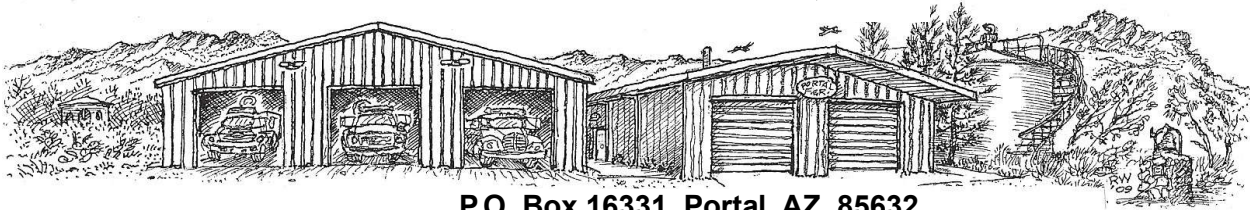


# Portal Rescue,



P.O. Box 16331, Portal, AZ 85632  
(520) 558-2206

## Board Meeting (Virtual, May 6, 2020)

**Attending (by phone or laptop):** all board members except Carolyn Nordstrom, who arrived late after a 7-hr EMS call in Animas. Absent were community members and active members not on the Board. (**Reminder:** both kinds of members may request an invitation to attend by phone or laptop.)

### 1. Call to Order

- 1.1. President Cary Booth called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm and determined that a quorum was present.
- 1.2. Cary reviewed meeting logistics and etiquette, asking us to mute if necessary and noting that he could also mute us if necessary.
- 1.3. Cary announced that all votes would be by roll call.

### 2. Adoption of Agenda

- 2.1. The agenda was adopted without change.

### 3. Approval of Minutes (March 5, 2020 meeting)

- 3.1. Jackie mentioned that she would have additional minor modifications (additional people who helped organize the bay) and send them to Dinah (but she was unable to find these data).
- 3.2. Cary moved that the minutes be accepted, inclusive of minor additions. Jackie seconded his motion, which carried unanimously.

### 4. Reports

#### 4.1. Vice President (Victor Shawe)

- 4.1.1. Given that no one has been using the classroom, Victor has not yet worked on the hearing loop.
- 4.1.2. Cary volunteered that he'd bought wire that is certain to meet specifications and will leave the spool at the station.

#### 4.2. Fire Chief (David Newton)

- 4.2.1. Greer Millworks has finished both doors. The doors are thus finally done!
- 4.2.2. Operations: none.

#### 4.2.3. Training

- 4.2.3.1. Training was well attended in March.
- 4.2.3.2. An all radio training in April was well attended by EMTs, Radio Operators, and some firefighters.

#### 4.2.4. Vehicles

- 4.2.4.1. Brush 236 (the 2008 F450) now has its pump and water tank mounted, the radio installed, and the lightbar mounted. The pump ran well, though there's a niggling problem with the new external tank fuel lines, but that will be fixed soon. Tool and hose racks are installed. Decals are in hand. Parts are in to replace the front wheel u-joints. Much thanks goes to Henry Essary for moving the pump unit with his telescoping forklift, and to Lee Dyal for just about everything else described above - plus more.
- 4.2.5. Grants: Our VFA grant was awarded, and David should start receiving equipment in the next couple of weeks. Because prices went up a bit, the cost to us will be about \$40 higher than anticipated.
- 4.2.6. AZ Forestry Contract: Our Cooperator Agreement with Arizona State Forestry was renewed for another 2 years; this enables us to be called "cooperators" and allow us to charge the State for use of our equipment for wildland fire suppression.

### 4.3. EMS Chief (Jackie Lewis)

- 4.3.1. Portal Rescue responded to just one call since the March meeting; because Douglas Fire arrived first, our EMTs (Barb and Joan) had no patient contact.
- 4.3.2. The April EMT meeting was well attended. Jackie thanked Lee and Lance for reviewing under-the-hood inspections for Rescue 4.
- 4.3.3. Vehicle checks have been completed each month.
- 4.3.4. EMTs have completed most of the dozen self-learning packets that TMC requires.
- 4.3.5. Jackie thanked Ali Morse, Carolyn Nordstrom, Barbara Roth, Bonnie Bowen, Pat Espenak, Lee Dyal, and Susanne Aritz for cleaning and organizing the bay and cabinets. We still have a little labeling to do.
- 4.3.6. She also thanks Lee Dyal and Ron Christiansen for help making a locking cabinet, and Dinah Davidson for taking over mouse patrol from Bob Downs.

### 4.4. Treasurer (Ali Morse)

- 4.4.1. Report from checking account
  - 4.4.1.1. Revenues to date this year are \$13,918.64 (low, as usual, prior to the October donation drive), and expenses have come in at \$11,976.41, with a notable April expense in the structure maintenance category after paying Greer Millworks for completion of the doors.
  - 4.4.1.2. Our expense with CLIA laboratory increased from \$150 (for many years) to \$180.

- 4.4.2. Balance sheet (incl. all bank accounts)
  - 4.4.2.1. Edward Jones
    - 4.4.2.1.1. The total value of our Edward Jones accounts (Muma Endowment, American Express CD, and Money Market) is \$111,904.16, with \$681.88 in interest accrued so far this year.
    - 4.4.2.1.2. A CD with Edward Jones matures on May 28, 2020: its current value is \$87,122.67, vs. an original value of \$87,000.
  - 4.4.2.2. Washington Federal
    - 4.4.2.2.1. The total value of our accounts at Washington Federal (Rainy Day Fund and Checking) is \$57,918.16, with \$155.39 in interest accrued this year.
- 4.4.3. Together with \$135 in petty cash and \$30 in stamps, investments and cash sum to \$169,987.32 in total assets.
- 4.4.4. Changes in signing authority are complete now, and Ali set up online banking and a mobile app to deposit checks by phone.
- 4.4.5. The Board congratulated Ali on her first report as Treasurer and thanked her for taking over this important task.

