



Minutes – WFPA ANNUAL MEETING – May 25, 2024

8:30 – Credentials Open

Board Members present: Bill Loughrige, Clyde McKay, Lance Gilbert, Rudy Erdman, Marti Mahoney, Jeff Anderson, Roger Nusbaum.

9:00 a.m. – Meeting Begins

Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction of Members and comments (Bill Loughrige)

Fire Chief Comments – Roger Nusbaum

We talked last year about increasing complexity in the fire service and the extent to which that impacts us. This year I wanted to put some dollars and cents to it. Lance probably has all the numbers but for a little context, we spend \$28,000 on various types of insurance that we have to carry. We spend maybe \$12,000 on regular vehicle maintenance but then there are always repairs, some of which are expensive so maybe \$16,000 all in. Things like medical supplies which are about \$5,000, it's a long list and the reality is the list will get longer and more expensive.

Insurance

There have been concerns expressed in various places about why it is getting more difficult to get homeowners insurance. First, we went through our ISO review in March and we maintained our 8b status which is the highest we can get without a hydrant system. The problems we have had are not unique. People in Florida having similar problems for different reasons, rising water levels and greater frequency of extreme hurricanes. The reality is that as weather has become more extreme over the last few years or so, the pooling of risk has become more complicated and the business of risk transfer has become far more expensive causing premiums to go dramatically higher and there to greater incidence of cancellations.

Fire season expectations

The winter wasn't that wet but we did have some moisture in the spring which helps. The fire season usually starts down south but it started late and very slowly. We sent out a community email about how the fire season just sort of flipped on like a light switch where are new fires every day. We're a long way into our traditional fire season without having had restrictions imposed but we shouldn't get complacent that the fire season here couldn't really kick in like flipping a light switch. The expectation is for a "normal fire season" for this year, not bad, not light but normal. We haven't seen expectations for the monsoon published from normal sources, there is a weather guy on Facebook who although not infallible is pretty accurate

and he is expecting a very weak monsoon due to a light hurricane season. If he's right, then this year could be like 2019 where there was a relatively serious fire just south of us in 2019.

Airbnb rentals

If you rent out your cabin on Airbnb or VRBO please make sure guests understand the fire danger and how restrictions work. We'd ask that you consider not allowing fires of any kind at your rental.

Jeff Anderson makes the motion to approve the Fire Chief report. Rudy Erdman seconds.

Walker Merchandise – Karen Gonzalez

Introduction of assistants Karla Macy and Marti Mahoney. We are working on new items every year and different and more items available for home and for kids. New designs on t-shirts.

Thanks and gratitude for the financial support on Merchandise sales.

Karla announces that Brick Sales are again available. Consider one not just for the fire station, but to show at your home. This is a big fund raiser every year. Forms will be available on the merchandise tables.

Fund Raisers – Jeff Anderson

Scheduled fund raisers coming up include:

June 8th – Movie Night at the Fire station

October – Golf Tournament at Antelope Hills Golf Course

President Report – Bill Loughrige

- Bill recognizes Bud Melnor long time fire volunteer and one-time fire chief for his constant assistance, volunteering and work. Thanks also to Joyce for her assistance today on the voting and resident registration required by by-laws for annual meeting.
- Thank you to all the volunteers and a request for people to consider volunteering at the events are needed for set up, clean up, food serving.
- Fund Raising and donations. Current WFPA request is \$300 yearly donation for support. There are over 1300 residents plus weekenders. Expenses for running the department, maintenance on equipment and trucks has been increasing. And expenses for the events is also increased.
- There is availability for counseling for our fire department volunteer crew members. Several of the accident / events have been serious and we want to provide our team with support and encouragement as needed.

Secretary report – Marti Mahoney

Requests motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion made by Jeff Anderson and seconded by Rudy Erdman.

A quorum was met today for the Votes required for the Annual Meeting.

- All Board meeting monthly minutes are posted on the Walkerfire.org website.
- Marti encourages residents to review if you are interested in the scope discussed, projects discussed and decisions, financial support information.

Treasurer Report – Lance Gilbert

	<u>2022/2023</u>	<u>2023/2024</u>	
Income	\$ 107,070	\$ 101,303	(-\$5767)
Expenses	\$ 119,515	\$ 177,468	(+\$57,953)
Wildland Program	\$ 72,882	\$ 74,503	(+\$1,621)
Income			
Net Income	\$ 60,438	<\$ 1,660 >	

This year Donations were down approx. 20%, \$57,461 vs. \$70,722 from last year.

Expenses were up in all categories except utilities due to milder winter requiring less propane.

Fuel costs increased by \$4,412, Station maintenance was up \$1,788 and firefighting expenses were up \$7,340 partly due to ISO review preparation.

Insurance costs were up almost 40%, which is our biggest expense.

We also had a large capital expense of \$15,000 for replacing the pumps for filling the trucks with water.

Fundraising was up \$7,649 in large part due to merchandise sales. We did an internal audit of the merchandise and found we receive about \$2.50 for ever \$1 we spend for merchandise items.

We do still hold 1 year of operating capital.

We opened a high yield account this year with savings from past year Wildland earnings for fleet replacement.

We are currently working with our accountant to set up a new expense program called Ramp to more easily track and control expenses.

WTCS is projected to generate \$20,000 which goes toward things like the rehab of the parking lot after Chip and Haul. (gravel costs last year were \$7,000)

Projecting a budget of approximately \$120,000 for next fiscal year.

Please note these are projected numbers as our fiscal year ends in May and final totals not been verified yet.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report from Jeff Anderson. Clyde McKay Seconded.

Roger Nusbaum – Providing info on Wildland crews and financial support when our crews are able to work Wildland Fires. When Walker Fire responds for active fires, these monies can add significant funds to WFPA support. The more calls we respond to, the more financial support.

Currently we are needing to raise funds and/or grants for the following:

- Engine 86. This is a goal to replace in 3 ½ years
- Tender 81. This truck is 34 years old. Needs replacement asap.
- Bruch 80 needs updating or replacing, but it is not a priority at this time.

Introduction of Candidates and Nominations from the floor:

We have four nominees for the four open positions on the Board.

- Bill Loughrige
- Clyde McKay
- Jeff Anderson
- Louie Reale

There are no nominations from the floor.

A request was made from Bill Loughrige for a motion to elect the candidates by Acclamation. Jeff Anderson makes the motion. Rudy Erdman seconds. All in favor. Approved.

Motion to Adjourn from Rudy Erdman. Jeff Anderson Seconds. All in favor. Aye.

End 9:50