

**Walker Fire Protection Association  
Annual Membership Meeting Minutes**

**24 May 14**

**Board Members Present:**

<b>President:</b>	Bill Loughrige
<b>Vice President:</b>	John Ohanesian
<b>Secretary:</b>	Russ Courtney
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Steve Macintosh
<b>Director:</b>	Rudy Erdman
<b>Fire Chief:</b>	Roger Nusbaum

**Board Members Absent:**

<b>Director:</b>	Vic Henken
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9:00 AM Meeting called to order by President Bill Loughrige. The Agenda was reviewed with the membership present. No changes were discussed or made to the agenda.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Introduction of Guests**

**Secretary Report**

A motion was made to dispense with the reading of the minutes from last year's Annual Meeting. The vote was seconded. Vote. Passed.

**President Report**

In the past year we have added a new break room and storage area to the fire station. This has had an amazing impact on the events we hold here at the fire house and the amount room for the fire department. Some additional work is expected this coming week. Rudy Erdman and Mark Herrin had this work done at an extremely reasonable price. If you are not receiving emails from the WFPA please verify that you are on the email list. At this time, the current board was introduced to the membership. We have maintained our ISO 8B rating which is very important in determining our insurance rates. Our model of being an all-volunteer fire department is very important and is the envy of many fire departments. The department is well equipped and will be moving towards the addition of a new piece of equipment this year. We depend on people to step forward and volunteer. Our social functions continue with Walker Days, Pancake Breakfast, and Bingo. These are fundraisers for the fire department.

**Treasurers Report**

We have had a very good year. Contributions have rolled in and the community has stepped up. Our accounting office in Prescott has given us tremendous support. YTD through 18 May income was \$112K. Expenses for the same period were \$111K .v. \$121K budgeted. We are on the plus side for expenses and on the income side, right on track. There are other things that do not show up on the balance sheet such as our volunteer firemen hours and the contributions to the construction project. Contributions are typically mailed or dropped off at the firehouse. While dropping them by the fire house is very much appreciated, it would be helpful if we could all use the PO Box address to allow our accountant to quickly respond with the appropriate information.

Comment from Bill Loughrige: We operate on a Fiscal Year. If you received a window display card for 2014 instead of 2015, we will mail you a new card to acknowledge your contribution. Area evacuations are handled by the Jeep Posse and not the WFFPA. To assist residents we have created a magnet with the available evacuation routes identified. These are available that the merchandise tent.

### **Fire Chief Report**

As we try to provide a chief's report, obviously a lot happens over the course of an entire year and trying to recap it in just a few minutes is not easy. Feel free to ask any questions at the end of the report if there's something you'd like to hear more about.

The storage room is a huge plus for the fire department. Thanks to Rudy and Mark for their work in coordinating the project and to all the residents who donated time and money to the project. Water use agreements are available if you would like to allow the fire department to use your personal water tank in case of a fire. As always, in an emergency please dial 911. The 911 operator will dispatch the proper resources.

### **Recap of incidents**

**Medical** 11    **Other:** 11    for a total of 22 incidents.

**ISO** We have taken courses to maintain our ISO rating.

**Integration with neighboring departments** We have been invited to participate in a prescribed burn. We have not been invited to this in several years.

**Grants** We received a VFA grant from the State Forestry Division which was used to replace our shelters. We also took delivery of SCBA units and masks.

**Personnel** We have had tremendous participation from our volunteer firefighters in training sessions this past year.

**Water Truck** For the past three years we have talked about a new water truck. We are asking for \$1000 towards the purchase of a newer truck. We have already raised \$6K towards the estimated \$34K.

### **Public Questions for the Fire Chief**

What is intended to occur with the new water truck? Truck 82 would move to the substation to provide water support on Big Bug Mesa with the purchase of new truck.

### **WCAA**

Jeff Morhous presented from the WCAA. The WCAA was formed in 2010 as a 501(c)3 organization to provide education, social, and other activities. A major achievement was the recognition of Walker as a FireWise community. Education preservation of the history of Walker, ATV run, FireWise, Chip and Haul events, yearly Coat Drives, participation in the Salvation Army Christmas Angle program, and several other. The WCAA also donated a Medical Kit and today provided a new Oxygen bottle for our Paramedic team.

