

WFPA  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2011

9:00 a.m. Executive Session  
Replace Terry Piske

The Board will meet with the four who have expressed interested in becoming Board Members. Others interested should contact the Board.

9:45 a.m. Begin General Session

Board Members Present

Bill Loughrige (President)  
Greg Kozlowski (Treasurer)  
Greg Stava  
Vic Hencken  
John Ohanesian  
Bob Loughrige (Fire Chief) (Arrived late because of the Mohawk fire)

Board Members Absent

Mark Keegan (Vice President) (On the Mohawk Fire)

Greg Stava moved to accept the Agenda as proposed, John Ohanesian second.  
Motion passed by unanimous vote.

President Report

Nine Firefighters, including Board Vice President Mark Keegan, were on a lightning caused tree fire above the Victor mine. The contract with Mayer Fire has been signed and there were activities related to that contract taking place. Those include training and SOP's and SOG's.

Secretary Report

John Ohanesian moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes, Greg Stava seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote. (The unapproved minutes had been posted on the WFPA web page)

Treasurer Report (Payment Resolutions)

Treasurer Greg Kozlowski provided a brief description of his written report. His report will include totals for the year. To date there is an \$8500.00 negative cash flow for the year.

Greg described an agreement with an accounting firm (Schutte & Hilgendorf PLLC) to handle the WFPA book keeping for \$250.00 a month. We are already spending \$80.00 a month for partial support.

He made a motion to enter into this agreement. Greg Stava seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### Fire Chief Report (Includes ISO)

Fire Chief Bob Loughrige arrived in time to give his report. He had just come from the fire scene and indicated the fire was nearly contained. It was a lightning caused fire that had smoldered overnight about 200 yards above Morning Star Ln.

The following is the August activity for the Fire Department.

This month we had one fire caused by a lighting strike. The Cattle Guard Fire was a tenth of an acre fire. The Forest Service wrote an Equipment Order for this fire and we should receive payment for our truck P-80 and two firefighters. Firefighters Roger Nusbaum and Mark Keegan walked three hours each direction first to find the fire and then to find their truck. Thank you Roger and Mark for your time.

We had to purchase a new computer for the station because the hard drive on the old computer was dying. We added the new mapping program worth \$6,000.00 (or more) for \$100.00 because we are a non-profit association. Joyce Loughrige can take credit for making this software available to WFPA.

This next month it is time to start sending our trucks back to Central Yavapai for their annual check.

Pat Frey from Glendale Fire came for a visit to see our equipment, before setting up a training session for using foam for wildland fires.

#### ISO

The ISO committee has been meeting. We are not clearly eligible for the points necessary for an 8b rating. The committee discussed the purchase of a new truck. A new truck would have the impact of providing points we need.

Bob said the might be able to manage accumulating points, but if we are on the margins and something fails our rating could be raised. If that happens, the insurance companies will be notified and premiums will rise if insurance will even be available. Banks could be notified where there is a mortgage and if there is no insurance notes can be called. The cost of increased insurance premiums will be millions of dollars.

The committee suggests the purchase of a type I truck as does Bob.

The adding of 10,000 gallons of water to the 12,000 gallons of water at the Fire Station would help the ISO numbers. There are other issues regarding the manner of filling the water tenders as well that need to be addressed.

The committee recommends adding 10,000 gallons of water at the Fire Station. This last year Glen Brown renewed Mayer Fire's ISO certification and he will be a good source as to what WFPA should or should not purchase.

#### Other Issues I am addressing

1. All materials relating to the contract with Mayer Fire have been delivered to Mayer Fire.
2. I am still working on venting the gases from our station. Air Scrubbers will cost \$20,000.00 or more. I think we could get by with fans mounted in a way to drive the air out of the bay doors for a few hundred dollars.
3. I am still working on adding storage at the fire station. I am talking to Yavapai County. This process is just starting.
4. The satellite stations on the Big Bug and the Potato Patch are still in the works. These are being built by our neighbors with their own donations.
5. Painting the Fire Station. We need to paint the exterior or in the near future we will have to replace much of the exterior wood.
6. A new driveway for the trash containers, and maybe a fence to hide them.
7. Still working on new sign to inform and to address community concerns.

#### Other matters

Mayer has included Walker in a grant request for SCBA. It's a 95% grant with the WFPA needing to pay \$1700.00 for \$35,000.00 worth of SCBA equipment.

