

Portal Rescue Inc., Board Meeting: Minutes, May 19, 2010

1.0 Call to Order

President Bill Wilbur called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. All nine board members attended. Area residents attending included Maya Decker and Jeff Gee.

2.0 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted without amendment (Dinah so moved, Susanne seconded, no objections).

3.0 Acceptance/Correction of Minutes

3.1 April 21, 2010: minutes were accepted without change and by acclamation.

3.2 March 17, 2010: minutes were accepted by acclamation after two minor changes. They should be titled March, rather than February, minutes, and Kris Stone should be identified as the person taking responsibility for

sending the 'thank you' note for work on the plaque.

4.0 Reports

4.1 President (Bill Wilbur)

Work on Red Brush 6 will be delayed until Bill's finger heals. Rick reminded us that two O₂ bottles still have some usable oxygen and can be used, down to 200 psi, for welding, but they will be returned soon for refilling.

RCOs now have 24-hr clock, which Bill exhibited.

4.2 Treasurer (Rick Beno)

The IRS waived all penalties for our 2007 and 2008 taxes, but with a sterner letter in the second case. 2009 taxes were filed ahead of the May 15 deadline (on May 10). We need to make sure that the procedures manual discusses the procedure for

handling taxes. Right now, Larry Moss does our taxes *pro bono*, based on an Excel file that Rick supplies.

Rick reviewed income and expenses. In the category of fundraisers, over \$1,000 has come in for ads sold for the new phone book (thanks Barb Miller!). Some additional donations have trickled in. As mutual bond CDs turn over, they are supplying

substantial income. We budgeted for \$1400 in interest and have already earned \$1200. Under expenses, office expenses are pretty standard. Lance Shultis did some maintenance on Rescue vehicles 3 and 4. Fundraising expenses were incurred for 911

information sheets. (45 returns have already come in for the locator book, based on just 450 solicitation letters.) The biannual bill came for certification that we meet standards for use of finger stick glucometers (\$75/yr, or \$150). Net revenues total

\$91,153, including the untouchable Muma funds.

4.3 EMS Chief (Jackie Lewis)

We've received 3 calls since the last board meeting.

Six EMTs attended training on May 15.

The Basic EMT class begins August 24, and will be held Tuesday and Thursday from 6-10 pm, plus lab hours. Approval has been given for in-state tuition costs for NM residents. Currently Chris Wilbur and Donna Meenach have expressed interest. Jackie is

waiting to hear from two other people. Costs will be as follows:

Tuition \$432

Registration 20

Insurance 40

Drug screen 60

Final certification 50

Books ?

Lab fee ?

Total \$602 (minimum)

Students are responsible for all of the above costs until they pass EMT-B certification and become a Portal Rescue Member. Then they will be eligible for reimbursement of those fees.

Jackie recommends approval of mileage and meals for EMT candidates. This will be proposed as an action item at the August meeting when we know how many students there will be.

Jackie is trying to get into a NIMS 300 class in "Tucson on June 2-4. All classes are currently "closed" or "private", and she needs approval from the instructor as well as the class sponsor. In case approval is

forthcoming, she requests approval for 3 nights' lodging (June 1-3) but intends to pay for her own meals and gas. NIMS 300 is required by FEMA for all chiefs and is required to qualify for grants. Approval was indicated without a formal vote.

Portal Rescue 4 and at least 2 EMTs will be at the funeral of Audrey Miller on Saturday, May 22.

SATNET will be held on August 12 and 13.

4.4 Fire Chief (David Newton)

There have been no operations since the last board meeting.

Twelve fire-fighters attended wildland refresher classes. Two more passed the pack test, giving a total of 8 red-card fire-fighters for PR. Six members attended training last Saturday.

