

**MINUTES**  
**Portal Rescue Inc. Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, June 10, 2015**  
**6:30 p.m. in Portal Rescue Classroom**

**1 Call to Order**

President Bill Wilbur called the meeting to order at 6.35 p.m. Six Board members and one community member attended.

**2 Adoption of Agenda**

David Newton proposed that item 5.3 be moved to 6.7, and that 5.1 be rephrased. Rick Beno, seconded by Jerry Racicot, moved to accept the agenda as modified. The motion was carried unanimously.

**3 Acceptance/Correction of Minutes**

Jerry Racicot, seconded by Rick Beno, moved to accept the minutes, as posted, of the March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**4 Reports**

**4.1 President: Bill Wilbur**

Bob Zimmerman of the Southern Arizona Grotto of the National Speleological Society contacted Bill to say that the Grotto wanted Portal Rescue to be more aware of issues affecting Crystal Cave. The Association would, therefore, provide us with the phone numbers of some of its members for inclusion in our Radio Communications Operator handbook.

Randy Norrick was concerned that individuals in Rodeo who telephoned 911 had difficulty in calling for assistance from PR. This was an ongoing problem that will be raised at a future Board meeting.

Bill mentioned that he had overheard Border Patrol agents praising PR members for their efficient response to the recent accident at mile marker 404 on Highway 80. Bill congratulated the responders.

**4.2 Treasurer**

Rick reviewed income and expenses (year-to-date) 2015. Currently we have two bank accounts, one in Chase Bank and one in the Washington Federal Bank. The Chase account, which we intend to close, is being used for expenses only, the Washington Federal for both expenses and deposits.

**Revenue** to date (Washington Federal): total \$20,067.69.

**Expenses** to date (Chase and Washington Federal): total \$10,403.26.

**Summary of Assets:** Currently our investment and checking accounts, including petty cash and earned interest, total \$194,842.04.

**4.3 Fire Chief: David Newton**

**Operations:** none

**Training:** one monthly training session was well attended

**Grants:** David has purchased all the items for the VFA grant and is awaiting delivery and invoicing. He has not received any word yet on the AFG grant (pagery), but AFG has until September to reply.

**RCOs:** six new Radio Communication Operators attended a long training session.

**Vehicles:** White Brush 6 continues its stalling ways. Perhaps the latest attention will fix it.

**4.4 EMS Chief: Jerry Racicot**

**Operations:** Portal Rescue personnel responded to 2 medical calls and 1 medical assist to a rollover with Douglas Fire. Portal Rescue EMTs exhibited excellent leadership and teamwork in dealing with these difficult incidents.

**Training:** EMT meetings have been well attended in the last couple of months. We have added "scenarios" to our training which allows EMTs to practice with equipment and "patients"; this helps to build confidence and familiarity with our operations.

**Supplies:** Jackie Lewis was able to obtain a grant to replace our Epi-Pens last month. This is a large savings to our budget as the Epi-Pens are very costly. Thank you Jackie.

**Vehicles:** Rescue 4 was taken to the Benson DMV by Jeff Gee and Dennis McAvoy in order to correct a clerical error with the vehicle registration. We thank them for their efforts. Rescue 4 was also taken to have the air conditioner recharged and is now back in service.

**Dates:** The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at the Portal Fire Station on Wednesday August 26, 2015, 11 a.m. -2.00 p.m. **Please put this on your calendars and consider donating.**

## **5 Old Business**

5.1 **What the Board Could Be doing:** David Newton listed the repairs that need to be made to the PR buildings. These include cracked skylights in the fire garage, a window falling out in the main building, corroded neoprene washers in the roof (causing leaks), damaged metal trim on the side of garage, and the dropped ceiling in the classroom. Rick Beno, seconded by Buzz Schurian, moved that we ask Scott Stamer for a quotation to effect the necessary repairs. Motion passed unanimously.

5.2 **Update Portal Rescue bulletin board.** Reed Peters has suggested that PR members' photos appear on the bulletin board. The Board felt that this was a good idea and that photos of training exercises could be included.

5.3 **Donation committee.** David Newton proposed that we form a committee to brainstorm ideas to maintain and expand our donor base. The Board noted that JoAnn Julian, previously in charge of fund raising, had offered to help train whoever took over the job. As a first step, JoAnn would be asked for her advice and resources. David and Buzz agreed to be on the committee.

## **6 New Business**

### **6.1 Expenses to be approved by the Board prior to expenditure.**

Rick Beno, seconded by Harold Farmer, moved that payment of uncategorized expenses should get prior approval from the Board either at a meeting or by e-mail. An example of such an expense was the purchase of door prizes to be given at the annual meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

6.2 **Power backup** (Uninterruptible Power Supply) needed for the radio repeater. Rick Beno, seconded by Jerry Racicot, moved that the necessary unit be purchased. Motion carried unanimously.

6.3 **Relocation of repeater.** The Board discussed a possible relocation of the repeater to improve reception but felt the current placement was adequate.

6.4 **GPS for rescue vehicles.** Rick explained how useful the latest GPS might be for the rescue vehicles. Buzz Schurian, seconded by Jerry Racicot, moved that we purchase an up-to-date GPS for \$350.00 max. Rick would investigate and make the purchase. Motion passed unanimously.

6.5 **Mobile Radio Communications Operator unit.** The Board discussed various ways of possibly improving communications in the field but decided that there was no need to make any changes to the existing system.

6.6 **What to do with White Brush 6** – maintain or replace? Elbrock and VTC would be approached to find out whether they might help replace the vehicle.

6.7 **Monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly Board meetings.** The Board decided there was no need to change the existing bi-monthly frequency of meetings.

6.8 **New Portal Phone Book** Bonnie Bowen described plans for publication of the new phone book in early 2016, the proceeds of which will go to Portal Rescue. Publication costs would be met by the sale of advertisements. Updates to existing entries and new entries should reach Bonnie by mid-July. Emails about the phonebook can go to PRphonebook@gmail.com; her personal email is bonnie.bowen@gmail.com. Her home phone is 558-0083.

## **7 Addenda**

**County Mutual Aid repeater on Antelope Pass.** This radio repeater no longer works, but it is important that it be repaired and maintained because: 1) It is how we communicate with the Cochise County Sheriff in the field; 2) It is essential for our dispatch plans which will be upgraded later this

year; 3) It provides clear radio communications for Sheriff's Deputies when they're in this area. Jerry Racicot will contact Sheriff Dannels.

**8      Adjournment**

David Newton, seconded by Buzz Schurian, proposed adjournment. The motion was carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8.20 p.m.