

*Peeples Valley Fire District*  
*PO Box 936, Yarnell, AZ 85362*  
*17275 W. Burning Bush Drive, Peeples Valley, AZ 86332*  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES**  
Location of Meeting Held: Old Peeples Valley School  
18205 S. Highway 89, Peeples Valley, AZ  
**Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at 10:00 am**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Neil Rifenbark, the chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The pledge was led by Sherry Gareis.
- 3. ROLL CALL OF BOARD:** Neil Rifenbark, Phil Lobeck, Wayne Keller, Scott Mayer, Gregg Carr
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Regular Session 08-21-2024
  - **Phil Lobeck** made a motion to approve the 08-21-2024 meeting minutes B.
  - **Seconded: Gregg Carr**
  - **Ayes: Wayne Keller, Neil Rifenbark, Phil Lobeck, Scott Mayer, Gregg Carr**
  - **Nays: 0**
  - **Abstain: 0**
- 5. CALL TO PUBLIC: none**  
Community members in attendance: **Shawn Bomar, Ray Paiz, Kelley Paiz, Ben Archer, Sherry Gareis, Lindon Gareis, Lew Theokas**
- 6. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**
  - A. Fire Chief's Report: see website
  - B. Duty Officers Reports: A, B, and C shifts: see website
  - C. Fire Prevention and Safety Officer's Report: see website
  - D. Report from Weaver Mountains Firewise Committee Coordinators: see website
    - Brief update on efforts in Wilhoit Firewise.
  - E. Correspondence received by the Board of Directors: none
  - F. Auxiliary Report
- 7. BUSINESS**
  - A. Discussion/possible action to approve the August 2024 Financial Report presented by The James Vincent Group.
    - **Neil Rifenbark** made a motion to approve the August 2024 Financial Report presented by The James Vincent Group.
    - **Seconded: Scott Mayer**
    - **Ayes: Wayne Keller, Neil Rifenbark, Phil Lobeck, Scott Mayer, Gregg Carr**
    - **Nays: 0**
    - **Abstain: 0**

B. Discussion on staff members' reimbursement process.

- Ben stated it's not typical for the Chief to have so many reimbursements.
- It was necessary for the Chief to use his credit card on multiple occasions.
- Fuels Crews added to credit card usage for hotel costs while out of county.
- Chief provided documentation of all reimbursements made.

C. Discussion/possible action to approve September Warrant Requests.

- **Phil Lobeck** made a motion to approve September Warrant Requests.
- **Seconded: Gregg Carr**
- **Ayes: Wayne Keller, Neil Rifenbark, Phil Lobeck, Scott Mayer, Gregg Carr**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Abstain: 0**

D. Discussion/possibility of a name change for Peeples Valley Fire District.

- Neil Rifenbark opposes the idea due to the name change cost and potential consolidation concerns.
- Scott Mayer feels that if we were to change it, more districts would want to join.
- Chief states that things are changing in the region and agrees with Neil about the cost. Working to elevate our services instead of taking on other districts.
- Phil Lobeck feels it would be a significant sell to convince the public to merge.

E. Discussion on updates regarding the sale of Station 81.

- Lengthy discussion on issues related to the easement.
- Lindon and Sherry Gareis also provided clarification and information.
- Board requested updates on the next meeting's agenda

F. Discussion on the International Fire Code.

- Captain Paiz answered questions from the previous board meeting.
- Neil is concerned about the cost of putting it on the ballot and getting the support of the public.
- Captain Paiz provided advantages and disadvantages of adoption.
- Chief advised the goal would be to improve the fire and life safety of the community.
- Lindon inquired on the effects of insurability if adopted. Captain Paiz responded by explaining how it would affect and improve insurability.
- Neil suggests discussing the upcoming town hall with Supervisor Oberg.
- The board requested this item to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

## 8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. New Business Agenda Item Requests for the next regular meeting, workshops, and other meetings. Sale of Station 81, International Fire Code, Discuss Lucas Device

B. Upcoming Meeting Date: Next Regular Session – October 16, 2024, at 10:00 AM.

## 9. ADJOURNMENT by Neil Rifenbark at 11:28 AM