

**Walker Fire Protection Association  
Board Meeting  
8 September 12 – As Amended and Approved on 13 Oct 12**

**Board Members Present:**

<b>President:</b>	Bill Loughrige
<b>Vice President:</b>	Chuck Bowers
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Vic Hencken
<b>Secretary:</b>	Russ Courtney
<b>Director:</b>	Greg Stava
<b>Director:</b>	John Ohanesian

**Board Members Absent:**

<b>Fire Chief:</b>	Roger Nusbaum - attending AZ State Fire School
<b>Director:</b>	Scott Stratman - on holiday

**Agenda**

<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Executive Session
<b>9:15 a.m.</b>	Begin General Session
	Approve Agenda
	Public Comments (questions will be addressed at the end of the meeting)
	President Report
	Secretary Report
	Treasurer Report
	Fire Chief Report
	Committee Reports
	Volunteer of the Month Recognition
	Old Business
	Audit Committee
	Articles of Incorporation
	Poker Run
	Insurance
	Mayer Contract
	New Business
	Legal Representation
	Community Announcements: (Firewise, WCAA, Others?)
	Public Forum (Two-minute restriction)
	Brief Board discussion if any about public comments
<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	Adjournment

Executive Session began at 9:00 AM

General Session began at 9:10 AM

**Agenda:**

Agenda was presented earlier this week.

Motion to accept the agenda was made by John. Second by VicVote: 6/0 Passed

**Public Comments:** (questions will be addressed at the end of the meeting)

Mark Herrin presented a framed picture of the new Big Bug Mesa Station. The building is complete and will be turned over to us in the next few weeks after a final inspection. With a final contribution of \$500, the total contributions from the community were \$26,250. The building is "first class", and is fully insulated. There will no further bills for the furnace or propane tank. The final clean-up is scheduled for Tuesday. (Vic) Did you ask for donations for the propane? (Mark) Acorn Propane out of Phoenix donated the tank, ran the line, and hooked up the furnace. A subcontractor and a distributor are putting in the furnace for us. The electrical line is being run by Suncorp out of Phoenix. It should be fired up and ready in the next two weeks. (Bill) How about the lease agreement? (Mark) That's up to you guys. You know my feeling on that. A 3 page agreement turned into 27 pages. (Mark) I am insuring the building until WFPA takes it over. The insurance charge is meniscal. To officially turn it over we should have a signed agreement. The attorney was great donating his time, but the agreement that came back covered everything including Nuclear War.

**Presidents Report:**

Attended the Breezy Pines Annual meeting and made a presentation for housing a truck in the area. We presented a map that Joyce Loughrige created showing them their proximity to the home on Big Bug Mesa and how important it is for them to be as fire safe as they can be. Loren and Betsy were there and discussed FireWise with a few of the residents. There was no discussion of the issue of housing a truck. Elections and a Pot Luck were being held that day.

Joyce continues work on the maps but her schedule has not allowed her to get to some areas. The maps which she has been providing are very detailed.

**Secretary's Report:**

Minutes from the previous board meeting were distributed.

I completed Letters of Recognition and Certificates of Appreciation for Dunn-Edwards Paints in Prescott Valley, for their donation of paint for the Fire Station and the new station on Big Bug Mesa.

A motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes was made by John. Second by Chuck.  
Discussion: None. Vote: 6/0 Passed.

**Treasurer's Report:**

As of 31 July 2012, Currently \$7000 above budget. Total Checking/Savings is \$117,397.  
Contributions were \$7,400. Contributions are still coming in.

Chart of accounts has been revamped and we have begun banking with County Bank. Other accounts are being closed

(Bill) Linda will be adding an additional \$750 today. Donations still keep coming.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Greg. Second by John. Discussion: None  
Vote: 6/0 Passed

**Fire Chief's Report:**

**Calls**

Two calls; one smoke call (turned out to be a water dog) and one resident had a burn pile going

### **Fleet**

Engine 86, Patrol 80, Patrol 85, Tender 81 and Tender 82 have been in for service so far. Still need to have Patrol 83, Patrol 84 and Patrol 81 in for service. A few of the vehicles have needed repair work done in addition to annual testing.

### **Training**

We had a visit from the Prescott Regional Dispatch Center aka Alarm to help us with radio procedure training and our training with Mayer went over extrication.

We currently have three firefighters attending the AZ State Fire School in Mesa this weekend which will bring us up to 12 firefighters trained for exterior structure firefighting. We got a scholarship for two of the three students.

