

Portal Rescue Incorporated Board Meeting

June 18, 2008

1.0 Call to Order: 6:02 PM

2.0 Adoption of Agenda: Approved by all present. Roberta Ward, a member of the community, asked for information about Portal's Fire Evacuation Plan; President Decker said the question would be addressed as an addendum to the agenda.

3.0 Acceptance of the Minutes: Minutes from the April 16, 2008 meeting are amended as follows: \$1,800 was spent on Brush Truck 9, not Brush Truck 6; Bill Wilbur is not a Portal Rescue firefighter; and Lance Shultis' name was misspelled (i.e., Schultiz). Board accepted April minutes as corrected.

4.0 Reports

4.1 President's Report: Maya Decker

4.1.1 USFS Severity Patrol: President Decker reported that she was trying to arrange for a U.S. Forest Service (USFS) representative to meet with the Portal Rescue (PR) Board to discuss the extent of that agency's fire severity patrol in Cave Creek Canyon and other parts of the Chiricahuas. Fire Chief Barney Tomberlin noted that it was unlikely that PR would be able to get a USFS representative here during peak fire season.

4.2 Treasurer's Report: Maya Decker (reporting for Treasurer Shela Delong, who was out of town)

4.2.1 Revenues: Decker reported the balances in PR's accounts: \$4,449.88 in the checking account, \$11,876.60 in the Rainy Day Fund, and \$15,000.00 in the Kay Muma Fund, for a total of \$26,876.00. She said the organization expects to soon receive \$14,000.00 from the Fire Fuels Reduction Grant (FFRG) in reimbursement for "Brush Crew" work, and a \$6,737.16 payment for PR's work on the Whitmire Fire in the Peloncillo Mountains in May.

4.2.2 Expenditures: Decker reported that PR paid off the \$14,684.19 bill for repairs to Engine 2 in May from the Rainy Day fund as authorized by the Board in its April meeting.

4.2.3 Planning: Decker advised PR Board members to consider, for future discussion the issue of how the forthcoming payments from the FFRG and the Whitmire Fire be allocated between the organization's checking account and the Rainy Day Fund. Tomberlin noted that some of the funds from the Whitmire Fire must be used to pay firefighters who worked on that operation before the rest could be allocated to PR accounts. Board member David Johnson suggested that, in future discussions on allocation of revenues, the Board consider the advantages of keeping only a minimal amount in the checking account and allocating more funds to an interest-bearing account. Decker and Tomberlin replied that a certain amount must be readily available in the checking account for unexpected expenses – e.g., truck repairs.

4.3 Fire Chief's Report: Barney Tomberlin

4.3.1 May Activities: Fire Chief Tomberlin noted that the organization dealt with two fires in May: one in "downtown" Portal on May 21, and the Whitmire Fire from May 21-23. He said that payment for PR's work on the latter fire, which ultimately covered 3,600 acres, was expected to arrive within the next week.

4.3.2 Grant Award: Tomberlin announced that the Rural Fire Assistance Grant Program administered by the Arizona State Forestry Department and the U.S. Department of the Interior recently awarded Portal Rescue \$18,000. Under this "90/10" grant, PR will be reimbursed for 90 percent, or \$16,200, of \$18,000 it spends on training and equipment. When PR applied for this grant in March, it requested \$22,000 to be allocated as follows: \$4,000 for firefighters to attend Arizona Fire School training programs; \$3,750 for personal protective gear; \$8,000 for new fire shelters — now mandated by the USFS to replace existing, outdated shelters; \$1,250 for other equipment, including radios; and \$1,000 for miscellaneous supplies. Under the terms of the grant, PR must spend the money and apply for reimbursement by Dec. 31, 2008. Tomberlin noted that PR will be reimbursed for 90 percent of expenditures even if the organization spends less than \$18,000.

4.3.3 U.S. Forest Service News: Tomberlin said he received a notice this afternoon from the USFS office in Douglas that two prescribed burns planned in the southwestern Peloncillo Mountains had been postponed until June 22.

