

Minutes: Portal Rescue Inc. Board Meeting
Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2012, 6:30 p.m.
held in the Portal Rescue Classroom

1.0 Call to Order

President Jerry Racicot called the meeting to order at 6.35 p.m. Seven board members and three community members were present.

2.0 Adoption of Agenda

The published agenda was adopted with suggested changes. Motion by Jackie Lewis, seconded by Reed Peters, carried unanimously.

3.0 Acceptance/Correction of Minutes

Reed Peters, seconded by Jackie Lewis, moved to accept the minutes, as posted, of the Sept. 19th, 2012 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

4.0 Reports

4.1 President: Jerry Racicot

Jerry Racicot thanked everyone involved in fundraising and those who had made donations. The last few months had passed smoothly.

4.2 Treasurer: Acting Treasurer Jackie Lewis

"The donation drive chaired by JoAnne Julian, was a success. Donations, of cash and material goods, as of 12/17/12 are \$32,752.2. We have received less income than budgeted but have not drawn from the Rainy Day Account because expenses have not only been below budget but also below income! We have a few items to pay for before the year is out but I expect we will be in the BLACK. And to have accomplished that during a year without a major fire means everybody deserves a big pat on the back.

Jackie reviewed income and expenses (year-to-date) 2012:

Revenue: This year, \$6,650.75 has come from grants, \$32,752.20 has been donated, and \$7,129.31 has come from fundraising efforts. Interest income now totals \$1,332.83, and \$690.74 has come in as fire income. Counting some other minor categories, revenues to date total \$49,819.76.

Expenses: Expenses to date include \$1,380.11 for office supplies, \$1,571.31 for EMS supplies, \$8,153.10 for EMS training, \$1,275.04 for EMS equipment, \$893.62 for fire supplies, \$1,462.28 for fire training, \$2,180.07 for fire equipment, \$7,127.48 for vehicle operations, \$6,470.19 for radio operations, \$10,243.79 for insurance, and \$2,378.61 for utilities. Including some other minor categories, expenses total \$46,492.13.

Summary of Assets: Currently, our investments total \$65,251.09 and we have \$95,929.34 in checking. Including petty cash and earned interest, assets total \$161,260.43.

Liability and property insurance for 2013 will be \$7,981.00."

4.3 Fire Chief: David Newton

"Since Sept 19th 2012:

Operations: In September two firefighters drove Engine 2 to Sierra Vista to participate in Sheriff Dever's Memorial. In October one firefighter drove Tender 1 to Animas for a fire safety presentation to Pre-school, K, and 1st grades.

Training: In September we had joint training with Rodeo Fire. In October we had a poor turnout for the training. In November we had a great turnout for the two day Search and Rescue Academy put on by the Cochise County Sheriff's Department. In November we also had a decent turnout for training with multiple frequency radio use. In December we had a decent turnout for the monthly training.

Chiefs' Meeting: Chris Wilbur did an excellent job of organizing this year's hosting of the Cochise County Chiefs' meeting in November.

Repairs: Tender 1 required repair to two different leaks around the rear dump chute. Many thanks to Dennis McAvoy and Lee Dyal for repairing those leaks and devising a way to brace the chute so the problem is less likely to recur.

Narrowbanding: On November 29th we reinstalled our repeater after it was reprogrammed in Tucson. All our vehicle and handheld radios had been reprogrammed in the previous weeks. Portal Rescue is now fully compliant with the FCC's rule that we operate in narrowband mode.

Short comments on why I have decided not to initiate prescribed burns.

1. Prescribed burns create smoke that irritates the community. That is sufficient reason.
2. None of our personnel have the qualifications to plan or execute prescribed burns. If there were any injury or property loss—I and Portal Rescue would be found negligent.
3. All burning is unlawful without a permit from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. We could obtain a permit for fire training, but we would be assuming all liability for the burn.
4. I am unwilling to do all the paperwork and schedule and reschedule firefighters and take on the responsibility for what usually amounts to landscaping or debris removal."

4.4 EMS Chief: Jackie Lewis

"We received the donation of 8 EpiPens from Mylan Specialties, saving Portal Rescue \$1,200.

