

**LAKEPORT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
445 NORTH MAIN STREET  
LAKEPORT, CA 95453**

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF FEB. 5, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Whitehead called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

***Pledge of Allegiance:***

***Administer Oath of Office to:***

The Administrative Assistant administered the Oath of Office to new Lakeport Board of Director, Alan Flora.

**Roll Call:** Chairman Whitehead, Directors Williams, Gabe, Flora and Davidson were present.

**Public Comment opened by Chairman Whitehead:**

D.W.Christensen: Is the \$6.14 units of benefit charge equalized among the City and County and how much money will be raised ?

Chief: Yes the units of benefit of \$6.14 is consistent for the City and County residents. The increase will fund hiring 4) fulltime FF's and possibly some part timers and to improve the capital investment; 1.2 million in addition will be raised; in the 90's when the parcel tax was 1st implemented the tax was apportioned a different way; the units of benefit table has not changed just the cost per unit of benefit.

Chief: We still have people for "on call shifts" but the 911 side does not pay for itself, the "out of county" patient transports income does exceed the expenses and it "props" up the 911 calls.

Citizen: Will the \$6.14 units of benefit if passed help with investing in capital replacement?

Chief: Yes, our equipment averages 17 ½ years in age and when the additional resources are available we can begin replacement.

The Board of Directors of the Lakeport Fire Protection District will convene to a Special Meeting at 5:00 p.m. on the day stipulated above for the following purpose:

**Public Hearing: 5:00 p.m.**

**Adoption of Resolution 1819-13 and Ordinance No. 1819-01; Resolution 1819-13 calls a special election for May 7, 2019 to submit to the electorate Ordinance No. 1819-01 proposing a qualified parcel tax in an amount of \$6.14 per benefit unit increased annually by the June Consumer Price Index, all Urban Consumers for the San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward local area, not to exceed 3%. (Chief Hutchison)**

Chief Hutchison opened the discussion for the citizens present;

Citizen: how did the District get in debt?

Chairman Whitehead: the District experienced a lack of ambulance revenue factors; the cost of personnel benefits such as health insurance has risen.

Citizen: is equipment maintenance budgeted?

Chief: yes but there are no resources.

Citizen: what is the current ISO rating?

Chief: it is 4.4Y which is the same as the old rate referred to as 4.8; the rate could change if the Districts staffing levels remain as they are. Station 52 has never been staffed and staffing it would be a decision of the Board and the next Fire Chief.

Citizens: questions were asked about the yearly CPI %.

Chief: the maximum CPI % to cover for the future is 3% but it is built into the Resolution to be adjusted on a yearly basis; the CPI amount is from the annual June Consumer Price Index (all Urban Consumers for the San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward local area, not to exceed 3%).

Citizen: where is this additional revenue going?

Chief: 1st it will go to personnel, 2nd to equipment and 3rd to the firehouse maintenance and repair.

Citizen: so the current unit of benefit amount is \$1.00 in the District and \$1.96 in the City and now we are asked for 5 times more? I have no complaints on the service but what has changed to cause the need for this increase?

Chief: it was found that the City units of benefit were not increased from 2001 to 2015 and the District managed by just "tightening" our belts; now that the ambulance revenue has declined; (12% ambulance revenue decline) and costs have risen; the ambulance transport revenue was the final breaking point; the Chief went over the units of benefit with the citizens on how much a single family home would be, an empty lot and etc..

Citizen: we want you to use the money carefully.

Chairman Whitehead: when this ballot measure was considered by the citizens the vast range of citizens were supportive of the measure.

Citizen: 1st I would like to congratulate the Fire Dept., they saved my house; how much does an ambulance transport cost?

Chief: the cost per mile is \$48.00 with a \$1800.00 base rate plus disposable supplies; we only collect 20% typically because Medicare and Medi-CAL is government subsidized.

Chief: the Board is dealing with a number of increased costs; health insurance premiums and pension fund contributions for employees has risen.

Chairman Whitehead: we can't predict some of the expenses that occur.

Citizen: Businesses are able to make a yearly profit; what about the inequities of the tax rate in the County and is legal action being taken?