Glen Heithold had suggested an electronic sign for the front of the fire station. Bob said he had not heard back from Glen.

Bill Loughrige said Glen had stopped by earlier, but could not stay. Glen reported that the sign would cost roughly \$3500.00

Greg Stava said he would like to see more detail in the Chief's report on measurable criteria and results for items like the SCBA's, what's expected from Mayer and other issues previously voted on by the board. He believes that kind of information needs to be reported back to the Board in order for the Board to make decisions about further expenses. Especially in light of the Mayer contract that will cost the WFPA \$2000.00 a month.

Vic Hencken agreed with Greg about measurable criteria. He said he would consider not paying Mayer for a month where there was little or no input from them.

Vic also said Paul Nies had told him that even if the ISO review resulted in a downgrade, there would be a period of grace for the fire department to come into compliance before implementing the rating.

Vic said it was not just the price of the truck it was the operational costs as well. We should be really sure we need the truck before buying it.

Bob responded that Glen Brown's advice was to buy a truck and not take the chance of being downgraded.

Vic suggested calling ISO directly and asking what their requirement was. He said he found it hard to believe the ISO would come in and lower the rating without giving the fire department a chance to correct the deficiencies.

Vic asked why we couldn't do the things we need to do that don't have a huge capital expense to it.

Greg Stava said we need to find out the answer to these questions. The Board needs factual confirmation of information presented to it, not just opinions. We need the checklist of measurable criteria with Mayer because we as a Board have a responsibility to manage this process.

Greg Kozlowski said that calling ISO for direct answers sounded like a good idea. He did say we should err on the side of caution and not take any risk of losing the ISO rating.

## Committee Reports

WFA Planning meeting next week for Firefighter Appreciation Day. An email announcement will be sent announcing the time and location of that meeting. Volunteers are needed for the event. Plans include a Pumpkin Carving Contest, the Chili Cook Off, Car Show, Horseshoe Contest, Apple Pie Contest (judged by the Firefighters) a Firewise Demonstration, a Safety Demonstration for ATV's and, of course, a Pig Roast.

Firewise Chuck Bowers reported that another Chipper Day was scheduled for September 17<sup>th</sup>. He hoped it would be as successful as the previous one where there were three 40-yard dumpsters filled. The crew was great and it took until 5:00 p.m. It was a lot of work and a great effort by the community.

Chuck reported that Gary Roysdon had moved back into the area and was clearing properties. They have finished some 40 properties and are about ½ way through their grant money.

PAWIC has received a large grant and has purchased a grinder. The plan is to stage biomass (tree trimmings, logs and such) in the parking area of the fire department for grinding at a later date.

Volunteer of the Month Recognition (postponed because of the fire)

## Old Business

### Insurance

Greg Stava reports SCF is going through the annual audit for Workers Comp insurance. They will send an invoice and we will move to a quarterly invoicing from them because we have moved beyond the minimum premium because of the number of firefighters.

The VFIS insurance application is all complete. A Bingo rider was added for a nominal fee. We had a good meeting with Wyatt Wong. He will provide training for our Firefighters and include a session about the benefits offered in our policy.

Bill Loughrige supplied documents for running MVD driving record checks. A discussion of this issue will be held next month.

Mayer Consulting Agreement  
Discussed with Fire Chief's report

## New Business

### Committee Formation

Legal Committee  
Bill Curosh Chair  
Dwain Nichols  
Bob Corbin

Motion made to form the Legal Committee by John Ohanesian, second by Vic Hencken, passed by unanimous vote.

## Community Announcements:

Myra Nathenson reminded people to support the Pancake Day and Bingo

Betsy Bykirk reported there will be a graduation for the CERT class this week. Also, the WCAA has been invited to operate a History Booth at the Prescott Centennial.

Victoria Morhaus reported that the coat drive had received some 40 coats and \$536.00 in matching funds for the Thanksgiving Food Drive.

Chuck Bower asked if the WFPA could sponsor an event like a Hole Sponsorship or Longest Drive at the CYFD Fallen Firefighter Benefit Golf Tournament.

Board Member John Ohanesian spoke and said there would be 25 people who would be certified and the effort by the WCAA was a great contribution to the Walker Community.

John also said the Walker Historical Site Monument was going to be totally funded by Yavapai County. Negotiations are under way as to where to place the marker.

## Public Forum

Myra Nathenson had three issues she wanted to raise.

