



**Peoples Valley Fire Department
Corporation and Auxiliary**
P.O. Box 936, Yarnell, AZ 86362
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Peoples Valley, AZ 86332
www.peoplesvalleyfire.org
Monthly Auxiliary Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2024, 9:00AM

Attendees: Karen Stafford, Ray Paiz, Kelley Paiz, Angie Davis, Bethany Strickland, Pam Kellmann, Jim Kellmann, Gale Henry, Jane Meyers, Chris McCawley, Angie Weishaar, Marcie Theokas, Lori Bomar, Shawn Bomar, Lani Beyle, Judy Garner. Guests: Sherry & Lindon Gareis.

1. Call to Order (Time: 9:07am) and Pledge of Allegiance
2. Karen Stafford made another plea to the group for a recording secretary to fill the vacancy. After a quick rundown of duties, Bethany Strickland agreed to step into the position. A motion was made and seconded, and she was elected unanimously.
3. Introduction of visitors and officer introductions. Karen Stafford introduced Sherry and Lindon Gareis from Down Home Realty who were attending to discuss and answer questions regarding the impending land transfer to the Auxiliary. Karen Stafford also introduced Neil Rifembark as a candidate for membership in the Auxiliary. Neil Rifembark paid his dues and has joined the Auxiliary as our newest member. Welcome, Neil!
4. Angie D read the corporate objectives to the group.
5. **BIG ANNOUNCEMENT:** The land donation and transfer is in Escrow! Karen Stafford made a copy of the real estate contract earlier in the week at Station 81 for those interested in reviewing all of the related documents. Karen Stafford asked the Chief to bring us up to date on the property acquisition. Chief Bomar stated that we are “getting things done!” Details of the progress to date discussed as follows:
 - a. We are looking at a 4/29/24 closing date to align with our intention to pursue ARPA funding through Yavapai County. A meeting about the availability of these funds is taking place on May 1st. These funds would be earmarked for infrastructure costs such as water treatment, water suppression, wastewater treatment, etc. and in order to compete for the funding, we must own the property.
 - i. Neil Rifembark added that because the pool of County money is in high demand, funds will go to those who can demonstrate a solid project plan. He also asked whether Auxiliary representation at the 5/1 County meeting was needed, and while not at this time, Chief Bomar added he will seek our support at future meetings as needed.
 - ii. Angie Davis asked: Regarding the county funds, is there a grant application process? Chief Bomar responded that there is and following the 5/1 consideration process we will be notified if we have qualified to apply for the grant. Step 1 is the 5/1 meeting.

- b. Judy Garner asked about the length of time we anticipate that the Auxiliary will own/operate the property. Chief Bomar's response was that although it is impossible to timeline the actual date, we are actively researching the process used by other fire districts that have been in similar land donation situations.
 - i. Ray Paiz commented: In response to Judy's question, all dates are moving targets at this point, and will solidify as the process moves along. Chief Bomar concurred and reminded the group that "patience will be our greatest challenge."
- c. Bethany Strickland asked: Will there be a model of the new facility made available at some point? Chief Bomar answered affirmatively once it is available.
 - i. Lori Bomar shared with the group that the original concept drawing for the Weaver Mountains Regional Facility is in her possession. It's exciting to see the idea becoming realized!
- d. The Chief also reported that the estimate for the installation of the cattle guard and fencing as required by the contract to be completed within 45 days of closing, is estimated at \$11,000. This will include a fire break between the property and the Maughn property. A donor has been secured to cover these costs.
- e. Further conversation regarding the property gift from the Maughn Family with the Gareis's included discussing the monumental task it has been and yet how committed the Maughn's have been with their gift to Peoples Valley and the Weaver Mountains region. The appraisal of the property value stands at \$355,000. The gift was made without a revision clause, meaning that the Auxiliary is under no obligation to the Maughn's once the contract is fully executed.
- f. The Gareis's also reported that Pioneer Title Agency, who has been working to close this deal for the Auxiliary, extended a 30% discount. Closing costs are estimated at \$2300 and Karen Stafford proposed that a motion be made to approve the closing cost spending as the funds would be required before the next meeting. Marcie Theokas made the motion & 2nd by Bethany Strickland, and the motion was approved unanimously.
- g. The group suggested that a dedication to the Maughn's be considered when appropriate.

6. Reading and Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

- Motion to approve: (Ray Paiz & 2nd by Kelley Paiz)
- Vote: Unanimous to approve. Judy Garner, Lani Beyle and Neil Rifenbark abstained from voting.

7. Review and Approve the Treasurer's Report presented by Judy Garner

A new report format was shared that includes a view of dedicated funds. Motion to approve with corrections was made: (Ray Piaiz & 2nd: Marcie Theokas)

- Vote: unanimous to approve with no one abstaining

8. New Business:

- a. Donations and Expenses were discussed and submitted, to include Kroger Community funds, a donation towards the Weaver Mountain Regions Facility and Property, and expenses for

Medical Supplies, our recent Wildfire Operations training lunch, and the title search for the donated land.