### **Water Use**

We've had a dozen or so residents come forward in the last few months to offer their water tank in case of an emergency. I set an expectation that the next step would be some sort of agreement to be signed for legal reasons to be worked on this fall. I think we are at the point where we can move forward with drafting that agreement.

### **Breezy Pine**

Bill Loughrige and I attended the Breezy Pine annual meeting over Labor Day weekend. We conveyed the extent to which we would like to build on the relationship we have with them in terms of fire training and possibly putting a truck there (if they have trained personnel). There was no resistance to the idea but I did not get a sense of whether they have any interest.

### **Big Bug Substation**

As of my latest conversation with Marc Herrin the building needed to be electrified and have a final walk through inspection before we could place the truck there.

Motion to accept the Fire Chief Report was made by John. Seconded by Vic. Discussion: None  
Vote: 6/0 Passed.

### **Volunteer of the Months Recognition:**

Joyce Loughrige for her work on the GIS Mapping of Walker. Work done on the mapping is tremendous. She had donated the software the recent renewal of those licenses.

### **Old Business:**

**Budget Committee:** The budget has been completed and was approved last month.

**Audit:** (Joyce Hyman) Tax Returns have been given to Bill. The Audit is complete. There were no discrepancies. Taxes are done and have been given to Vic.

**Articles of Incorporation:** A draft has been received and was distributed. (Chuck) We already have

a statutory agent and there is no need to put Bill Curosh in there as an additional agent. Additional clarification on Article XI should be passed by legal. Not sure what I read in that. (Bill) Believe that is required by IRS and is currently missing from the Articles. (Chuck) Article regarding no entity taking over the Fire Department. Which Article was that? Thought that it was Article XI, but might be wrong. (Greg) Believe that it is Article XI also. The prior version that was file did not have that stipulation when Bill Curosh looked at the Articles. He also added language for the 501(c)3. Looks like Curosh has gone through each point that Whittington has commented on. I would add commentary from the board so that the community can have some commentary from the board so that community can get started. For example some clarity has been lost in the meaning of 2/3. Is it those in attendance, the total role of all members, etc. (Bill) 7.1.2 talks about the membership in the corporation which exclude all parcel owners whose property is property is protected by any other recognized fire protection entity/agent. (Vic) Wondering what I am reading as I am not sure of the intent because of the language which has been added. It's a question for Bill Whittington; Is this necessary to provide the protections we need or is this going to come back to bite us later. (Bill) Do we refer it to Whittington before or after? (Vic) Get all the comments and then refer them to Whittington so they can be discussed at one time. (Bill) These will be posted and sent to the community via email for comments by the October Board Meeting. We will review comments and make any adjustments to the draft and refer the draft to Bill Whittington for review.

**Poker Run:** Insurance will cost \$500. Prizes are an additional \$500. If we can find sponsors that will help us. There was also a question about putting a hundred or so ATV's through the community. This will be on hold until we can review and come up with answers to those questions. The insurance cost seems extreme but apparently our insurance company does not like ATV's.

**Insurance:** Workers comp has been resolved. We have not had our audit as of yet. There is going to be a Books and Records read off of QuickBooks. We will send them into the accounts office. The accountant will call up whatever records need to be reviewed. VPIS has been paid and now complete.

**Mayer Contract:** The contract has run its course. We have called Glenn. He will prepare a report in mid-September about what has been accomplished, where we are and where he feels we should go. His question back to us was "Who is controlling the training? Are we (Walker) in a position to do that? Are we skilled enough to know what we need to know for further training?". Training is the area where he feels that he can be most useful. We should also review what we believe has been accomplished. (Chuck) I have not reviewed that as of yet but agree with what Glenn is saying. The board or the Fire Chief needs to have some input/direction on further training. Goes with our Strategic Plan which we have been discussing. (Vic) Do we pay a monthly stipend for further services? They should be able to provide this on an hourly basis, or better yet we define what we want and they give us a price so that we can budget that cost. (Chuck) To follow up, I have not seen a copy of the agreement. Where is that? (Bill) We'll find a copy for you. (Chuck) and the report? (Greg) Was distributed to the public. (Bill) The report was not placed on the web but copies were made available to anyone who wished to read the report. (Greg) When we get the report we will be able to articulate a strategy further.

Rudy has been busy. The tree near the (Trevor and Keith) Signs have been refurbished and reposted. (Rudy) Typical one hour job that turned into a half day.

