all of the necessary improvements to each station, especially when taking into account maintenance to aging apparatus and the necessary certifications and DMV exams for new volunteers to drive them. He said that, if the assessment pointed to consolidation being a good idea, AFPD would be equipped to cover repairs or replacement for older apparatus, and in addition to covering the cost of Driver/Operator classes, also has plenty of career and volunteer firefighters already trained and certified to drive these vehicles. Additionally, any AFPD career staff who would staff Stations 151 and 152 would have experience training others effectively, and the stations would likely receive upgrades necessary to function well with larger staff. Jones said he didn't think it would hurt, and instead would be very worthwhile, to get more information from the LAFCO process regarding whether consolidation would make sense or not.

Chief Binz added that, if LFPD did remain independent, the open JOA with AFPD would still allow for both joint trainings between LFPD and AFPD, as well as allow AFPD to help staff LFPD stations, provided LFPD reimbursed AFPD for these staffing costs.

Motion to approve continuance of the LAFCO process: Director Stevens

Motion_2nd: Director McGee

Vote: Yeas 3 No 1 Absent 1 Abstain _____

D. Review and acceptance of updates to the LFPD Operations Policy Manual.

Director McLachlan thanked Director Stevens for her stellar work updating the Operations Policy Manual, and said that some updates to the election code had been made. Secretary Zi Golightly apologized for the late question, but asked the Directors if they had discussed whether or not item 6000.5 needed removal. Director Dowell replied that this item could stay.

Motion to accept updated LFPD Operations Procedure Manual: Director Dowell

Motion_2nd: Director McGee

Vote: Yeas 4 No _____ Absent 1 Abstain _____

E. Signing of the Conflict of Interest Form 700

All Board members present signed this form, which is to be kept in the District file, and now retained at LFPD Station 151 rather than at the elections office.

Signatures: Present 4 Absent 1

F. Discussion of hiring a District Treasurer

Director McLachlan reported that Director Dowell had graciously accepted this duty after former Board Treasurer Tim Worny's retirement, and as the OPM does indicate that a Board Director can be Treasurer, this position would be available for Director Dowell if he feels up for it. Director Dowell said he had been splitting this duty with Board President Hewitt.

Chief Binz said that he'd met this morning with a past LFPD volunteer who is a CPA and financial advisor; Binz believes he is a strong candidate, and after showing him the budget report, he is willing to assume the role.

Erik Jones suggested that, in the spirit of remaining independent and ensuring all is done properly, Board Treasurer should be a hired position and potentially open to more than just one applicant. Director McLachlan said that would require drafting a hiring notice which the Board would be happy to do. Sharon Dowell suggested the job description be included with the hiring notice so applicants could know what's expected of them.

Director McLachlan said that the county keeps an exact expense budget [residuals? etc?], but as the LFPD Board's account number now differs from what the county has on file, there tends to be a lot of copying or transcribing information and analysis, therefore this was a job for a very patient person. She said Director Dowell has done well with this job and has records as up to date as possible, given that it can take up to 15 days for LFPD to receive the report from the county. She said that budget reports are always made available 1 month behind the current date. Chief Binz mentioned that he was sure to track budget report updates in real-time while waiting for the formal delivery of these reports.

Director McLachlan added that the Treasurer also has to deal with vouchers; These are given in place of money for bank withdrawals. The Treasurer gives the county a voucher, the county writes a check for the El Dorado Savings Bank account and gives it to the Treasurer, who in turn takes this check to the bank. Director Dowell added that for this and other reasons, the Treasurer position was most definitely a job, and not something easily done in free time.

6. Approval of Minutes from Special Board Meeting of February 20, 2024

Motion to approve minutes as submitted : Director Dowell

Motion_2nd: Director Stevens

Vote: Yeas 3 No Absent 1 Abstain 1

7. Approval of Minutes from Board Meeting of February 26, 2024

Motion to approve minutes as submitted : Director Stevens

Motion_2nd: Director Dowell

Vote: Yeas 3 No Absent 1 Abstain 1

8. Budget report

Director Dowell reported that LFPD was ahead of the projected budget by \$90,000; Expenses had been reduced and the stations were living within their means, with money to put into next year's capital fund. Director McLachlan shared that the maintenance schedule, if followed, would add something in the neighborhood of

\$76,000, which could hopefully be covered by parcel tax; Apparatus fuel and maintenance for keeping apparatus at standard were estimated at \$38,000. Director Dowell replied that although these were estimates, factual amounts were beginning to become apparent. Director Stevens added the necessity to anticipate aging vehicle costs, and more significant repairs becoming necessary late in an apparatus' functional lifespan. Chief Binz reported that a local shop who works on these kinds of vehicles could provide service for half the estimated price, and that the budget was sufficiently safe with which to factor these payments in.

Director McLachlan asked if the budget reports should be put on the website. Secretary Golightly replied that these reports have always been on the website as a page in the Board Packets, but that after reviewing the Board members' email discussion she had gone back and added them as standalone supporting documents in case people who wanted to see them weren't aware they could be found in the Board Packet files.

Director McLachlan asked Director Dowell if he would be willing to make an itemized report of monthly revenues compared to expenses, to which Director Dowell responded he could certainly do that, and it would probably be constructive to have an infographic to present this information to the public anyway.

