

Board Meeting – September 22, 2022

Attending: Board members Cary Booth, Dinah Davidson (remote), Alina Downer, Jackie Lewis (remote, sporadic), David Newton, Victor Shawe (remote). Active member: Bonnie Bowen

I. Call to Order

President Cary Booth called the meeting to order at 3:12 pm.

II. Agenda

A. Cary asked that the agenda be modified to include a vote to accept the recently approved grant award for radio equipment [see III.A.4.b) below.

B. Bonnie Bowen asked to include mention of a change in the schedule of classroom use by Sew What (see VII below).

C. Cary moved to adopt the agenda as modified, Dinah seconded his motion, and absent any objection, the amended Agenda was adopted.

III. Acceptance of Minutes from July meeting

Cary moved to approve the minutes, Alina seconded his motion, and the vote in favor was unanimous.

IV. Reports

A. Fire Chief (David Newton)

1. Operations

Brush 236 stood by at a vehicle roll-over on Foothills Rd. on September 12 until released by a Sheriff's Deputy. David thanked Andrew and Alina for responding to the incident.

2. Vehicles

a) Brush 9: A coolant hose chewed by rodents has been replaced.

b) Status of Rescue 233 (the new rescue vehicle): new shocks were installed, refrigerant was added to the rear air conditioner, decals have been removed, a radio and antenna were installed, the shore power inlet was replaced, and the back-up camera is about half installed. Thanks to all members who have helped with these modifications.

3. Training

a) Attendance has been okay at some sessions and poor at others.

b) A new training scheme will provide opportunities for all responders (radio operators, EMTs, and firefighters) to attend and work together at the first Wednesday training session of each month.

4. Grants

- a) Our FEMA AFG grant request for funds to replace vehicle radios (now 18 yrs old) has been reviewed favorably and recommended for funding in the amount of \$17,400.
- b) Board members voted unanimously to accept this award, per a motion advanced by Dinah and seconded by Jackie. Our share is 5% of project costs, and replacements must occur within 2 years.
- c) David attended a procurement webinar yesterday and will attend a Post Award Orientation this coming Monday.
- d) The Board thanks David for his time and effort on behalf of the organization.

B. EMT Chief (Jackie Lewis)

1. Calls

PR EMTs responded to four calls in July and three in August.

2. Personnel

- a) ET Collinworth has retired after serving 30 years as a Portal Rescue EMT. Thank you, ET!
- b) We have a new TMC rural EMS coordinator and will have a new base hospital director in the next few months.

3. Supplies and equipment

- a) Bee suits were ordered for the rescue vehicles.
- b) Jackie thanked David for installing the back-up camera and coordinating A/C work and the replacement of shocks by Lance Shultis. (Thanks Lance!). Old lettering is gone, but adhesive still must be removed before new lettering and high visibility chevrons are added. Donated supplies still must be inventoried and organized.

4. Training

- a) Our newest EMT, Matthew Downer, has been working on learning packets.
- b) An IV certification class has been scheduled for Monday, October 24.

C. Treasurer (Alice Wakefield, absent; report unavailable for review at meeting (see Appendix A))

D. Member at Large (Alina Downer)

1. Alina has looked over documented SOPs on our procedures and will continue working over the next few months to produce electronic copies of key essentials. These documents, formerly held in binders in the radio room, will be helpful for new Active Members.
2. EMTs have not yet reviewed alternate landing zones in relation to David's map.

3. When Carolyn returns, she will continue researching heart monitors and attempt to get a formal quote. Our base hospital believes we may be able to acquire older equipment from the State. (See also section IV.B below.) We must continue to monitor grant deadlines, which tend to fall in spring.

E. Vice-President (Victor Shawe) – nothing to report

F. President (Cary Booth)

1. A few weeks ago, Cary scanned, into editable form, the documents that Alina retrieved. He will add them to our Google Drive as pdfs, rough OCR documents, and Word documents. Alina will assess which of the SOPs have been approved by the Board and which still require approval. With communications procedures changing frequently, the RCO book is especially out of date.

2. Cary will notify the community about the need for a new newsletter editor.

V. Continued Business

A. Hosting November CCEMS/CCFA (Chiefs) meeting

1. At a recent county Chief's Meeting, David asked about the possibility that we could request RSVPs from those intending to come to the November meeting in Portal. There is precedent for this, because an official list was needed for a meeting held at the Douglas prison (not a perfect parallel!).

2. Jackie volunteered that she could cook for 20-30 attendees, and other community cooks may pitch in. Thank you, Jackie!

3. David moved that we schedule the meeting for November 16, and Victor seconded the motion. Without objection, the motion passed. Cary will notify CCHCI about the conflict in classroom use.

B. Acquisition of a new or used cardiac heart monitor

1. All companies apparently offer grants, but we need to compare equipment from various manufacturers before making a decision. Dinah mentioned that Chiricahua Community Health Center, Inc. has one that we might investigate.

2. As a potential source of funding, David brought up possible grants from one of 4-5 different Native American tribes benefiting from gambling. These tribes are required to distribute a percentage of gambling profits to public service organizations, but the money must be transmitted through municipal or county governments and cannot go directly to non-profits. David will write to Cochise County to determine whether they might be willing to mediate such proposals and funds transfers for us. If so, proposal submission should be relatively easy. *(After the subsequent Chief's meeting, David met with Daniel Duchon, the County Emergency Services Director, who agreed to move this forward for us. Unfortunately, funds could likely not be available until fall of 2023, but this is something to keep in mind for the future. Thanks, David!)*

C. Auction of Red Brush 6

1. David will design and email to board members a notice outlining the bidding procedure.

2. Following board approval of notice, emailed bids will be entertained, and the status of bids will be updated weekly. 1-2 days will be set aside for vehicle inspection by interested parties.