### **New Business:**

The board discussed the status of Bill Whittington as corporate council and our use of him. Especially in light of how he had been used in the past and where the fees totaled \$20,000. We are dealing with legal issues but need to manage costs. We need some sort of plan/process to run these types of questions

past a lawyer - Whittington or someone else. (Chuck) Thoughts are that 10 years ago this was a simple business, but now we are doing more complex work. The point being made was that we can use the resources in the community but it is in our best interest that the business issues are run past Whittington. If we have not made him the corporate council we should as there are only two people in the state who do this type of work. Spent some time reviewing 2008/2009 Board meetings notes and we handed Bill Whittington "carte blanche" We should suggest where we want to go and should get his involvement as legal counsel. He should attend a meeting once a year to give direction much like we do for VPIS and Wyatt Wong. (Vic) Bill Curosh has provided a good starting point for where we want to go as a community. We can then pass that to Whittington for review and seal of approval. (Greg) As far as I'm concerned, Bill is the corporate attorney and we should not be asking resources of the community to provide that service. I think it is foolish to not have Whittington review/vetted the work. The situation was mismanaged by previous boards by not providing direction to Whittington. This cost us in dollars. This went on for a year and a half. (John) I don't think the problems of the past will not happen again. \$20K in legal fees did not get us much. We have people with talent in the community which should be used and then passed to Whittington for his expertise. That makes sense to me.

### **Community Announcements:**

**FireWise:** (Loren) A State Forestry Assistance (WFHF) grant was approved for \$53K, of which our portion is only 90%. We have also put in for a Title 3 Grant with the county. The county will meet on the 17th for approval. We put in for \$85K, but it got knocked down to \$42,750. As we are waiting for approval of funds we have not had any Chipper Days. I don't think we will get a reimbursement from the county for the 2 June Chipper Day that the WPFA and WCAA each paid for. (\$834.00 each) Don't hold your breath. We get promises from the county. Everyone had to give up some additional money and our final amount for the Title III grant is \$40,750. \$265K was available with over \$400K requested. Gary Roysdon was charged to pare it down to come within the \$265K. We got cut down to half. He will still \$30K short. All of the communities had to give a little more. (Bill) Loren? The \$5300 that comes from the community; Does that come from the WFFA or from individuals? (Loren) That comes from individuals. Individuals will hire the contractors and submit for reimbursement. They will get a 90% reimbursement. (John) When will that be getting started? (Loren) I was told by Gary Roysdon that PAWUIC is still waiting for some 2010 money to be funded for State grants. There is some 2011 money that may get funded as early as 1 October. But we are in the 2012 budget. We are one of 10 grants in the State that have been approved. (Bill) And you are still tracking in-kind work done by homeowners? (Loren) We are still tracking that but we do not personally get any help from that. People turn in time and I submit them to PAWUIC to offset their 50/50 grants. We are just helping them. (John) Will we have some of the timesheets at the FireWise trailer? (Loren) Yes, I will have some there. They in the process of revising them ... this is about the 6th time in the last year and they are about to revise them again. (John) That would be great as I think homeowners are unaware that if they put in 4 or 5 hours into their property, that we can send that off for credit for PAWUIC (Vic) Homeowners that have spent their own money; is that helpful? (Loren) Yes. They are finalizing many of these grants right now and anything that is current would be of help. That can be sent to me in an email along with some proof of the expense. (Chuck) Atta-boy to Loren. When the money was made available you had to have the grant in by 24 August. This guy got it in by the 16th. Otherwise we would not have that money.

**Coat Drive:** (Victoria) So far we have 12 people who are donating \$1 per coat towards the Thanksgiving Dinner program. Last year we had 20, so I'm hoping some other people will step forward. Before I walked in here we had 43 coats in the back of the jeep plus what I picked up today. And

something was said to me.. "I'm out of coats." Let's face it, this is our 3rd year and I think we are pretty coat poor. The Coalition for Compassion is really looking for children's coats, so if you like, you can do "Coats for Kids" I'll do the shopping. For \$20 I'll go to Goodwill and pick up a couple of coats.. 2 or 3 coats and you can handle it that way, if you like. So we have that going. Hopefully we will achieve our goal of 20 families for the Thanksgiving Dinner. So that's about \$1K in donations from the coats.

**GPS Run:** (Victoria) We have our GPS Run today. We have our 10 teams. We are pleased that we beat Kiwanis who are having one later this month. This is for the community and the money is for the Poker Pot.

