

*Peoples Valley Fire District
PO Box 936, Yarnell, AZ 85362
17275 W. Burning Bush Drive, Peoples Valley, AZ 86332*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' PUBLIC HEARING PRESENTATION
MEETING MINUTES
Meeting Minutes from Public Hearing from Wednesday, June
15, 2022**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by **Judy Garner, Chairman**, at 5:01 PM.
2. **ROLL CALL OF BOARD:** x Judy Garner, x Phil Lobeck, x Wayne Keller
Absent: x Nancy Tschikof, x Dave Schroedl
3. **CALL TO PUBLIC: Public Hearing for the 2022-2023 Budget - Open to the Public**
 - Members of the community in attendance:
 - Chief (Shawn) Bomar, Ray Paiz, Kelley Paiz, Lori Bomar, Jack Shattuck, Michael Beyle, Neil Rifenbark, Jerome Lagacy, Shawn Akers, Ann Jacobs, James (Jim) Jacobs, Larry D. Blaine, Jo N. Blaine, Tony Boyce, Harry Venable, Dick Bugola, John L. Hayden, S. Grey Stafford, Pat Martin, Angela Davis, Thomas Young, and Charla Jordan.
 - **Chairperson Judy Garner** requested Chief Bomar to comment on the Budget presented, the process, and the increases proposed.
 - **Chief Bomar** – A budget committee was formed and met four times before presenting to Board members. Notice of Meetings posted on community board, on PVFD website, and published in Yellowsheet. Tax levy increase proposed – goes from 2.03 per \$1,000 of assessed property value to \$3.04, not the maximum allowable. Four major factors for the requested increase: 1. New statewide statute – reduces the commercial property tax rate and this increases the burden on the public, 2. Two additional staff for 24/7 coverage of district (weekends and holidays), 3. Increased costs for workers' compensation coverage, and 4. The overall increase in costs, in particular FUEL.
 - **Comments or Questions from the Public** –
 - **Ray Paiz** started with acknowledgment of the budget committee meeting four times. At each meeting, the committee went thru each line item in depth that was increased, deleted, or added. Each meeting was at least two hours. Chief Bomar explained the reasoning for each item, and community members & committee discussed it in length. Conveyed the increase requested will impact the public and was kept as minimal as possible. The non-operational portion is covered by other funding sources.
 - **James Jacobs** commented there was no detail of budget line items presented to the public or posted. The donated car, at the bottom of the premises, needs to go, it is no longer of use. Response: Towing services have been called several times and will be again to have it removed.
 - **Ann Jacobs** wants detail of the budget. In response to both James and Ann, Judy Garner provided a hard copy.
 - **Neil Rifenbark** commented increase in budget is important to provide adequate cover to the Ruger Ranch area.
 - **Harry Venable** – He sees trucks running and flasher lights on when crews are out cutting brush, Can the trucks & lights be shut off while crews are working to SAVE on FUEL costs? -- Response: No, required standard operating procedure. Must be ready for a call and to let others know they are in the area working.
 - **James Jacobs** commented he sees the chippers “just sitting / not in use” a lot and this costs

taxpayers money. Response: The chippers are not included in tax levy funding. Chippers can and are contracted out to the community for fuels reduction as time & weather allows.

- **Grey Stafford** commented fuels reduction is needed for overall safety, in particular the dry pinion. Due to the 25-year drought cutting & trimming must be done, but only when safe.
- **Dick Bugola** – talked about a story related to a neighbor having a training exercise (with live fire) on private property. Feels like the department spends his tax dollars on frivolous spending (shirts) and that there is unnecessary burning on Buckhorn Road. Also feels like there are reckless burn practices (specifically on March 13th), leaving smoldering fire piles at the end of the day and should be using chippers or raking instead of burning for fuel reduction.
- **Mike Beyle** - commented training is needed and not a waste of resources.
- **Jack Shattuck** - commented explicitly on March 13th activity that precautions were taken, department personnel are not reckless with processes, and are trained professionals.

4. **ADJOURNMENT: Judy Garner** thanked the public for their time and participation in the public hearing, and announced there are three positions open on the Board as of November 2022. If interested, contact her for more information. Judy Garner adjourned the public hearing at 6:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by Charla Jordan, Scribe