

**Portal Rescue Incorporated Board Meeting
June 22, 2011**

1.0 Call to Order President Jackie Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm, in the back room of the Portal Store and Café. All board members were present, and two community members (Rick Beno and Barbara Miller) also attended. **2.0 Adoption of Agenda** Jackie suggested that one item be added to the agenda under "For the good of the order". She proposed to discuss circulation to the community of information on PR's role in the Horseshoe Two Fire. Dinah moved that we adopt the agenda with this addition, and Susanne seconded her motion. The vote was unanimously in favor. **3.0 Acceptance/Correction of April Minutes** No amendments were proposed to the minutes, and Bill moved for acceptance without change. Reed seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

4.0 Reports

4.1 President (Jackie Lewis)

The following statement from the President was read into the minutes: "The start of the Horseshoe Two Fire on May 8th has shown that our neighbors are not only next door but also miles away. I will probably accidentally omit someone or group if I begin to say "thank you" but I feel I must make an attempt. (Thanks) to Portal Rescue and Rodeo firefighters who provided support on the initial attack and throughout the fire, to Bill Wilbur and Rick Beno for making the midnight evacuation calls, to the Rodeo Community Center for providing shelter and a meeting place, to the communities of Rodeo and Animas for providing meals and beverages to those sheltered, to all neighbors helping each other move animals, cut lines, stamp out embers, and who offered and/or provided lodging, meals and phones. To everyone who baked for the firefighting teams, to local businesses for extending business hours and supporting the Incident Management Teams and thousands of hard working men and women.

Thank you, EVERYONE, for your roles as caring community members.

The fire has interrupted our lives, and it will take a little time to get back into our daily routines. I appreciate your patience during this time."

Other board members commented on how the fire had produced shared experiences that brought us together as a community.

Rene Blondeau's birthday celebration could not be held at the Portal Rescue classroom as planned, and we will be returning the rental fee to the Blondeaus, who graciously accepted the need to make alternative arrangements.

4.2 Treasurer's Report (Bill Wilbur)

Revenues: Donations remain well under budget, possibly because donors are waiting for the annual drive. A maturing CD was not rolled over, but rather deposited in the Rainy Day fund and then reinvested at a then-available rate of 3.2%.

Expenditures: Expenditures are well under budget except for fire pay (nothing budgeted under new accounting system) and vehicle operations (higher than anticipated, though still under budget, due to Horseshoe Two).

Balance sheet: Revenues on hand total \$112,532.83, with slightly over \$48K in checking and \$62,317 in investments.

4.3 Fire Chief (David Newton)

Tender 1 has been out every day on Horseshoe Fire Two, and Brush 5 was used on the first morning and afternoon. Tender 1 will be released Sunday afternoon, June 26th. Based on usage of these vehicles, David estimates that we will bill the state for about \$91,000 and net perhaps \$56,000 after fire pay (about \$28 K) and fuel costs (\$2-3K) are subtracted. Participating firefighters (Shane Burchfield, Lee Dyal, Jeff Gee, Chris Husband, Ken Joens, David Johnson, David Newton [2 days], Walter Schoepfle, Larry Rivers, and Bob Walton) made about \$300 for themselves and \$500 for PR per

work day. Some additional income will come in for classroom rental (currently about 35 days at \$100 per day).

No word is available yet on the success of our VFA application.

Red Brush 6 is a reliable vehicle, but its pump and plumbing are not. A suggestion was made to tear out the 'fancy' pump and install the pump from White Brush 6.

4.4 EMS Chief (Jackie Lewis)

Our May meeting was cancelled because of the fire.

The Trauma Day meeting on July 6th is completely booked, with 21 people enrolled, including all PR EMTs. Joe Meenach and Wynne Brown have expressed interest in becoming firefighters. One EMS candidate has decided against training this year, and two other candidates are still deciding whether or not to attend classes.

Three EMS calls came in, all resulting in patient transport only, because patients could not be handed off to our lower level of care.

So far, three EMTs have registered for the SATNET conference in August. Meal costs have increased, since lunch is now included, in addition to a break.

5.0 Old Business:

5.1 VTC grant application (Bill Wilbur)

5.1.a Alternative of cell tower (Dinah Davidson, Bill Wilbur)

Neither Bill nor Dinah has contacted Giffords' office yet to see where things stand on this, so the matter is tabled until our next meeting.

5.1.b Mobile repeater (David Newton)

David Newton reported that Action Communications in Tucson sells something that is hardwired into vehicles to serve as a higher powered radio with which EMTs could communicate on their handhelds. To use this system, we would need to apply for another radio frequency from the FCC. Costs for equipment and license are estimated at \$2,000. Such a unit could be installed in Rescue 4, or in both rescue vehicles for twice the price, but a second unit is likely not warranted in (older) Rescue 3. Crews from the two rescue vehicles might well be close enough in proximity at incidents to utilize a single mobile repeater. The greatest use of a mobile repeater would likely be in search and rescue operations. The issue was tabled for more research until next meeting.

