

Peeples Valley Fire District  
 PO Box 936, Yarnell, AZ 85362  
 17275 W. Burning Bush Drive, Peeples Valley, AZ 86332  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES**  
 Location of Meeting Held: Old Peeples Valley School  
 18205 S. Highway 89, Peeples Valley, AZ  
**Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 10:00 AM**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Neil Rifembark, the chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The pledge was led by Phil Lobeck.
3. **ROLL CALL OF BOARD:** Neil Rifembark, Phil Lobeck, Wayne Keller, James Jacobs, Scott Mayer
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Regular Session 12-20-2023  
**James Jacobs** made a motion to approve the minutes from the 12-20-2023 board meeting.  
**Seconded: Phil Lobeck**  
**Ayes: Wayne Keller, Neil Rifembark, Phil Lobeck, James Jacobs, Scott Mayer**  
**Nays: 0**  
**Abstain: 0**
5. **CALL TO PUBLIC: none**  
 Members of the community in attendance: **Lori Bomar, Shawn Bomar, Ray Paiz, Kelley Paiz, Jacob Loaiza, and Ben Archer (via phone).**

**6. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

A. Fire Chief's Report:

❖ Number of Calls:

Month	EMS Calls	Fire Calls	Mutual Aid Calls	MVA* Calls	Structure	Public Assist
December	18	1	0	2	0	2
January	9	0	1	0	0	0

\*MVA – Motor Vehicle Accident

\*\*Numbers for the current month are up to the date of the Board Meeting.

❖ Grants:

- Continuing Safer Grant with Southern Yavapai Fire.
- Work completed on Ready, Set, Go Fuels Reduction Grant for Ruger Ranch.
- Applied for HFI-23-2 Fuels Reduction Grant extending the Model Creek Projects.
- Applied for the Diamondbacks Grant for three EMS monitors.
- AzDFFM grant for Station 82 has opened.

- ❖ Personnel/Training: Currently have 20 personnel (7 EMTs, 3 EMRs).
  - ❖ Apparatus/Equipment: all operational.
  - ❖ Wildfire Mitigation: continuing
- B. Report from District Strategic Plan Development Committee:
- ❖ The committee will be meeting after the fire board meeting.
- C. Report from Weaver Mountains Firewise Committee Coordinators
- ❖ Buckhorn Loop waiting on the HFI contract. 56 acres of mitigation.
  - ❖ Insurance coverage issues – an industry representative has been invited to speak to the Weaver Mountains Communities.
  - ❖ Upcoming firewise events for the four schools in the Weaver Mountains Region.
- D. Correspondence received by the Board:
- ❖ none
- E. AFDA Conference  
Neil Rifenburg handed out a packet about Open Meeting Laws.
- F. Auxiliary Report: Peoples Valley Fire District Corporation and Auxiliary  
Our January meeting was held on Saturday, January 6, 2024, and served as our Annual Meeting.
- We welcomed two new members (Jackie Stephens and Angie Weishaar) and held our election of officers. All five officers from 2023 were nominated, accepted, and approved by vote for another term for 2024:
- President: Karen Stafford
  - Vice President: Angela Davis
  - Recording Secretary: Lani Beyle
  - Corresponding Secretary: Kelley Paiz
  - Treasurer: Judy Garner
- We also voted for a new Assistant Treasurer, Angie Weishaar, to replace Julie Deaton, who recommended Angie given her accounting/CPA background. While not an officer-level position, this is a very important role to support our accounting practices.
- We continue to receive donations related to the proposed Multi-Purpose Center with an anonymous \$1000 donation.
- Speaking of the Multi-Purpose Center, through a generous donation by Maughan Ranches, the Auxiliary unanimously approved a motion to accept a land proposal for 10 acres with the stipulation (to be added to the contract) that Peoples Valley Fire Department and Auxiliary can meet the obligations of items #1-4 of the proposal which includes securing a land survey of the parcel: 202-04-004F, installation of cattle guards at West Double Bar A Ranch Road and South Sickles

Ranch Road, installation of fencing at both the south and east portions of the newly created property boundaries, and comparable market analysis of the donated property for tax purposes. Additionally, once the land survey is completed, re-establishing drainage related to the property will need to be addressed.

It was recommended that a Special Committee be formed of Community members who bring relevant expertise to advise and support us with the next steps involved in pursuing the current land transfer proposal and its future development. The committee will provide regular updates and recommendations for action at monthly Auxiliary meetings.