### **Walker FireWise Report**

Loren Bykerk discussed the recent Chip and Haul project. Again, this was a huge success in keeping our community safe. 30+ roll-offs were taken from Walker. This year we asked for some volunteer time support. We need to capture \$1900 to offset the cost – we found \$34K of volunteer service from the community. The grinder was broken down for the first grind. Our county supervisor was able to find a way to get that job done for us. Thanks to Supervisor Jack Smith. Dan Hawk was down here monitoring the pile as it grew. Andy Brown from the county came down to run the grinder and excavator. Thanks for the WPPFA for allowing the use the parking lot to store the slash until grinding. Thanks to the WCAA for establishing the program.

### **Lynx Creek Bridge**

County Supervisor Jack Smith attended the Annual Meeting. Supervisor Smith updated the community on the current status of the project. At this time the county and Federal government are still working out issues with the project but it is expected to begin in the very near future.

### **Sheriff's Jeep Posse**

The Posse was unable to attend this year's Annual Meeting.

### **Public Comments and Questions**

Q: What is occurring with the Bridge Project?

A: The Federal Government funds 90% of the project but we are at their mercy.

Q: Who would support a fire in Breezy Pines?

A: The Walker Fire protection area is a 3 mile distance from the fire house. Historically we have received contributions from Breezy Pines. The actual coverage however belongs to Mayer and to the Forest Service. As in the past, Walker Fire would respond to the area if dispatched.

Comment: Mark Herrin: When we have a specific need for the fire department we have always responded. I will spearhead \$15K of donations from the Big Bug Mesa area and will begin that donation with \$1K, to purchase a new water tender.

### **Presentation of Proposed Bylaw Changes**

President Bill Loughrige, reviewed the proposed bylaw changes with the membership. The changes were made known to property owners in accordance with the current bylaws. There is a requirement for a 2/3 vote for changes to the bylaws.

### **Public comment Regarding Bylaws**

Victoria Morhous: Participated on the committee to propose changes to the bylaws. None of the information provided by the committee was included in the published articles. At this time, there was a discussion of the articles not included in what was presented to the membership. Victoria continued that this is an all or nothing vote and urged members to vote No.

?????: Question on Article 5.6 – I think the Fire Chief should be a board member. It was explained that the Fire Chief is a member of the board but is a non-voting member.

Carla Keegan: Was also a member of the committee. There was total disregard to the changes provided by the committee. Carla mentioned that she was disillusioned by the process.

Mark Herrin: I also started on the committee, but did not finish due to family matter. I feel that the committee struggled. The changes presented were more along the lines of limiting who could vote. We should not have fees and everyone should have a vote. Mark mentioned that he supports the changes.

### **Nomination of Candidates**

Three board member positions were available for interested candidates this year

Three candidates expressed their desire to be considered for the open positions. The candidates were Rudy Erdman, John Ohanesian and Dan Dougherty.

### **Nominations from the Floor**

Treasurer, Steve Macintosh made the call for nominations from the floor, three times. None were received.

### **Presentation of Candidates Presentation and Question from the Members**

Each candidate covered their background and experience for the members. Members were allotted an opportunity to ask each candidate questions.

### **Cast Ballots**

The WFPA Secretary and three non-board members left the meeting to tally the votes and report the results to the WFPA President. Voting/Election results appear at the end of these minutes.

**Community Announcements**

Coat Drive – please check your closets again. Donations will be accepted and new coats will be purchased. Coats for donation may be brought to the fire station.

Walker Days – slated for 27 June 15

**Ballot Committee reports results of Balloting (Voting/Election Results)**

The WFPA Secretary reported the results of the vote:

**Write In Candidates**

Loren Bykerk 1

**Published Candidates**

John Ohanesian 119

Rudy Erdman 124

Dan Dougherty 121

**Bylaw Changes:** Votes For/YEA 107 Votes Against/NEA 30 Votes Abstain 4

The changes to the Bylaws are adopted by the membership with the appropriate 2/3 vote. Total number of votes was 141. Required 2/3 vote to pass was 94.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn was made by James Lee and seconded by John Ohanesian. Vote. Passed Meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM

Immediately following the Annual Meeting the newly elected Board held and Executive Session to elect the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The results are:

**President:** Bill Loughrige

**Vice President:** John Ohanesian

**Secretary:** Russ Courtney

**Treasurer:** Steve Macintosh

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**An audio file of the Annual Meeting was not available. The meeting agenda is used to contain a brief description of each topic on the agenda.**