**Fire Fighter Appreciation Day:** (John) 29 September. Pig Roast provide by the Board, we pay for the pig. It's a Pot Luck - Chili Cook-off. All of the information is online. Typically we get 100-125 people. Kids love seeing the pig come off the spit. 29 September from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM and everyone is welcome..... friends, family, and clergy. (Loren) FireWise trailer will participate in the Fire Fighter appreciation day. Looking for some additional volunteers from other FireWise communities to assist.

(Victoria) I have a question for Jon on the Fire Fighter Appreciation Day. If I can find a volunteer to collect coats, is that alright? I will not be there that day. (John) Sure. If people bring coats we'll collect them. What is your cut off for collecting coats? (Victoria) Probably the end of October.

### **Public Comments:**

(Gene) We talk about Mayer, the Firemen thought that the training was very good. But we think they ran out of things to train on. (Bill) Thanks Gene. Board believes the relationship with Mayer was good for us. What we need to train for in the future is part of what the Planning Committee and the discussion that you heard, and what Mayer suggests. But don't want to spend the money if there is no benefit to us, and that is the decision that we are trying to make right now. We are through the \$2K/mo. portion of it and we are now down to \$1K/mo. They have been billing basically \$500/mo. when they come to train for their expenses. We also understand that some people from Mayer are willing to come and conduct training themselves. But that is all to be worked out in the future. But you are right. The training has been good and as much as anything is a public relations thing between our fire department with the other fire departments, that we are serious about improving what we do here.

(Rudy) It's not related, but we have been here 40 years and the first time ever, I had encountered a rattlesnake. It was a big one and it was 2 inches away from my arm. I'm not sure that's a community interest.. I think it is. This one was 28 inches long and had 11 rattles. It was an Arizona Black Rattler. (Bill) We've had five rattle snakes since 1948. Russ had one crawl under his car about 1 or 2 months ago to warm up and then it must migrated on when he scared it. Snakes are Omni-present. You bring up a good point on public education. That is something we can do in terms of "We live in a forest...." And remind people of other things in addition to the snakes. Smoke detector, Fire Extinguisher, and also about FireWise. A fact sheet to let people know.(John) There's a product that I got at Home Depot called "Snake Away". (Bill) It's called a shot gun! (John) That's the next version of it. But you sprinkle this around your property. The snakes don't like the pheromones in the product. Ammonia will do the same. Pick up four or five bottles at the Dollar Store and pour them around the property. (Chuck) We had a 24 inch long rattler up on Mary May. Moth balls work on skunks too! (Vic) We had one and put a shovel on it to decapitate it and that didn't work. So then I just had one mad snake. Take

friend or a sharper shovel with you.

(Victoria) I had a question. What's happening with the Articles of Incorporation? Are they going out to the community? Do you currently have them proposed or are you working them? What's happening?

(Bill ) The Articles of Incorporation were redrafted by Bill Curosh. They have been modified a couple of times and so he rewrote them based on what was in the Articles and the Amendments that we had. He's presented them to the Board and what we will do is present them to you, the public. He has just incorporated everything and has added nothing new except for the requirement by the IRS for certain statutory language for both Arizona and IRS. (Victoria) So they will be on the website? (Bill) Yes, we will get it posted and sent in an email for comments from the community.

(Larry) 29<sup>th</sup>? Is there going to be a Pancake Breakfast that day? (Vic) We could just stay all day and eat!! (Bill) The Pancake Breakfast is moved to the 21st... the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month. Those Pancake Breakfasts have been well attended.

(Glen) From my point of view, Bill Whittington has not done what he should have done. I'm pretty sure with the Articles of Incorporation, he blessed them once. We already paid him once to go through those things. (Bill) I think the point is that there are detractors from Bill Whittington in the community. At the same time he does present an expertise that we need. (Glenn) I would like to know; What has he done for us, for the money? Everything we have given him for review has not come back done properly. I'm not satisfied with the results from Bill Whittington. I know Chuck, that he is a friend of yours. So what you have to say about him is not impartial. I don't see what the guy has really done. Didn't we do the bylaws and he gave us a once sentence "OK" kind of thing? And now we look at the bylaws and see the mistakes that were made. What did he do? (Bill) We do appreciate the input. But it's not beneficial to have a discussion about it. We understand that there are some detractors in the community. We do want you to be able to come here and express your opinion. But we don't want to argue with you about your opinion. Some of us may hold the same opinion about these things. (Chuck) Yes, I have made a friend of Bill Whittington. I have no axe to grind and he doesn't care either. It's one of these things where we don't have him on a retainer. We pay him. He gives us a discount. What we need, we should manage that, and present that to him. And from that point forward that's up to him. All I'm saying, as a Board member I feel more comfortable with legal representation on the issues we deal with.

