

MINUTES

Portal Rescue Inc. Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

6:30 p.m. in Portal Rescue Classroom

1 **Call to order.** President Bill Wilbur called the meeting to order at 6.45 p.m. Six Board members were present.

2 **Adoption of agenda.** The published agenda was corrected, then adopted with the addition of item 6.4. Motion proposed by Jackie Lewis, seconded by Jerry Racicot and passed unanimously.

3 **Acceptance/correction of minutes.** The minutes of the 9-16-15 Board meeting were accepted. Motion proposed by Dave Schurian, seconded by Jackie Lewis and passed unanimously.

4 **Reports**

4.1 **President:** Bill Wilbur

Bill thanked Morgan Jackson, Rick Beno and Jackie Lewis for their help with the donation drive; Jennifer Racicot for organizing the Chiefs' luncheon, Dave Schurian for getting a donation for the new truck; and Bonnie Bowen, Barbara Miller, Keri Esten and Eco Wear and Publishing, Inc. for developing the new phone book.

4.2 **Treasurer:**

Rick Beno being absent, Jackie reported on his behalf.

Revenue (year to date): \$49,495.82

Expenses (year to date): \$27,896.20

Summary of Assets: Currently our investment and checking accounts, including petty cash, earned interest, and undeposited donations total approximately \$210,000.

4.3 **Fire Chief:** David Newton

Operations: One structure fire in late November. Smoldering wire under an addition to a manufactured home. Residents smelled smoke and turned off power before smoke alarms went off. Damage limited to that smoldering wire. Thanks to Rodeo Fire Department for their mutual aid.

Training: Training in October had a good turnout—we worked on short staffed responses. Training in November was poorly attended.

Grants: David has not yet moved forward with the awarded AFG grant (for pagers).

Thanks to Jennifer Racicot for putting on the successful Chiefs' Meetings in November.

4.4 **EMS Chief:** Jerry Racicot

Calls: EMS responded to 5 calls since last meeting, including a Search and Rescue call north of Portal.

Training: We will hold a joint fire/EMS training on Saturday, Dec. 19th, followed by a potluck for all Portal Rescue personnel. Most EMTs will participate in a refresher course, Jan. 4th-6th, 2016.

Equipment: We are up-to-date with all of our equipment and current on our supplies.

Future: I am looking into the possibility of using an iPad in Rescue 4. We are the last agency that does paper patient care reports with our base hospital. The iPad would also enable us to have the locator book, GPS, and other technical manuals with us on any call that Rescue 4 goes to.

5 **Old Business**

5.1 **Vehicle donations & the state of White Brush 6.** Bill has approached Columbus Electric about a potential donation of a vehicle but, so far, has failed to get much of a response. Bill's efforts continue and he is open to suggestions of other companies we might approach. Jerry reported that White Brush 6, kept at the Racicots' home is still not working right. It could be replaced by a light EMS and fire vehicle that is reliable and could be parked near his house, where it would be accessible to EMTs in that area. Item tabled for more information.

5.2 **Update on shirt order.** Jackie reported that the shirts celebrating Portal Rescue were now available and were in all sizes.

5.3 **Purchase of signs for the Portal Rescue site.** Bill reported that he was ready to order reflective, aluminium white signs with green lettering, reading "Call 911 and request Cochise County Dispatch for Emergency Service."

5.4 **Update on Portal Rescue assisting in Hidalgo County.** Jerry noted that Arizona EMTs cannot practice in New Mexico unless they also have licenses valid in that state. Jerry is contacting relevant EMS personnel in Hidalgo County to find ways of getting round this obstacle and extending our help to people in New Mexico.

5.5 **Update on Hidalgo County residents calling Cochise Dispatch for Portal Rescue assistance.** Jerry explained that although New Mexico residents cannot request us to go into New Mexico, Hidalgo County EMTs can request assistance from us in terms of a mutual aid agreement. Portal Rescue can respond to such requests and would be happy to do so more often than is the case at present.

6 **New Business**

6.1 **Portal Rescue information dissemination.** Bill reported that Portal area residents have asked when our firefighters will come to extinguish fires inside houses. Board members noted that Portal Rescue firefighters cannot enter conditions that are immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH). What they can and will do depends on their technical qualifications and on the risk to persons and property.

6.2 **Old information found on Internet re: Portal Rescue.** Bill said that he would make efforts to get obsolete information removed.

6.3 **Newsletter.** The newsletter is coming out in January and material will have to reach Pat Espenak by about January 15th.

6.4 **Rough draft of budget for 2016.** The Board reviewed 2015 expenses and estimated how much would be needed next year. The final budget proposal would be presented and voted on in January.

7 **Addenda**

8 **For the Good of the Order**

9 **Adjournment**

Jerry Racicot, seconded by Jackie Lewis, moved adjournment. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8.40 p.m.