

## MINUTES

Portal Rescue Inc. Board Meeting  
Saturday, March 16, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.  
Portal Rescue Classroom

1 **Call to Order.** President Bill Wilbur called the meeting to order at 6.33 p.m. Seven Board members and thirteen active and community members were present.

2 **Adoption of Agenda.** The published agenda was adopted with the addition of item 7.1 and the correction of the date of the last Board meeting. Motion proposed by Jerry Racicot, seconded by David Schurian, and passed unanimously.

3 **Acceptance of Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting of January 20, 2016 were accepted. Motion proposed by Jackie Lewis, seconded by Jerry Racicot and passed unanimously.

### 4 **Reports**

#### 4.1 **President: Bill Wilbur**

Bill welcomed Delane Blondeau, Jeanne Williams and Barbara Miller, who were pioneering members of Portal Rescue, and he acknowledged their great contributions. Bill also thanked the current Board members for their support. Bill said it had been a good year thanks to the support of residents both of Portal and of the outlying areas. It had been a pleasure for him to serve and he looked forward to doing so in the future.

#### 4.2 **Treasurer: Rick Beno**

Rick reported on our revenue and expenses:

Revenue (imported from 2015 and year-to-date): \$50,658.81

Expenses (year-to-date): \$40,050.67

Summary of Assets: Currently our investment and checking accounts, including petty cash and earned interest, total approximately \$194, 326.41.

#### 4.3 **Fire Chief: David Newton**

“Operations: There’ve been several fires since our last Board meeting, one of which was outside our small response area and I was able to bill State Forestry for \$4800+.

Training: monthly training had okay attendance in February.

Vehicles: Brush 9’s tires were approaching 20 years old and had started to throw chunks off the sidewall so we replaced 5 of its tires. (One was new a couple of years ago). White Brush 6 broke down while being backed into the station. In recent years it has been unreliable, so I am not sorry to see it out of service.

Grants: The pagers from the AFG grant have arrived and I am testing them. 95% reimbursement has been received from FEMA.”

#### 4.4 **EMS Chief: Jerry Racicot**

“I want to thank all of our EMTs for their hard work and dedication providing emergency medical care for our community. They spend many hours per month training and honing new skills to be prepared for what they may encounter.

We currently have 9 EMTs on the roster and are seeking volunteers to be trained in a new class in the Fall.

Last year we responded to 13 calls, so far this year we have responded to 4.

This year we will add new skills to our toolbox as well as some new equipment. The Cochise County Sheriff’s office has donated an EKG machine, which will allow us to provide early charting of cardiac rhythms. This will help doctors of cardiac patients to have an early record of cardiac rhythms. We will equip a fire brush truck with medical and rescue equipment, and it will be parked at a southern location. This will allow us to respond more quickly to those patients who live south of Portal. These patients account for about 20 percent of calls.

Many of our neighbors in Rodeo have asked about Portal Rescue responding to medical calls in Hidalgo County. Yesterday I met with representatives of Hidalgo county EMS; we are trying to work out the details for Portal Rescue to be dispatched to these areas. I am optimistic that we will soon be able to provide care for our Rodeo neighbors.”

## **5 Old Business**

### **5.1 Retiring members.**

David Newton announced that Ken Joens and David Johnson who had served both as active members and Board directors have now retired. Their service has been greatly appreciated over the years and gift certificates will be presented to them.

### **5.2 Signs for site.**

Bill Wilbur said that he had ordered signs advising the public that emergency services are not available at the PR building and that people in need of urgent assistance should dial 911. The signs will be up on about March 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **5.3 What to do with old White Brush 6?**

After noting that White Brush 6 is virtually inoperable and not worth repairing, the Board debated methods of disposing of the vehicle and finally agreed sell it to Larry Rivers as-is, for \$600. The motion was proposed by Jerry Racicot, seconded by Rick Beno, and passed by the Board with one abstention.

### **5.4 Update, Hidalgo County residents calling Cochise County Dispatchers for PR assistance**

Jerry reported that he and David Whipple, coordinator of EMS services for Hidalgo County, are currently discussing various means of enabling Hidalgo county dispatchers to call on Portal Rescue for assistance.

## **6 New Business**

### **6.1 Grant submission for new vehicle**

Bill reported that Kinder Morgan might supply us with a surplus vehicle from their fleet, with the intention of it becoming a brush truck. Negotiation continues. Lee doubted that we could use an addition truck at this point but we'd like the option to ask for it later. David reported that a vehicle from KM might be superior to Brush 9. Board felt we should continue pursuing this possibility.

### **6.2 New vehicle**

Bill reported that a new Ford truck has been purchased in California. The seller is currently seeking bids for a transport company to bring the vehicle to Portal.

### **6.3 New firefighter**

David Newton proposed and Jerry Racicot seconded a motion for the Board to approve Tim Lawson as a new firefighter.

### **6.4 Election of Board**

Bill Wilbur, Jackie Lewis, Jerry Racicot, Rick Beno, David Newton, David Schurian and Greg Wayman were nominated and elected by acclamation.

### **6.5 Election of officers**

Bill Wilbur was elected as president, David Schurian as vice president, Greg Wayman as secretary and Rick Beno as treasurer.

## **7 For the Good of the Order**

7.1 Blood drive. Jackie reported that the new date for the Blood Drive was May 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **8 Adjournment**

Jackie Lewis, seconded by Jerry Racicot, proposed adjournment and the meeting was adjourned at 7.41 p.m.