#### **4.5. President (Cary Booth)**

- 4.5.1. The new laptop has been delivered and set up with requested software, and Cary will install it soon in the RO office. Rick Beno's update of the Locator Book will be added then.
- 4.5.2. Jackie volunteered that AED software needs to be transferred from the old laptop. It can only be used once if we don't pay to register it again, but it's been used just once in 3 years, so we won't renew it until we need to. Old Treasurer's reports are stored on a thumb drive, not the laptop.
- 4.5.3. Cary will also download printer drivers.
- 4.5.4. Cary can clear time to install new wire for the hearing loop (see 4.1 above) when the classroom is back in use (October or possibly earlier).

### **5. New Business**

#### **5.1. Fuel reduction grant (Chief Newton)**

- 5.1.1. David gave an overview of the 90:10 fuels reduction grant for which we are applying. Our proposal seeks funding from AZDFFM for a Department of Corrections crew to create (by hand-thinning) a shaded fuel break around the southern and eastern sides of Portal. Although the break is on private lands, it is not intended specifically to protect those properties. Rather, community investment in a fuel break was requested by the Douglas Ranger District, which agreed – in exchange for community 'buy-in' - to prioritize fuels reduction on USFS lands

around Portal. The County CWPP advocated for expenditure of \$200,000/year x 5 years for this collaborative effort.

- 5.1.2. The break will be 50' wide by 1.75 mi long (~10.6 acres), be implemented over a maximum of two years (July, 2020 through June 2022), and grant fire-fighters safer access to work fires along the southern and eastern sides of the village. Two short segments of the fuel break are owned by USFS and will be implemented by them. Another segment passes through lands owned by The Nature Conservancy, or on which they hold easements. TNC personnel from the Sierra Vista office have visited the site and received a forest management plan to be implemented on their acreage. We have a letter of support from the local office and await opinions from their NY City lawyers on whether the plan comports with restrictions imposed by easements.
- 5.1.3. The budget sums to \$31,629, of which we would be responsible for a 10% match, or ~\$3,163. TNC has budgeted to pay the match for its property, and all property owners directly impacted by the fuel break will pay their own match. However, for two very short segments that rescued the project from a re-routing problem, the match will come from excess soft match contributions by owners treating their own properties, or from a volunteered contribution by an interested board member.
- 5.1.4. Funding prospects depend in part on outlining a sustainability plan to maintain the fire break after a two-year award has ended. Portal's Firewise organization will assume this responsibility. Should an award be forthcoming, the Firewise Committee will solicit financial contributions from the community and participation in fuels reduction within the fuel break during community work days.
- 5.1.5. In response to questions about managing risk to Portal Rescue, board members suggested that efforts be made to have affected property owners flag trees and shrubs of special concern prior to or during treatment of their acreage, or if possible, be present during the work. Visual impacts of the work would be minimal, because the fuel break would pass through forest, mesquite-acacia shrub lands, and grassland steppe habitat - mostly away from homes.
- 5.1.6. Cary expressed concern that, should funding be forthcoming, and the crew complete the entire project quickly, PR might be forced to sell CDs to come up with full payment prior to reimbursement from the grant. David would be pleased if the work actually happened this quickly, but we anticipate that work won't begin until fall (after fire season) and will be completed gradually. Ali agreed to look into financial consequences of cashing out of our investments prior to their reaching maturity.
- 5.1.7. Jackie moved that the Board authorize submission of the proposal, Victor seconded her motion, and the vote was unanimously in favor.

## **5.2. Resignation of Joan and Steve Galanis**

- 5.2.1. EMT Joan Galanis and driver Steve Galanis resigned from Portal Rescue on April 26. Joan will work as an air tanker manager for the upcoming wildfire season, when

Covid will likely require an atypically large proportion of fire-fighting to occur from the air.

- 5.2.2. The Board accepted the two resignations and thanked Joan for three years of service, and Steve for more than a year of driving PR vehicles.
- 5.2.3. Victor moved that we award Joan and Steve (each) \$50 gift certificates to a local restaurant or restaurants of their choosing. The motion was seconded by Ali and passed with a unanimous vote.
- 5.2.4. The practice of giving such gifts to departing members has been applied somewhat inconsistently in the past, and the Board needs to consider and formalize policy in the future.

### **5.3. Bill Wilbur's retirement from Board**

- 5.3.1. In March, Bill Wilbur retired from the Board after 13 years of service as President, VP, Treasurer, all-round engineer and handy man. We hope to celebrate Bill's generous contributions to Portal Rescue by holding a community BBQ in his honor in July, but a final decision on this will not be made until we review the Covid situation at an event planning meeting (6:00 pm on June 30). Cary will send out invitations for board members to attend this virtual meeting.

### **6. Next Regular Board Meeting (July, 2020)**

- 6.1. This meeting is scheduled for Wednesday July 22, at 6:00 pm, with all board members verifying their availability.

### **7. For the Good of the Order**

- 7.1. The next blood drive will be held on May 22, using all the same precautions as in March, but everyone must also wear masks.
- 7.2. The County Red Cross Blood Bank is now using protocols that Jackie designed.

### **8. Adjournment**

- 8.1. There being no other business, Cary adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.