- b. Discussion regarding debit card versus credit card with cash back option. This matter was referred to Grants and Funding Committee (G&F) to discuss and recommend. Motion made and seconded (Lori Bomar & 2nd by Lani Beyle) to refer to G&F Committee, and the motion was approved.
- c. Quick Books: Judy proposed buying an online copy of Quick Books to begin using, Cost is \$60 per month and access would be limited to Judy Garner, Angie Weishaar, and Karen Stafford. Motion was made and seconded (Lori Bomar & 2nd by Jane Meyers) and unanimously passed. Once ready for the transition, Karen Stafford will proceed with securing Quick Books and work with Judy and Angie W. to make the move to this new accounting software version.
- d. Discussion about the remaining Auxiliary supporter stickers – whether to sell or give out. The group decided to give them to Kelley Paiz to include in donation thank-you correspondence.

9. Committee Reports:

Community Outreach & Membership Committee

(Judy Garner, Jane Meyers, Lori Bomar, Kelley & Ray Paiz, Bethany Strickland)

- a. PV Serve Day, April 6 – was a great success! Dumpsters were filled up quickly! Thank you to all who participated in this Auxiliary sponsored event.
- b. Women’s Heart Health Program: Scheduled for **May 10th at the Yarnell Community Center at 2:00pm**. Bethany will be presenting a PowerPoint Presentation and leading a discussion on women’s heart health and signs of trouble. The Events Committee will provide refreshments. Communication about the event will be added to the Yellow Sheet, and by posted flyers. Lori Bomar will add to the website and post the flyer online.
- c. Update to Our Commemorative History Book: Jane Meyers is working on updates and is nearing completion! Updates will include Wildland Fire and Firewise. This book will include updates from 2019 to the present. This book will provide a fundraising opportunity. Decision was reached to publish as a volume II. The Auxiliary will be looking for sponsor/advertisers to help defray the cost of printing. She is also going to delay just a bit to include some of the WMRF activities that are occurring at present.
- d. Membership Flyer Update: Edits are in and the photo for the new pamphlet will be taken this morning!
- e. The committee will also be following up with Yarnell Dayz and the Yarnell Hill Fire Memorial groups to get a better idea if we will be participating this year. More to come in our May meeting.

Events Committee

(Lani Beyle, Jane & Dick Meyers, Chris McCauley, Sue Bernard, Bethany Strickland, Marcie Theokas, Pam Kellmann, Gale Henry)

- a. May training lunch: 5/11 Chris will coordinate sack lunches due to the events scheduled for training.
- b. Karen Stafford signed the Facility Use Agreement to allow the Auxiliary to continue using the Model Creek School facilities. There were no changes to the agreement.
- c. The combination Weaver Mountains Fall Fest/Back to School/Hoe Down event has been referred to the Events Committee for further discussion. We are considering the date of 8/24 for the event which would be held indoors at Model Creek School. We look forward to an update from the Events Committee at the May meeting.

Grants & Funding Committee

(Ray & Kelley Paiz, Angie Davis, Angie Weishaar, Chief & Lori, Neil Rifenbark, Karen Stafford, and Britteny Dwiggin (Duty Officer, Ops))

- a. Amendment to Auxiliary Mission Statement to be used in pursuit of grants & funding opportunities. Motion was made to approve the revised, expanded mission statement (Angie Davis made the motion & 2nd by Angie Weishaar.) Motion passed unanimously and will be updated by Lori Bomar on the website.
- b. The Donate button has been created and will be published soon! The button has been tested with the account with expected results. Small changes to coordinate and publish.

10. Additional Items

Firewise Update:

- a. Wildfire Expo in Prescott at the Courthouse Square 4/20 8:00– 2:00: Ray & Kelley Paiz will coordinate volunteers.
- b. Great changes are happening with attendance at the Firewise meetings! Word is getting out and people are getting interested! Great job Ray Paiz, Chief Bomar, Lew Theokas, and Grey Stafford!
- c. May the 4th at Mortimer Farms in Dewey-Humbolt: Volunteers needed for this event too. Please contact Kelley Paiz to sign up.
- d. Firewise to sponsor a “MiniMuster” Back-to-School event to teach kids fire safety. This will include schools from the Weaver Mountains Region (Kirkland, Skull Valley, and Model Creek). More to come!

Fingerprints: This is a work in progress process through Tamra Hernandez. Those who need fingerprints will be contacted.

11. Officer Reports:

- President: (Thank you)
- VP: no report
- Secretary: not in attendance/no report
- Treasurer: approved with corrections

12. Next Meeting Date/Time: Saturday, ****May 11th , 2024, 9AM**** at the Historic School. Date moved due to the Dewey/Humbolt May the 4th Event.

13. Adjournment – 11:30am Motion by Marcie Theokas & 2nd by Angie Weishaar – unanimously approved. The group then coordinated to have their picture taken with the Fire District and local medical air support provider PHI!

Supplemental:

On 4/23/24, Auxiliary members were notified that a car had been donated to the Auxiliary. Karen Stafford contacted members via text with the suggestion that the car be sold and funds from the sale be made available to the Auxiliary. Following notification, a motion was made via text from Angie Weishaar & 2nd by Kelley Paiz to sell the car with proceeds going towards Operations and the WMRF as needed.

A vote was taken via text and was approved with 4 members not responding. The car will be posted for sale once the title is transferred to the Auxiliary.