5.0 Old Business

5.1 AZ Open Meeting Laws (Kris)

The Board conducted a long-postponed discussion of whether the organization is subject to Arizona's Open Meeting Law (OML). Bill announced that this discussion would closely follow Robert's Rules of order. Each member would be permitted

one comment, and then we would listen for a motion. In the event of a motion triggering subsequent discussion, the motion's author would speak first, followed by other board members, alternating opinions *pro* and *con*. Kris moved

that the Board consider whether or not we were subject to OML, and Cheri seconded the motion. (Discussion proceeded without a vote.) Kris then read aloud the State's directive for who must follow Arizona's OML. Bill, Rick, Jackie, and Maya

all interpreted this statement as excluding private non-governmental organizations such as ours, especially one in which the majority of board members are not chosen in a general public election. All four preferred 'looser' dependency on OML,

referenced only in contentious circumstances and used to 'referee' when the Board can't otherwise resolve disagreements. We might also choose to use parts of OML (e.g., due notice of meetings) that are helpful, while not being hamstrung

by the rules in getting business done. Maya pointed out that our need to seek local community funding keeps us honest, open, and healthy, and that our Constitution and By-Laws also drive this.

She suggested that the Board appoint a parliamentarian, with

the authority to make rulings, but no motion took the idea further. Jackie moved that we not subject ourselves to OML, but that we consider using it to resolve issues where our Constitution and By-Laws fail to bring us to accord. Susanne seconded the

motion. Dave asked what would trigger use of OML. After briefly considering "decibels", the Board decided that such action be triggered by an approved motion. Jackie's motion carried unanimously.

5.2 Firearms with reference to Portal Rescue Classroom (Kris)

Interest in this topic came as a result of multiple local citizens noting presence of arms at the Soup Kitchen. Kris also raised the question of whether EMTs and Fire-Fighters were permitted to take weapons on their calls. She reported that, at

Douglas Fire, EMTs and FFs are not permitted to take weapons on calls. However, they can rely on law enforcement being close by. Cochise County Sheriff's Deputy J.D. Hoke supported the right of PR EMTs

and FFs to carry arms, since law enforcement would likely be slow to arrive on scene. Larry Dever responded similarly in a phone call with Bill. Jackie also researched the matter, and most departments do not allow carrying of personal weapons. David Newton reported that the USFS maintains a policy of no firearms, and that they could potentially stop using us if we arrive on the fire line armed. In this case, we must defer to federal law. In all other cases we should defer to federal and state law, which allows for open and concealed carry.

Establishing our own policy would expose us to liability. Board members agreed that guns would not make our personnel safe, and that if there were escalating violence, our people should stay at least a mile away. The law itself protects us from having to administer assistance under dangerous circumstances.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Fire-fighter application form (David Newton)

David Newton walked the Board through suggested revisions to a fire-fighter application that would replace the version from January, 2007. Board members made a number of further suggestions but final approval was neither solicited nor voted on.

6.2 Donation request letters for businesses (Jackie)

The Donations Committee was again asking for approval of fund-raising letters, in this case three letters going out to various businesses (those patronized by Portal residents in Portal, those patronized by Portal residents in nearby communities, and those bringing clients to the area. Approval was given by acclamation, and it was agreed that no more formal approval was needed.

6.3 Classroom cleaning (Susanne)

No one new is volunteering to clean the classroom, and other arrangements must be made. Several people have been willing to pay Sheila Clark for cleaning and doing some outdoor work twice a month. We need to brainstorm about this and come up with additional solutions.

6.4 Definition of single signature vendors (Rick)

Rick presented two categories of expenses for which single signatures might be required. Category 1 (Unconditional) would include regularly recurring expenses such as utilities, dues, etc. Category 2 (requiring purchase orders) would include things such as purchases of radios, medical and fire supplies, oxygen, post-office supplies, things from Valley Mercantile, bulk fuel, rent of the Rodeo Community Center, expenses for the SATNET conference, and payments for vehicle repair. Rick then proposed the list in the form of a motion, seconded by Jackie and approved unanimously by the Board.

7.0 Addenda (none)

8.0 For the Good of the Order (not called)

9.0 Adjournment of meeting

Rick moved that we close the meeting, and Jackie seconded his motion, which carried unanimously. Bill adjourned the meeting at 7:58 pm.