

MINUTES
PORTAL RESCUE INC., BOARD MEETING
Wednesday May 21st, 2014, 6.30 p.m.
Portal Rescue Classroom

1.0 Call to Order

Jerry Racicot called the meeting to order at 6.32 p.m.. All seven Board members were present.

2.0 Adoption of Agenda

The published agenda was adopted, with the addition of item 8.1. Motion proposed by Harold Farmer, seconded by Jackie Lewis and carried unanimously.

3.0 Acceptance/Correction of Minutes

Acceptance of the minutes of the March 19th meeting deferred to next meeting, pending details of the number of community members who attended. Jerry Racicot would look for the sign-in sheet.

4.0 Reports

President: Jerry Racicot

4.1 President's report

The President had little to report. He was looking into ways of getting Douglas police to improve their communication with Portal Rescue, following receipt of a 911 call.

4.2 Treasurer: Rick Beno

Rick Beno reviewed income and expenses to date.

Revenue: \$0 grants; \$5,983.88 donations; \$6,821.24 fundraising; \$338.46 interest income; \$119 rent; \$0 fire income; \$0 misc.

Total: \$13,262.58

Expenses: \$516.23 office supplies; \$678.69 chiefs' meeting; \$227.54 EMS supplies; \$697.38 EMS training; \$1,538.82 EMS equipment; \$1,180.03 fire supplies; \$426.46 fire training; \$0 fire pay; \$1,358.21 vehicle operations; \$1,046 radio operations; \$4,396 insurance; \$304.63 structure maintenance; \$150 dues; \$289.03 fund-raising expenses; \$1,130.62 utilities; \$338.46 Rainy Day account; \$0 miscellaneous expenses.

Total \$14,278.10

Summary of Assets: Currently, our investments consist of \$66,101.35 (Edward Jones), \$60,520.05 (Credit Union) and we have \$44,662.68 in checking. Including petty cash and earned interest, our assets total \$172,644.08

4.3 Fire Chief: David Newton

"Since March 19th

Operations: None.

Training: The March Wildland Refresher and May training were well attended, but April's training was poorly attended.

Annual qualifications: Seven firefighters passed the Pack Test and six of them qualified as wildland firefighter type 2s, an increase from the two wildland firefighter 2s we had last year.

Equipment: A new 1000 gal. pumpkin has been placed on Brush 5. Three new line packs and some hose has been received. All these items are on our VFA grant.

It's been quiet."

4.4 EMS Chief: Jackie Lewis

There've been three calls since the last Board meeting.

Training was attended by five EMTs in April and six in May. Dr. Ottman will be in Portal in June.

Pat Owens and Chris Wilbur have retired from being EMTs. Pat served for eight years and Chris for two years.

The Southern Arizona Trauma Network Conference is at the end of July. The room rate before taxes and fees is \$97 per night. The registration fee is \$210 and, with two lunches and two dinners per person, the estimated cost is \$600 per person. Portal Rescue will reimburse two nights at full cost, even though it will be over the government rate (which Portal Rescue has adopted). Members will not have to pay out of pocket expenses. Attendees must register by June 30th.

Repair of the water pump in Rescue 3 cost \$529. Repair of the fuel sending unit in Rescue 4 will cost about \$300-350 when we decide to have it done.

Jackie will be at the Friends of Cave Creek Canyon garden party with Rescue 4 on May 24th.

5.0 Old Business: none

6.0 New Business

6.1 Donation Drive: Replacement of organizer

JoAnn Julian is retiring as organizer of the donation drive after this year's drive. Rick said that donations had increased dramatically as a result of JoAnn's work. He hoped we could find someone to sustain the level of donations achieved under her leadership. JoAnn is willing to coach a potential replacement this year. The new organizer would need to be available August through October.

6.2 Donation Drive: New brochures

Jerry said that JoAnn had reminded us we needed to print and update more brochures by the end of August. Jerry would review the brochures. Further discussion of this item is deferred till the next meeting.