We've had 28 calls to date. Seven have been since the September Board Meeting. Last year Portal Rescue EMTs responded to a total of 9 calls. Needless to say, new EMTs as well as "seasoned" ones have been on their toes.

Monthly meetings are being well attended. We always have paperwork and protocols to review and we try to get hands-on training done as well. Most members have made the minimum required attendance. The few that haven't have been out of town on work obligations.

Joe Meenach has been working hard (he'll say "hardly working") to get Rescue 3 and 4 in top condition. He has found the sources of minor troubles and of major problems and has been able to repair most of them. I need to thank two spouses for their assistance in vehicle checks as well—Greg Wayman and Bill Wilbur have been getting their hands dirty. We sincerely appreciate all you do to keep the girls out of the engine compartments.

Our next meeting is Sat. Jan 15th at 9 a.m. Topics planned are C-spine protocols, spine board and SKED. If you would like to be a patient please contact me."

5.0 Old Business

5.1 Update on purchase of tables: Jackie Lewis

Jackie purchased ten tables, as authorized by the Board (which had budgeted \$1,000 for that purpose in January). She also bought and donated a table truck to store the new tables on. The tables are expected here on December 26th and volunteers are needed to help offload them on December 27th. Please contact Jackie (558-2287) if you can help.

A few of the older tables will be kept at the station. Jackie Lewis proposed and Reed Peters seconded a motion that the rest be donated to Sew What. (They will be available for the Soup Kitchen and other PR functions but stored off site.) Motion carried unanimously

5.2 Discussion of Wilderness EMT training. John Yerger and Jerry Racicot were interested in traveling to Flagstaff or Oracle to undertake the training, if authorized by the Board. Jackie Lewis, seconded by Jerry Racicot, proposed that the Board fund one, possibly two, EMTs for wilderness training. Some Board members noted that the course was expensive and that most of the protocols taught could not, because of state regulation, be followed by Portal Rescue EMTs. Motion defeated.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Equipment reimbursement.

The Board discussed whether Portal Rescue active members should be reimbursed for expenditure on specific equipment. It was noted that essential equipment is already supplied for EMTs. Discussion concluded that required equipment could be purchased by Portal Rescue, distributed to active members and returned to Portal Rescue upon resignation/retirement from Portal Rescue OR could be purchased with Chief approval and reimbursed.

6.2 Recognition and gift for Robert Hollister for reprogramming our Motorola Radios free of charge.

Bill Wilbur proposed and Jackie Lewis seconded a motion that Robert Hollister be given a gift card for \$100. Motion carried unanimously.

6.3 Preliminary budget for 2013.

Board members discussed the projected budget in detail, basing their estimates on what is expected from donations and fund-raising. In recent years much income had come from firefighting but this could not be counted on a source of revenue next year.

Jerry Racicot said that some community members felt the Board was not making good use of the money entrusted to it and should place some in an interest-bearing account or invest in more training and equipment; however other members noted that Portal Rescue had exhausted its funds a few years ago and that they wished to avoid that fate by maintaining a healthy bank balance. The Board agreed to consider means of making more profit from the cash currently held in the checking account, provided the investments are insured.

6.4 Address fire department road signage.

The Board agreed that David Johnson look into economical ways of erecting a fire department sign.

6.5 Aprons.

Jackie Lewis proposed and Reed Peters seconded a motion to order Portal Rescue aprons as an additional fundraising item. The motion was passed unanimously.

7.0 Addenda

8.0 For the Good of the Order

8.1 Soup Kitchen

The Soup Kitchen will be held on Feb. 11-13th, 2013. Chris Wilbur (558-5858) will be in charge this year. Contact her if you can help. Contact Vicki Beno (558-0096) to make donations of food. Kate Fackelman (557-2800) will be collecting recipes for a cookbook.

8.2 Newsletter

Any community member or active member wishing to write an article for the newsletter should submit it to Jackie Lewis by January 15th, 2013.

9.0 Adjournment

Jerry Racicot proposed and David Johnson seconded adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 8.35 p.m.