Citizen: could a request be made to the County for a share of the tax for the County areas that are not paying taxes? (Western Annexation-Scotts Valley and Highland Springs area = 23%)

John Whitehead: the County has agreed to pay what was agreed upon, also Proposition 172 monies have not been allotted for the Fire District.

Director Flora: we can go back to the County to request for a share of the % of property taxes that the District is not getting.

Citizen: will passing the Ballot Measure help increase the - Transfer/Out of County transport of patients?

Chief: the Ballot Measure does not shore up the IFT/OOC patient transport program, just the 911 side. Hiring personnel to cover 12 hour shifts was attempted with no real interest of EMT's and Paramedics; consistent hours and pay will need to be offered to attract personnel for IFT/OOC patient transports.

Citizen: the public needs to be educated to know what we don't pay in taxes we will pay in increased insurance rates.

Attorney Mark Velasquez: the Board/District can be informational only in regards to the Ballot Measure; the public and union will have to help with informing the citizens.

Citizen: how serious of an issue is the equipment maintenance?

Chief: we have one ambulance down, one type 3 engine down; and there are no tires in compliance. Dan Kane does an amazing job keeping up with 14 pieces of equipment; we need tires and batteries and then priorities need to be set for other equipment repairs/replacement. A new Type 1 engine will cost \$500,000.00 to \$600,000.00 and a truck 1.2 million.

Director Flora: introduced himself and shared that his background is in government finance; he feels the District could do more sooner in regards to the current financial condition and does not feel the District can move forward without the Ballot Measure. He hopes the community will support the measure and reporting on the District's finances will be more accurate and timely. Through Jan. 8th 58% of the budget has been spent and 62% went to salaries and benefits.

Citizen: if the ballot measure does not pass what will happen?; will \$6.14 per unit of benefit cover the immediate needs and future?

Chairman Whitehead: there may be more reductions if the measure is not passed; 73% of the budget goes to personnel and CalPERS contributions will continue to rise.

Firefighter/Paramedic Johnson: reduced staffing is causing fatigue and low morale and we need help soon; we need groups to get the word out and educate the public.

Citizen: why is the meeting at 5:00 p.m.? Could it be scheduled later so more citizens could attend?

Chairman Whitehead: that's a good idea; the Board will discuss that possibility.

EMT Fricker: the IFT/OOC transport program needs to be reevaluate and included in the budget so it is ran appropriately.

### **Final comments from the Board on Ballot Measure.**

Director Davidson: hopes that the public gets the word out on the Ballot Measure.

Director Williams: said the Ballot Measure is needed to keep operating the Fire District.

Director Gabe: said the measure will help the District catch up with equipment maintenance and get staffing levels back, he is proud of the District and the Firefighters need help.

Director Flora: said increasing the tax is the last resort, an expenditure plan is needed and he hopes the community will help with the effort.

Chairman Whitehead: said he is in favor of the ballot measure.

**Resolution 1819-13**: A motion to approve Resolution 1819-13 was made by Director Davidson with a second to the motion by Director Gabe; included in the motion was that the two selected trustees would be Director Davidson and Flora and that the word be "may" instead of "shall" will be used in Resolution 1819-13 in regards to the CPI adjustment on the units of benefit charge; the reading was waived and the motion was passed unanimously by the Board.

**Ordinance 1819-01**: A motion was made by Director Davidson with a second to the motion by Director Williams to adopt Ordinance 1819-01; the motion was approved unanimously by the Board and the reading was waived.

**Closed Session**: Chairman Whitehead adjourned at 6:45 pm to a Closed Session

Public employment pursuant to Section 54957 of the Ralph M. Brown Act.  
Title: Fire Chief Position

The Regular Meeting was reconvened at 7:50 p.m.  
Board action from the Closed Session:

The Board has selected the Ad hoc committee consisting of Director Davidson and Chairman Whitehead to search for an (Interim Fire Chief) to replace Chief Hutchison.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Chairman, John Whitehead



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Respectfully submitted



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Linda K. Buckner

Administrative Assistant/EMT