6.3 RCO Protocols

Dave Schurian suggested getting some form of written instruction as a resource for RCOs (radio control operators). Jerry said we did have a manual but it needed to be updated and so did the procedures for communications between firefighters, EMTs and RCO operators. Susanne, David Newton and Jackie would review the manual to determine what changes and/or additions were necessary. Jerry would review and update the list of firefighters' telephone numbers. Jerry said he and Susanne would set new training dates for RCOs.

6.4 Cost of New Portal Rescue T-shirts

Jerry displayed a newly designed logo for the T-shirts. He has asked for a more durable shirt than those in the last batch. The cost of new shirts for EMTs and firefighters would be about \$750 plus tax for 48 pieces and an extra \$2 per EMT badge for those shirts worn by EMTs. Jerry, seconded by David, proposed that we give one short-sleeved shirt to each firefighter/EMT and that firefighters/EMTs pay for any extra ones. The motion was carried unanimously.

6.5 Publication of Air Ambulance Insurance plans

The last helicopter flight leaving Portal cost nearly \$50,000; however, three helicopter companies offer air ambulance insurance or membership plans to defray expenses. Portal Rescue does not get to choose which helicopter will be available for any given call. Please research all three plans and see which plans best fits your needs. Here is the contact information:

LIFELINE (based in Douglas) has a plan based on membership of the service. Members do not need medical insurance to join. Medicaid recipients are not eligible.

<http://www.mtcmembership.com> or 1-866-751-45151-866-751-4515

PHICARE (based in Safford) offers two plans: one for those with medical insurance, another for those without.

<http://www.phicare.com/states/arizona/join.shtml> or 1-888-435-97441-888-435-9744

LIFENET/OMNI ADVANTAGE, now known as LIFE SHIELD Alliance (based in Willcox)

offers a plan for those with medical insurance.

<http://www.lifeshieldalliance.com> or 1-855-896-90641-855-896-9064

6.6 Workmen's Compensation (WC) Insurance: Hypothetical wages

Rick informed us that he had been told the following by CopperPoint Mutual, our WC insurer: Arizona law requires firefighters and EMTs to have WC insurance. For WC purposes, workmen must be considered wage earners (even if they are actually unpaid volunteers). The state assigns "employees" (i.e. firefighters and EMTs) a hypothetical minimum wage of \$4800 per annum, for which the annual premium is about \$70 each, and assigns "officers" a hypothetical minimum wage of \$52,000 per annum, for which the premium is \$750 each.

The office-bearers in Portal Rescue (i.e. President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary) are considered "officers" for WC purposes. They can reject coverage as officers *unless they are also firefighters or EMTs*. Thus Jerry and Rick cannot reject coverage but Bill and Harold can (and have). Worse, Jerry and Rick are required to pay for coverage on the "officer" scale, rather than the "employee" scale. Alternatively, they could resign either as "employees" or as "officers". Premiums are due at the end of June.

After much discussion, the Board did not think it could find a way to avoid these higher rates within the next month. As an interim measure—and a means of retaining Jerry and Rick as both officers and employees, Harold, seconded by Bill, proposed paying the higher premium for them for the next year. The motion was carried unanimously.

6.7 Workmen's Compensation Insurance: Coverage of Board members

This was treated under the previous item.

7.0 Addenda

8.0 For the Good of the Order

8.1 VTC Communications update—dropped calls

Jackie advised anyone who cannot make a call *from* Portal to complain to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). People who experience difficulties in receiving calls *to* Portal, should ask their callers to contact the FCC. In each case, details of the call will be required:

<http://www.fcc.gov/complaints>

For problems with 911 calls, contact the Cochise County communications officer.

8.2 Plaque

The plaque has been inscribed and replaced. Bill Wilbur reported that the jeweller did not charge us because he had been a pupil of the nominee, E. "Boots" Deiss.

8.3 Arizona Corporations Commission website—

David Newton reminded us the list of office-bearers needed to be updated. Harold agreed to do it.

9.0 Adjournment

Dave Schurian, seconded by Bill Wilbur, proposed adjournment. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8.30 p.m..