



**Peoples Valley Fire Department  
Corporation and Auxiliary**  
P.O. Box 936, Yarnell, AZ 86362  
17275 W. Burning Bush Dr.  
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: 9:07 am) 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 Lyndon 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 Rifenbark as a candidate for membership in the Auxiliary. Neil Rifenbark 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 process has entered the Escrow stage! 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. To keep us updated on the property acquisition, Karen Stafford asked Chief Bomar to share the latest developments. Chief Bomar assured us that we are making significant progress. Here are the details:
  - a. We are looking at a 4/29/24 closing date to align with our intention to pursue funding through Yavapai County. A meeting about the availability of these funds is taking place on May 1<sup>st</sup>. These funds would be earmarked for infrastructure costs such as water treatment, wastewater treatment, etc.; to compete for the funding, we must own the property.
    - i. Neil Rifenbark added that because the County money pool is in high demand, funds will go to those demonstrating 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 would seek our support at future meetings as needed.
    - ii. Angie Davis asked: Is there a grant application process for the county funds? 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 the Auxiliary will own/operate the property. Chief Bomar responded that although it is impossible to timeline the actual date, we are actively researching the process used by other fire districts in similar land donation situations.
    - i. Ray Paiz commented: In response to Judy's question, all dates are moving targets and will solidify as the process progresses. Chief Bomar reminded the group that "patience will be our greatest challenge."
  - c. Bethany Strickland asked: Will a new facility model be made available at some point? Chief Bomar answered affirmatively once it is available.
    - i. Lori Bomar shared with the group that she has the original concept drawing for the Weaver Mountains Regional Facility. It's exciting to see the idea become a reality!
  - d. The Chief also reported that the estimate for installing 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' included discussing the monumental task it has been and yet how committed the Maughn family has 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 not obligated to the Maughns once the contract is fully executed.
  - f. The Gareis' 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 & 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bethany Strickland, which was approved unanimously.
  - g. The group suggested that a dedication to the Maughns be considered when appropriate.
6. Reading and Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting
    - Motion to approve: (Ray Paiz & 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Piaz & 2<sup>nd</sup>: Marcie Theokas )

    - Vote: unanimous to approve with no one abstaining
  8. New Business:
    - a. Donations and Expenses were discussed and submitted, including Kroger Community funds, a donation towards the Weaver Mountain Regions Facility and Property, 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 the Grants and Funding Committee (G&F) for discussion and recommendations. A motion was made and seconded (Lori Bomar, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lani Beyle) to refer to the G&F Committee, and the motion was approved.

- c. Quick Books: Judy proposed buying an online copy of Quick Books to begin using. The 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 & 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jane Meyers) and unanimously passed. Once ready for the transition, Karen Stafford will secure QuickBooks and work with Judy and Angie W. to move to this new accounting software version.
- d. Discussion about the remaining Auxiliary supporter stickers—whether to sell or give them away. The group gave them to Kelley Paiz to include in the 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 10<sup>th</sup> at the Yarnell Community Center at 2:00 pm**. Bethany will present a PowerPoint Presentation and lead 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 consist of updates from 2019 to the present and will provide a fundraising opportunity. A decision was reached to publish it as volume II. The Auxiliary will be looking for sponsors/advertisers to help defray the cost of printing. She is also going to delay including some of the WMRF activities that are occurring at present a bit.
- d. Membership Flyer Update: The edits are in, and the photo for the new pamphlet will be taken this morning!
- e. The committee will also follow up with Yarnell Dayz and the Yarnell Hill Fire Memorial groups to better understand how 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. The agreement did not change.
- 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 Rifembark, Karen Stafford, and Britteny Dwiggins (Duty Officer, Ops))

- a. Amendment to Auxiliary Mission Statement to be used to pursue grants & funding opportunities. Motion was made to approve the revised, expanded mission statement (Angie Davis made the motion & 2<sup>nd</sup> by Angie Weishaar.) The 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, with minor 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. Attendance at the Firewise meetings is changing dramatically! Word is spreading, and people are becoming interested! Great job, Ray Paiz, Chief Bomar, Lew Theokas, and Grey Stafford!
- c. May the 4<sup>th</sup> Be With You at Mortimer Farms in Dewey-Humboldt: Volunteers are needed for this event, too. Please get in touch with 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 process in progress 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. The date was moved due to the Dewey/Humboldt May 4<sup>th</sup> Event.

13. Adjournment – 11:30 am Motion by Marcie Theokas & 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 to suggest that the car be sold and funds from the sale be available to the Auxiliary. Following notification, a motion was made via text from Angie Weishaar & 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kelley Paiz to sell the car with proceeds going towards Operations and the WMRF as needed.

A vote was taken via text and approved, with four members not responding. Once the title is transferred to the auxiliary, the car will be posted for sale.