A motion was made to form this Special Committee (to be named the Weaver Mountain Regional Facility Property Committee”) and that Chief Bomar and I would appoint members to this committee and that members of the Auxiliary, while welcome to the meetings, were not required to attend them. The first meeting for this Special Committee was held on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 10 AM at the Historic School House. The Committee members include:

1. Shawn Bomar
2. Robert Brandon
3. Ed Buscis
4. Lindon Gareis
5. Brian Lathrop
6. Mark Peterson
7. Neil Rifenbark
8. Ron Rupert
9. Karen Stafford

The next steps for the land proposal include:

- Formally communicating our intent to accept the land proposal (as stipulated/noted above),
- The land survey, to be completed on 1/29/24,
- The WMRFP Special Committee’s next meeting will be 1/31/24 @5PM at the Historical School,
- Continuing to receive quotes and donations for the cattle guard installation, fencing, drainage, and comparable market survey.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### Community Outreach & Membership Committee:

- New website design is in process,
- A new list of members to be sent out via email.

#### Events Committee:

- Lunch for this month’s Fire Crew Training occurred this past Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, for approximately 20 people. Thank you, Lani Beyle, Marcie Theokas & Chris McCauley, for making that happen for the Crew!
- Chili/Bingo Night is coming up this Saturday at Model Creek School – do you have your tickets yet? Contact Marcie Theokas to get tickets before the event sells out! Doors open at 4:30 PM, Chili starts at 5 PM, and Bingo starts at 5:30 PM. Tickets for

the chili dinner are only \$10 per person, the Bingo game pack is \$10, and bring your dauber (or buy one at the door for \$1).

Grants & Funding Committee:

- After much research, we voted to move forward with a vendor (National Bank of Arizona) to support a “Donate” button for the District’s new website launch. There is no setup fee, and we can get a card reader at no charge per event (we may even have it in time for Chili Bingo night). There is a \$0.15 fee for credit cards and a \$10.00 monthly fee. We can’t wait to get this launched!

**Additionally:**

We debriefed our successful Christmas Elf Program (12/16/23):

- The program went very well this year, and we look forward to supporting even more families through the program next year. Thank you to Lori Bomar & Lani Beyle for being our project leaders on this important community event!
- Thank you to Jackie Stephens (one of our new members!), who has volunteered to provide handmade Christmas gift bags for our kiddos next year. We appreciate her generosity and talent!

We also approved new accounting forms for documenting expense requests and reimbursements, and we are finalizing a set of standardized accounting codes for our recordkeeping purposes. Thank you to Lori Bomar for her guidance and work on these important details.

Lastly, we have some very sad news to report: This past week, we lost one of our Fire Auxiliary members, Karl Kennedy. While his time with us on the Auxiliary was short, he certainly made an impact. From his ideas about events and grants to posts on social media to his many contributions and generosity, he had an incredible heart for our work, and he wanted everyone in the region to know about us. He will definitely be missed! Please keep his companion of 32 years, Mike Hoffman, and their family in your thoughts and prayers at this most difficult time.

Our next meeting will take place on Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, at 9 AM at the Historic School House

*Submitted by Karen Stafford, PVFD Auxiliary President, to Lori Bomar for presentation to the Board on 01.17.24.*

## 7. BUSINESS

- A. Discussion/possible action to approve the December 2023 Financial Report presented by The James Vincent Group.
- **Phil Lobeck** made a motion to approve the December 2023 Financial Report as presented by The James Vincent Group.
  - **Seconded: James Jacobs**
  - **Ayes: Wayne Keller, Neil Rifenburg, Phil Lobeck, James Jacobs, Scott Mayer**
  - **Nays: 0**
  - **Abstain: 0**

- B. Discussion/possible action to approve January Warrant Requests.
- **Scott Mayer** made a motion to approve the January Warrant Requests.
  - **Seconded: Phil Lobeck**
  - **Ayes: Wayne Keller, Neil Rifenbark, Phil Lobeck, James Jacobs, Scott Mayer**
  - **Nays: 0**
  - **Abstain: 0**
- C. Discussion/possible action to form a budget committee for FY25.
- **Phil Lobeck** made a motion to form a budget committee for FY25.
  - **Seconded: Scott Mayer**
  - **Ayes: Wayne Keller, Neil Rifenbark, Phil Lobeck, James Jacobs, Scott Mayer**
  - **Nays: 0**
  - **Abstain: 0**
  - **Budget Committee:** Neil Rifenbark, Scott Mayer, Ray Paiz, Karen Stafford, Wayne Keller, James Jacobs, and Jacob Loaiza
- D. Discuss/possible action to approve the adjacent annexation request.
- **Phil Lobeck** made a motion to table the above.
  - **Seconded: Wayne Keller**
  - **Ayes: Wayne Keller, Neil Rifenbark, Phil Lobeck, James Jacobs, Scott Mayer**
  - **Nays: 0**
  - **Abstain: 0**

8. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS; UPCOMING MEETING DATE**

- A. New Business Agenda Item Requests for the next Regular, Workshops and Other Meetings. Tabled item 7.D.
- B. Upcoming Meeting Date: Next Regular Session – February 21, 2024, at 10:00 AM.

9. **ADJOURNMENT: Neil Rifenbark** adjourned the meeting at 11:12 AM.

Respectfully Submitted by: Lori Bomar, Administration