4.4 EMS Chief's Report: Vice President Rick Beno (reporting for EMS Chief Jeff Gee, who was out of town)

4.4.1 Fire Fuels Reduction Grant: Vice President Beno reported that the brush crew had only one more day of work to complete; then Gee, who is the crew chief, would apply for payment of the remainder of the grant award, about \$12,000. The brush crew worked at more than 60 homes this year to reduce fire fuels on those properties; Gee plans to have a detailed report on the project for the July Board meeting.

4.4.2 EMS Activity: PR EMTs responded to six calls in May, and one thus far in June.

4.4.3 Training Activities: Beno noted that the SATNET Trauma conference is scheduled for Aug. 7 & 8 this year. Program Director Clint Brown awarded PR several scholarships, making it possible to send all our EMTs to the conference and only pay tuition for five. Three PR EMTs are now certified to administer IVs: Rick Beno, E.T. Collingsworth, and Jeff Gee; in addition, six EMTs, Jeff, E.T., Lee, Ken, Walter and Rick, are certified in the use of the Combi-Tube airway. At the ext PR EMS meeting on June 21, EMTs will review diagnosis and treatment of hyperthermia. The next Tucson Medical Center pre-hospital training session held in Portal will take place in July.

4.4.4 Other News: EMT Walter Schoepfle continues work on a database to compile information on past EMT calls, which will help the EMS department track trends and better serve the community. Beno noted that three of the firefighters on the Whitmore Fire in May were also EMTs, providing a valuable resource for U.S. Forest Service crews on the fire.

4.5 Dispatchers' Report: Dispatch Representative Misty Webster

4.5.1 Dispatch Activity: Webster reported that dispatchers handled one EMT call, two fire calls, and a few "assist" calls (requests for EMTs to assist patients who had fallen, etc.) so far in June. She said radio communications with PR firefighters and EMTs in the valley were improving, and that those who couldn't receive clear radio transmissions contact the dispatchers by telephone.

4.6 Fundraisers: President Maya Decker

4.6.1 May Fundraisers: Decker reported that the Chili Cook-Off in May netted \$1,228.00. The Birdlovers' Silent Auction, held during the cook-off, garnered about \$400 of the total raised. Decker extended thanks to the family of Mike Williams for donating items to the silent auction. Decker said the Portal Birdathon, also in May, netted \$1,618.00.

4.6.2 2008 Totals To Date: The money from May fundraisers, combined with the \$2,517.00 garnered so far from sales of the new Portal/Rodeo Phone Book and the \$6,237.00 raised by the Soup Kitchen in February total \$11,600 earned by 2008 fundraisers to date, Decker noted.

4.6.3 Future Fundraisers: The next and final PR fundraiser planned for this year is the Pie Festival, scheduled for Aug. 30 at the Rodeo Community Center. Last year's Pie Festival earned \$1,400.00, Decker said.

5.0 Old Business: Review and Revision of EMS Supplies Budget: President Maya Decker

5.1 Decker said review and revision of the 2008 EMS supplies budget would be postponed until the next meeting, due to EMS Chief Jeff Gee's absence from this meeting.

6.0 New Business: No new business.

7.0 Addenda: Fire Evacuation and Severity Patrol

7.1 Portal's Fire Evacuation Plan: In response to a request made during the adoption of the meeting agenda, the Board discussed how to remind the community dissemination of Portal's Fire Evacuation Plan. Decker said she could email a copy of the plan to anyone who requests it. She also noted that the brush crew had created an egress from Cathedral Rock Road to Poorwill Road; before that work, property owners on Cathedral Rock Road could only evacuate via Cathedral Rock Road's egress onto Portal Road. However, she said, a culvert needed to be placed to complete the connection to Poorwill Road.

7.2 USFS Severity Patrol: Tomberlin explained that the USFS Severity Patrol Program in the Chiricahuas this summer consisted of Forest Service agents in two trucks, one starting on the east side and one on the west side of the mountain range each day. He outlined their routes and schedules. These crews can be pulled off severity patrol to assist in local fires. In addition, USFS agents are manning fire lookouts at Barfoot Park and one other location in the Chiricahuas this summer, he said.

8.0 For the Good of the Order: No additional commentary.

9.0 Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m., motion by Maya Decker, seconded by Rick Beno.