

## **Portal Rescue Inc. Meeting Minutes – January 16, 2019**

1. Call to order 6:31PM

2. A move to adopt the agenda was made by Ray Mendez, seconded by Jackie Lewis. Motion carried.

3. Minutes of Board meeting were reviewed briefly. Ray Mendez moved to adopt the minutes, Jackie Lewis seconded. Motion carried.

4. Reports

### 4.1 Presidents' Report (Bill Wilbur)

The Julians wrote a good Radio Operator guide when Radio Operators were first added to Portal Rescue. Bill is updating it, checking phone numbers and making other changes. For example, state agencies are consolidating under one number, as is Hidalgo County. Bill will get the updated phone list out early February.

Rescue 3 sale: Delayed due to government shutdown.

Bylaws: Bill has talked to a new lawyer; will get together with Board in Executive Session to discuss suggestions.

### 4.2 Treasurer's Report (Jackie Lewis)

Those of you who watch numbers closely will see that there is a difference in the income reported tonight and what is posted in the newsletter. I received interest income information from Washington Federal after sending the final copy of my report to Pat Espenak for the newsletter. \$619.67 interest was earned on a CD.

2018 year end income was \$76,257 which is \$6707 over our budgeted income. Expenses were \$85,085 which is \$15,535 over budget and \$8,828 over income.

We started 2019 with \$31,878 in checking and \$200 in petty cash. \$2,650 in donations have been received this month. Total cash assets for Portal Rescue are \$174,875 with a few written checks outstanding.

### 4.3 Fire Chief (David Newton)

Operations: There has been 1 fire call since Oct. 16, a mutual aid request at Milepost 389 late one night. Chief Newton and another firefighter took a tender to assist Sunnyside Fire to help with a semi that caught fire.

Training: Training was well attended in November and December.

Other: Brush 6 has been out of service for almost a year. We've had this 1989 truck for 9 years. Chief Newton recommends getting a new truck and keeping the good pump currently on Brush 6.

Grants: In December Newton submitted a VFA grant. He wanted to order equipment with it that was in GSA catalog. The total cost is \$2400; we would be reimbursed half as it's a 50/50 grant. There is a delay in receipt.

Driver instruction: Firefighters have prepared training plans and checklists for operating emergency vehicles. Newton purchased small traffic cones for the training.

There is a new group of Portal Rescue members called Drivers. It has been suggested that these drivers take an online course. Jackie suggests it would be a good idea for all, including EMTs and Firefighters, to take the course. The drivers should also get hands on training. Bud suggested a post-trip checklist for after fires.

### 4.4 EMS Chief (John Yerger)

There were 32 EMS calls in 2018. (We've had only 3 attended EMS calls since the last Board meeting; 1 unattended that was in New Mexico due to lack of available personnel.) This was a nearly 20% increase over 2017 (26) which was itself a busier year than most. It's too early to say if this is a trend or an anomaly, but it certainly demonstrates the need for a robust team of EMTs. Last year's retirement of one EMT in the Sulphur Canyon area and the loss of our two most responsive EMTs (who attended  $\frac{3}{4}$  of all EMS calls) has demonstrably hurt our response times and overall capabilities, particularly in Rodeo and what I'll call "southern Portal." All remaining EMTs live close to the station,

which is an advantage when retrieving Rescue 4 but creates a geographically imbalanced response by personal vehicle (often faster). The EMS Chief, Board and perhaps even the community needs to engage more seriously in retention efforts if we are to keep Portal Rescue EMS functioning at a high level. Suggestions are welcome. Nearby EMT classes are rare, and obviously there is a finite number of local people to recruit. In positive news, we've had 2 EMTs renew their certifications recently (Barbara Roth and Joan Galanis) – huge thanks to them!

Training has been well-attended recently.

In other good news, EMTs in Arizona may soon be allowed to administer epinephrine by drawing it up from a vial, eliminating the need for costly EpiPen autoinjectors. EpiPens famously shot up to \$600 for a set last year. Although we can now secure them for half that cost, and have sometimes obtained grants for EpiPens, a vial of epinephrine is only \$18. EpiPens typically expire after just one year, so if ADHS implements this measure, we can hope to see a \$1200 line item eliminated from in Portal Rescue's expenses.

TMC has suggested a few minor edits to our Drug Box SOG. I'll submit a revised version for inclusion in the Portal Rescue Policy Book after I obtain approval from our Prehospital Coordinator. There is also a sizable new skills verification that EMTs will be required to complete by July 1. Our EMS team will be working together on this over the next few months.

Shane Burchfield has offered to serve as a driver for Rescue 4 whenever he is available. I enthusiastically accepted his offer. I am of the opinion that anyone who is not an EMT or FFT should at minimum take an online EVOC, as an easy and basic measure to safeguard against potential liability in case of a vehicle accident. NOTE: This is in addition to our in-house vehicle training.

Finally: Rescue 4 needs a few minor repairs (lights or electrical connections, oxygen system leak). I need help. [Bud Johnson voiced an offer to help – thanks Bud.]

## 5. Old Business

### 5.1 Background checks

David talked to an investigator who was recommended by Dennis McAvoy. She had done background checks for the Cochise county fairgrounds. A criminal/civil background check costs \$125 per person. She needs SSN and consent from each person. Driver's A 20- month driving record available online for \$3 (in AZ).

Ray Mendez proposes that we move forward with driving / background checks. A blind study of background checks from an investigator and online to compare results is suggested.

Motion: Require a driving record be provided online for all EMT's, firefighters, and drivers. Newton will survey fire chiefs to decide on a policy to move forward. Ray Mendez will be the guinea pig for the background check. Portal Rescue authorizes funds for the background check.

## 6. New Business

### 2019 Budget — Jackie Lewis

Budget of \$71000, Motion made by Jackie Lewis; Ray Mendez seconded. Approved.

## 7. Addenda

### 8. For the Good of the Order

8.1 Soup's On February 18, 19, 20 Chris organizing raffle list and starting publicity. Call if you can bring bread, soup or dessert, or want to volunteer to work.

8.2 Blood Drive January 17; space available. There is a critical blood shortage.

8.3 The blood drive on March 22 will be called the Greg Wayman Memorial Blood Drive. Spread the word to try to get more donations.

9. Adjournment. Moved by Jackie Lewis, seconded by Ray Mendez Meeting adjourned at 8:04PM.