5.2 Treasurer's Duties update for Policy Manual (Jackie Lewis and Bill Wilbur)

Absent time for adequate preparation, this matter is also tabled for a future meeting.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Purchase water pump for PR water tank on McAvoy's property (David Newton)

David got an appropriate water pump on a grant last year. It's a 'done deal', and no vote is required.

6.2 Replacement of water tank for Brush 9 (David Newton)

The tank on Brush 9 loses about 150 gal/day, currently resupplied from David's well. A replacement tank would cost \$3K, including shipping, even with a substantial discount. This is probably not a reason to get rid of the truck, because the truck and pump are in good condition, and firefighters paid \$2K+ out of pocket to bring the truck online. Also, given where fires have been starting, it's probably a good idea to leave the truck at Dave's. If we invest in a new tank, we can probably sell the truck/tank if it is ever deemed unnecessary. Susanne moved to buy a new tank, and Bill seconded her motion, which passed unanimously.

6.3 Compensation pay for EMTs (David Newton and Jackie Lewis)

This matter was considered long ago and has come up again out of concern for attracting and keeping EMTs. David has talked to some EMTs who might be more interested if paid. Similar organizations pay \$30/call, which isn't much given driving distances here, and studies have shown that this amount is insufficient to have a detectable effect on EMT recruitment. Several factors mitigate against EMT pay for PR calls. Most importantly, pay would increase both community expectations and PR liability.

Second, unlike firefighters, EMTs don't earn money for PR, so the community might not accept paying EMTs to respond to calls.

Two suggestions emerged from this discussion. First, reimbursement for gas and mileage is already available for EMTs who file appropriate forms, including for travel to training and monthly meetings. Alternatively, such contributions may be taken as donations, with a receipt being provided by the Treasurer on request. Some EMTs in other departments are also paid hourly for driving or attending training. Second, several ideas were advanced for awarding recognition in place of pay. One recognition luncheon was well attended, but only half of our firefighters attended. Reed suggested that we use the PR bulletin board at the Post Office to post EMT photos and make EMTs more visible for recognition by community members. The unanimous consensus of the Board was not to pay for EMT calls, and no vote was taken.

6.4 Length of Service Award Program (David Newton)

The matter was tabled until David hears back from those he has contacted. Bill will look up insurance information. Life insurance would be prohibitively expensive, and each person would have to be qualified individually. Badges, like those worn proudly by Boeing employees, might be an option.

6.5 Approval for SATNET lodging over allotted amount (Jackie Lewis)

With one exception, participants are sharing rooms at the Star Pass Resort unless any current 'roommates' drop out. Last year, some participants found alternative accommodation, but the savings did not justify the inconvenience of staying off site. One participant has requested a waiver of PR rules in order to room with his wife, who is not an EMT, nor attending meetings. According to this proposal, PR would pick up the added expense. In accord with prior discussion about attracting and keeping EMTs, it was moved (David Newton) and seconded (Bill Wilbur) that we permit this exception. The vote was unanimously in favor.

7.0 Addenda (none) 8.0 For the Good of the Order 8.1 FireWise Program (Jackie Lewis)

We have now seen the destructive power of fire in habitats protected from normal periodic and 'cool' fires for decades to a century. Remaining (unburned) areas could still be susceptible to catastrophic fires, and the joint Firewise and CWPP efforts will continue to address these concerns in the future. Residents can help to create defensible space around their homes by working with the FireWise program. Contact Jackie (558-2287) for more information. No FireWise assessments will be completed until after monsoon rains begin, but there are things residents could do to prepare in advance. Just three property owners have signed up for assessments at this point. **8.2**

Cochise County fireworks ban (Jackie Lewis) At a special meeting of the County Board of Supervisors, use of fireworks was banned in all unincorporated areas through July 29. Residents with questions may contact the County Sheriff's office for additional information. It was suggested that we put information about the fireworks ban on the fire danger signs in our area. **8.3 PR**

participation in the Horseshoe Two Fire JoAnn Julian will compile and circulate (to her email list) information on how PR participated to aid individuals and the community during the recent fire. She would welcome your accounts of such participation regarding times before and during fire. **8.4**

Evacuation calls (Bill Wilbur) Attempts to contact residents about evacuation often just reached answering machine, as phones had been turned off for the evening. Residents are advise to leave telephones on at night during fire season, or to purchase a 'Princess phone' (available at Walmart for \$5) that works when power is turned off. **8.5 Sandbags (David Newton)** PR has sandbags in storage, and the County may provide more. David has requested information on the best place to fill bags. **8.6 Meeting at Portal Café (Jackie Lewis)** Jackie expressed the Board's thanks to Lonnie and Mitch for use of café facilities for tonight's meeting **9.0 Adjournment** At 7:15 pm, Susanne moved to adjourn, and Reed seconded her motion. The vote to adjourn was unanimous. Our next meeting will be held on the third Wednesday in August (August 17) at 6:30 pm.