(Chuck) One other item which I brought up on at our retreat is the apron in the parking lot. I'll be happy to talk to cement companies or somebody to figure out what we do that. I know you talked to Dan Houk about it and he talked to me about it. Put large crushed rock in there. The problem is that the county road is beginning to deteriorate, breaking off chunks of asphalt. The whole thing is going downhill. I'll be happy to solicit bids. Best would be to dig it out and put in a drain pipe and cover it up. This will allow the rain to go behind the fire station and go right out. (Gene) The county has a bid out to repave Walker Road. Be careful what you do in light of that. (Chuck) Good point. I'm glad you brought that up, it's something I was going to ask about. The county must have some right of way on either side of that road .... some easement. (Gene) You might get them to pave that. I'd wait 6 months to see what they will be doing. (Marc) They are grinding an inch off Walker Road from the Costco down to Humming Bird Hill and will be applying a 2 inch overlay. From Humming Bird Hill to the Senator Highway, the county is taking over maintenance of that on a full time basis. This is all in proposals now. But those property owners would get deductions on their property taxes for the easements that would go through there. This is not to pave it but to maintain it better than what they have been doing. (Bill) The discussion with Dan Houk about that last effort lasted about 10 years. No matter what you put there, if you extend this by a foot or two to smooth down the drop off in the parking lot, you might be good for another 8 or 10 years before it goes bad again. But it would still continue to erode beyond where the

hard surface is. His suggestion was that we get some gravel that would absorb the water and not wash away to smooth that drop off. (Chuck) I did have that discussion with him. He suggests 3 or 4 inches of crushed stone. Even that will wash away. My suggestion that we dig it out and put a culvert and grate out there.

(Chuck) I don't know if anyone has noticed but since I've come back from Canada, I can't count the number of people in the creek. I happened to be down a couple of times and I sat and watched for a while. I've talked to Greg about this because he's done some gold panning and a number of you have done some gold panning. There are some chemicals that you use to gold pan with and these guys are out there with buckets behind their trucks so you can't see them from the street. I would like to have water tested by School House Road to see what's coming out of there. Testing it before and after would be good. (Bill) If these guys are using chemicals, do we even own the creek? (Chuck) We do own part of the creek. (Marc) Main chemical used is Mercury. (Greg) They also use Muriatic and Sulfuric Acid. They shouldn't have access if its posted. They can walk up and down the creek.. they have a right to do that. But why don't we just post our property lines and say no trespassing. (Glen) I fly model airplane as a hobby. It's a crazy thing and doesn't make sense. Some people play golf. I have problem with other people, not letting other people enjoy their hobby. That creek has been disrupted for years. Let them enjoy their life and you can enjoy yours.

(Chuck) I know that Rudy did some work over by the mail boxes. I know that they are a landmark and that people come from all over to take pictures of the mail boxes. I do know that there are some mail boxes that have been there for years. People move in, move out... they never take them down. We keep adding more boxes? Do we have a way to have a say? (Bill) They are private property. I don't know what we can do about it. It is an iconic feature.. like the Pink Car. People come from all over to see them. There are boxes not being used. That corner belongs to the French Family. If they ever sold it the new owner might not want that there. Not much for us to do about those social things, including panning in the creek. Now if they are doing something that affects the Fire Department... Bob caught them down there with a warming fire. There is no reason for that. They do come up and use our water. If we find people doing that we can ask them to leave. (Chuck) My concern is about the water. People are there day and night. One guy has a camper down there and I'm guessing that he's sleeping there. That for me... (Bill) in our parking lot they are parked and sleeping? (Chuck) Yes. (Bill) There is something we can do about that.

(Chuck) Spent time with Curt Bowser at Potato patch and went to their meeting about the fire station. Lots of discussion. Hats off to Jody. She did a Yeoman's Job of supporting the situation. There were 5 detractors. They passed overwhelmingly to put a station there and Curt is determined to get it there this year. I ran into Steve Mark at the Board of Supervisors meeting that Loren and I attended. I set it up so that Curt and I got all the paperwork set up and got some rough drawing. He's in the process of getting those drawings tightened up. The permit is a \$95 or \$100. As soon as they have that.. it will be under 400 sq. ft. They are excited.

Motion to adjourn was made by John. Second Vic. Discussion: None. Vote: 6/0. Passed

Meeting Adjourned at 10:24 AM