Legal fees. She thinks we need to be more prudent while incurring legal fees.

The treasury is short of money this year and expenses like the marquee should not be considered until and if our financial position is improved.

When acquiring a truck, we should first be sure it's needed and then appropriate for our area. Short enough wheel base and 4 wheel drive to be useful.

Victoria Morhaus

Wanted to amend the August 10 Minutes to add that the Coat Drive was also for the Coalition For Compassion and Justice in addition to the Catholic Charities.

Would like to have the Agenda published earlier.

WFPA Web site needs work. The access code is not working and the directory is out of date. In addition, the August Treasures report links back to the July report.

Dan Sullivan

Had several issues to discuss primarily about ISO and Engine 85.

He reported that he and others had been assigned last year to examine the ISO capabilities of the WFPA.

His opinion is that Engine 85 is sufficient to keep our ISO rating. A Type I truck would be restricted to pavement and was not needed.

He said the ISO requirement was for all weather roads within 5 miles of the station, which means from the Blue Jay to the Mail Boxes.

The biggest concern is the ability to pump water. ISO Inspectors will measure ability to pump the minimum amount of water in the allotted time. They can accept the equipment or demand a demonstration.

He asked about the contracts with independent water truck owners that was authorized by the Board in January. He said he has not been contacted for such a contract.

He asked what had happened to the 4000 gallon fold a tank. There is no mention of its disposition in the minutes. He also asked the status of the fuel transfer tank that used to be on Engine 84.

James Lee said he is the current ISO Chairman and that there is a lot of misinformation about ISO being presented. He said there are monthly meetings about ISO where these issues are researched, discussed and presented to the Board. Glen Brown will soon be available to provide answers to the questions being asked.

James indicated the measurement for ISO was 10% dispatch, 50% fire department, including equipment, training, records, and 40% water availability.

Susan Naugle asked about what a type I truck was.

#### Board discussion about public comments

Vic Hencken said he did not understand the classifications of the fire trucks either. He did say with donations down no matter what the WFPA or not the WFPA would be in financial trouble if people did not start donating to the association.

Greg Stava said he doubts any of the Board Members knows what's needed with respect to a new truck. We have entered into a contract with Mayer to help answer these questions. There have just been too many different positions presented over the last three years without good documentation.

He asked that anyone who has information submit the report in writing citing facts to support the position. Then they should participate with the committees to help resolve the issues.

No one wants us to miss this target of keeping the ISO rating. It affects all of us if we do.

Greg reiterated the need for support from the members. He said despite new members being elected to the Board he does not see support for them in the way of dues donations.

John Ohanesian said this Board has a heavy workload. As many issues as any he has seen in recent years. The Board has resolved many of the issues and will find a way to resolve the current ones.

Bill Loughrige

RE:

Agenda: Would like to publish it earlier, but will still ask the Board Members to have input before sending it out to the community.

The WEB site is under review. A new look will be rolled out soon and the questions raised should be answered. If you see things that need to be addressed let the Webmaster know and we'll see how we can fix it.

The ISO and equipment: There has been an ongoing effort to review the Fire Department and its equipment with respect to ISO. Several outside professional sources including Glen Brown have been used and decisions about equipment have been made based on that input.

The fire truck at the center of all this is E-85. The community paid \$140,000.00 for this truck. When Glen Brown reviewed the fire department, he recommended the purchase of a Type I truck to give us the points needed for an 8b rating.

Not that E-85 is not useful or will not give us ISO points. It will, but is it enough?

It's not only the equipment. The fire department is evaluated on training and records. The point system also involves water delivery and dispatching.

There was a suggestion to buy a 2-wheel drive Type I truck. The Board discussed that truck, but no decision has ever been made to

even buy a truck yet. There have been several other trucks presented as well by Mayer Fire.

If and when a decision to buy a truck is made, the Board will be sure the truck is appropriate for the area.

Gold Panning: VFIS says there is no liability issues as far as the liability insurance is concerned. There are at least two large groups from Phoenix as well as the Veterans Administration for Fort Whipple that bring people to pan for gold. Bob said he has asked them to leave when there are other activities at the fire station and they have complied with his request. We will continue to ask them to leave when there are events, but until it becomes a burden, we should let them continue their panning efforts.

Greg Stava moved to adjourn, Greg Kozlowski seconded, motion passed by unanimous vote.

10:50 a.m. Adjournment