Jackie said that the Budget Reports used to always be uploaded to the website at the same time as the Agenda to adhere to transparency, and it was in Streamline's Special District Guidelines for Secretary Golightly to view. Secretary Golightly replied that these reports had always been uploaded to the website, but that she had been following former Secretary Megan Watts' format of uploading them alongside the Agenda as part of the Board Packet PDF, and had recently gone back and added all Budget Reports from her time as Secretary (October 2023 to present) to the website as standalone documents, since she believed this was more transparent than assuming all web visitors would know to look for Budget Reports in the Board Packets. Jackie added that sometime between now and when she had occupied the Public Information Coordinator position, the Board had canceled their CSDA membership, which was a fantastic resource for Special Districts and Board Members. She said she still has her own account active under the payment tier for a retired Board Member, and that although the price may look daunting, the site representative said they offered a pay-what-you-want plan for Special Districts in need. This included courses for Board Directors and Secretaries. She said the classes are immeasurably helpful in general, but especially for new Board Directors.

9. Chief's Report

Chief Binz reported a call volume of 16 total calls, attributed as follows: 7 Medical aids, 5 public assists, 3 traffic collisions and 1 structure fire. He said that one traffic collision was a few days ago off of Highway 88, with a patient requiring extrication from their flipped car. Two apparatus were sent (one to the scene and another to coordinate a helispot). After extrication and CPR, the patient was stable before boarding the air ambulance, the last chief Binz saw.

He added that CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Stevie Long included LFPD in a 58-acre controlled burn on Shake Omo Ridge, during which a strong fire break between Fiddletown Road and Highway 88 was established. He said it was good to see and work with CAL FIRE again.

Additionally, an engine service approved by Board President Hewitt had remained under \$1,500 total.

Chief Binz congratulated Firefighter Rich Fugere on acquiring EMT certification, and said that he and Board President Hewitt had discussed Measure M funds for EMT courses a couple months ago. These funds were now due for FF Fugere's certification, so this payment would require approval. Director McLachlan responded that this was approved and didn't require a vote or any discussion, as Measure M funds are specifically for these purposes.

Director Stevens asked about Engine 6526's breakdown last month, and if the towing invoice had arrived yet. Chief Binz replied that the bill arrived for \$750, and that unfortunately, despite telling the tower that this engine was a small Ford utility not requiring a heavy-hauler (as opposed to a large engine), the tower still sent a heavy-hauler befitting of broken down semi trucks, meaning the tow cost was more than it could've been.

Director McLachlan asked about the total number of volunteers. Chief Binz replied that there were 9 total, which included 1 EMR, 1 EMT and 1 Paramedic.

Director McLachlan asked if Chief Binz could quickly clear up some hearsay that had circulated regarding LFPD volunteers not taking vitals when responding to a potential heart attack. Chief Binz replied that this was most certainly not true, as this was the first thing personnel learn to always do. Director McLachlan asked about making more information public to clear up potential misinformation, to which Chief Binz replied that unless solid proof was right in front of them, they could be notified to contact him so he could check personnel's files, which included patient reports on every incident. Firefighter Erik Jones added that Mountain Valley EMS would also have these records on hand.

10. Committee Reports:

Grant Committee

Fiscal and Planning Committee

Director Dowell agreed to coordinate an amended budget report with support from Director McLachlan.

Policies and Procedures Committee

Director Stevens reiterated that she had recently updated the Operations Procedure Manual, and this was complete after a few corrections.

Building and Maintenance Committee

Director McLachlan Reported that the station premises were well-maintained and had recently received updates to lights, during which time Chief Binz also provided some construction work himself.

Communications and Outreach

Secretary Golightly reported that future social media and email outreach would focus on the Board Position Opening and the abundance of upcoming Auxiliary events. She also asked that anyone present who participates in unofficial discourse about LAFCO or consolidation please make a conscious effort to maintain calm and foster civility amongst their personal discussion group(s). She reported that recently on LFPD's Facebook page, someone had taken to anonymously bothering, trolling and making strange assumptions and allegations towards LFPD and our partners in fire protection. This anonymous user's sloppy and inconsiderate behavior also included antagonizing a member of the Auxiliary, and attempting to drag a firefighter's family member into the possible blast radius of this anonymous user's own strange and dramatic conduct. Secretary Golightly said she was thankfully still awake that late in the night to delete the person's comments and block them from future engagement with LFPD's Facebook before their behavior could catch much attention. She did, however, ask those involved in social media discourse about LAFCO or consolidation to make note of their discussion mates' behavior growing more hysterical, and to be supportive friends to those people by gently guiding them away from making inconsiderate decisions based on their fear responses.

11. Auxiliary Report

Secretary Golightly reported Book Sale earnings of \$480, and Bake Sale earnings of \$400. Additionally, planning and arrangements had begun for the spring Clothing Drive occupying every Saturday of April, as well as Taco De Mayo on May 4th and the Bells Across America ceremony for Fallen Firefighters on May 5th.

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn : Director Dowell

Motion_2nd : Director Stevens

Vote: Yeas 4 No Absent 1 Abstain

Next Board Meeting: Monday, April 22nd.