

MINUTES

Portal Rescue Inc. Board Meeting

Wednesday Jan. 20, 2016

6:30 p.m. in Portal Rescue Classroom

1 **Call to order.** President Bill Wilbur called the meeting to order at 6.38 p.m. Seven Board members were present.

2 **Adoption of agenda.** The published agenda was adopted. Motion proposed by David Newton, seconded by Jackie Lewis and passed unanimously.

3 **Acceptance/correction of minutes.** The minutes of the 12-16-15 Board meeting were accepted. Motion proposed by Jerry Racicot, seconded by David Schurian and passed unanimously.

4 **Reports**

4.1 **President:** Bill Wilbur

Bill reported that he had been making extensive enquiries, in several states, about vehicles of all types to replace White Brush 6. He had contacted Ritchie Bros., O'Reilly Chevrolet, Duncan Valley Electric and Grant Valley Electric and other sources to find an appropriate vehicle and he outlined various possible vehicle purchases to the Board.

4.2 **Treasurer:**

Rick Beno reported:

Revenue (2015 year): \$55,603.00

Expenses (2015 year): \$29,000.00

Summary of Assets: Currently our investment and checking accounts, including petty cash and earned interest, total approximately \$213,670.00.

4.3 **Fire Chief:** David Newton

Operations: In late December Tender 1 and two firefighters ran a mutual aid response to an early morning structure fire in New Mexico.

Training: Monthly training in December was well attended and was decent in January too.

Grants: Regarding the AFG mini-grant, David filed our end of year financial report and obtained one quote for the required equipment. A second quote will arrive soon and he can then purchase the fire-pagers.

Vehicles: We have restored the drafting (suction) capability to Brush 5.

Garage: The skylight cracks have extended and are leaking a bit again.

Retirements: After years of service to Portal Rescue, Ken Joens and David Johnson have retired.

4.4 **EMS Chief:** Jerry Racicot

Calls: EMTs have responded to one call since December; the patient was transported via air ambulance.

Training: Seven Portal Rescue EMTs completed their refresher course in January. During the refresher course, Portal Rescue hosted six EMTs from other departments.

Equipment: Portal Rescue would like to thank Sgt. David Noland and the Cochise County Sheriffs for their generous donation of EMS equipment to our department. Items donated include an AED, cardiac monitor and rescue equipment.

Hidalgo County: Noting that Hidalgo County and Portal Rescue have a mutual aid agreement, Jerry asked Hidalgo County commissioner Dar Shannon why Portal Rescue is not being dispatched by Hidalgo County. Ms. Shannon has promised to find out. Jerry suggests that Hidalgo County residents contact Ms. Shannon or Mr. Whipple to voice their concerns.

5 **Old Business**

5.1 **Vehicle donations**

Bill suggested we wait to see what our utility companies can donate before purchasing a vehicle to replace Whitebrush 6. If the utilities don't offer us anything, we need to decide what type of vehicle

we should buy. Some of the existing equipment (pump) could be transferred to the new vehicle, other equipment (tank) would need to be acquired. Board members noted that a truck with a diesel engine, 150 gallon tank, single cab (8 foot box, 9 foot bed), 4WD, would be suitable. Some Board members considered that \$30,000 would be an appropriate price for a truck (including equipment).

5.2 Update on White Brush 6. The vehicle is almost fully loaded with medical equipment but not rescue equipment, and is stored at Jerry's house. The vehicle is in poor condition. If it stalls, it might not start. The Board's aim is to dispose of the vehicle and replace it.

5.3 GPS Units in vehicles. Jerry said that we were getting an iPad for one rescue vehicle and would not, therefore, need a GPS unit for that vehicle. Rick stated that his GPS unit was effective and useful in the Portal area. Item tabled for future discussion.

5.4 Gift certificates for retirees. The Board had previously decided that retirees should receive certificates of recognition together with the offer of a dinner for two. Some members of the Board expressed disquiet with the notion that members of a voluntary organization should receive items with a cash value in addition to the certificate. Other members pointed out that the decision had already been made and should be followed now. Jerry Racicot proposed and Jackie Lewis seconded a motion that retirees Ken Joens and David Johnson be granted certificates and free dinners for two at venues to be chosen. A majority of the Board voted in favor and the motion was carried.

5.5 Finalize budget for 2016

After discussion the Board arrived at the following budget:

Revenue \$94,550

Expenses \$94,550

Jackie Lewis proposed and Jerry Racicot seconded a motion to accept the budget. Motion carried by a majority.

5.6 Review EMT locations

Jackie Lewis presented a map showing the current location of all EMTs and the sources of EMT calls over the last five years.

5.7 Question about FEMA grant for radios.

David Newton is in the process of deciding which vendor to select for fire pagers, to be paid for from a FEMA grant we have received.

6 New Business

6.1 Finding a new secretary

As Harold Farmer will not be available to run for the office of secretary next year, Board members will look for a person who might replace him. Anyone willing to volunteer for this essential task, please contact Bill Wilbur.

6.2 Alice Newton's book, *Paradise Revealed*. Alice has sold as many copies as she can and has invited Portal Rescue to store and sell the remainder, possibly at the Soup Kitchen. Profits would continue to go to Portal Rescue (Wilderness EMS Plan). Jackie Lewis proposed and Harold Farmer seconded a motion to accept Alice's offer. Motion carried unanimously.

7 Addenda

8 For the Good of the Order

8.1 Soup Kitchen: Feb. 15th, 16th & 17th

Plans for the Soup Kitchen are progressing smoothly but Chris Wilbur would still appreciate offers of soup, bread, desserts and assistance.

9 Adjournment

Jackie moved adjournment, seconded by David Schurian. The motion was passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 9.00 p.m.