D. Valuing our active members

1. As background, Dinah reviewed observations that, although our served population is increasing, the number of volunteer EMTs is in decline, without obvious replacements in sight. Recently, three EMTs have been lost – in whole or in part – through retirement or relocation, and two others often travel for weeks or months at a time. New EMT Matthew Downer will be here intermittently. Jackie will step down as Chief in March. This leaves a great deal on the shoulders of remaining (and younger) personnel.

2. Dinah argued for some sort of compensation to show that the community values contributions of our current EMTs. (Some experienced personnel have already declined any such payments.) Although firefighters train regularly, they have opportunities to benefit from compensation sporadically. In contrast, EMTs not only train extensively, but respond to frequent calls, clean vehicles and write reports afterwards, and conduct regular (required) vehicle checks. They have no opportunity to benefit financially from their service, and few work opportunities exist in the community beyond low-wage odd jobs. Even fewer jobs can accommodate sporadic, sudden absences while personnel attend to patients. Although both firefighters and EMTs are on call 24/7, EMTs are more likely to be summoned at night. Our busiest EMT is also a firefighter and board member. How much can we ask of people while providing no health insurance or retirement, and no compensation or other validation of their worth?

3. Without calling for an immediate decision, Dinah and David presented ideas for further discussion in December (see Appendix B). Additional ideas are welcome, so long as they meet requirements of the Fair Labor Law, which precludes paying volunteers by number of events attended (calls, fires, training sessions).

4. Bonnie urged that, no matter the mechanism, we need to embrace a “culture of caring” for those who serve us and sacrifice on our behalf.

D. Phonebook fundraiser update

Bonnie reported that the new phonebook, a Portal Rescue fundraiser, is almost ready to print. (Hurray for Bonnie!) She has received approximately 300 email responses, and leading to a net gain of 200 numbers. Many former entries for folks no longer here have been removed. There are not as many ads as last time. Front and back covers are still being designed. The book will be the same dimensions as prior books, or perhaps smaller, and will cost \$15 each. Bonnie plans to have the new books ready for sale at Oktoberfest.

VI. New Business

A. Acquisition of Portal Rescue patches

Jackie moved that we order 100 PR patches, reserved for active members and other member departments and, instead, send stickers to donors. With no objection, the Board accepted that decision. Michele will be requested to choose a background color.

B. Scheduling of next board meeting

1. Hosting of the Chief's meeting precludes our meeting in November.
2. The next board meeting will be held at 6:00 PM on December 8, with options for in person and virtual attendance.
3. Because Bonnie maintains the classroom schedule, she requested direct notification of all scheduling in order to avoid conflicts in classroom use.

VII. For the Good of the Order

A. The Donation Drive is coming up soon. Jackie will organize preparation and mailing of letters.

B. The next blood drive will be held on Thursday, November 10. Jackie will be away in the interim and may need some help with advance preparation.

C. Community open mic

Bonnie noted that Sew What?'s usual Wednesday meetings would now conflict with CCHCI classroom use for medical appointments, so SW? meetings will be held on Mondays. This change will start on November 14.

VIII. Adjournment

Cary adjourned the meeting at 7:53 pm.

Appendix A (Treasurer's report, current as of 15 September, 2022)

- Assets
 - Washington Federal: the total value of our Washington Federal account (Rainy Day Fund's 60-month CD, maturing 01-15-25) is \$34,603.20
- Edward Jones (all accounts)
 - The total value of our EJ accounts is \$146,618.43.
 - Components
 - Money Market – \$45,603.43
 - Three CDs and two bonds: total = \$101,014.99
 - CDs: Wells Fargo – \$14,990.25, maturing 10-18-2022, Bank Hapoalim – \$29,438.40, maturing 05-18-2023; Sallie Mae – \$28,186.84, maturing 07-24-2023
 - Bonds: Canadian Imperial Bank – \$14,207.25, maturing 01-24-2024; Citigroup – \$14,192.25, maturing 01-20-24
- Portal Rescue financial assets total \$181,987.62, including \$766 in petty cash, and all investments.
- Donations YTD – \$10,472
- Expenses YTD

Chief's Meetings	Dues	EMS Supp & Equip	EMS Training	Fire Pay	Fire Supp & Equip	Fire Training	Fundraising	Insurance
49.26	280	1536.71	-	-	3028.90	-	-	8954

Legal	Misc Exp	Office Exp	Radio Ops	Structure Maint	Utilities	Vehicle Ops	Investment Account	Rescue 233
	145.17	879	2807	67.11	2383.70	2250.26	30,000.00	1219.76

- From Jackie: As shown, the Muma CD matures next month. We can only spend the interest and must decide how to reinvest the principal. The initial vote can be by email. Interest rates are rising, and if Alice can look into current rates, she may be able to steer us to something with higher interest rates.

Appendix B – suggestions for compensating active members (further discussion to occur at December meeting)

Note: The Fair Labor Law precludes paying volunteers by number of events attended (calls, fires, or training sessions).

Dinah outlined how a \$2,000 award could be made annually as an 'honorarium' (a mechanism suggested by Bonnie Bowen) after a nomination and vote by the Board. This amount exceeds the \$600 the IRS forgives from income taxation, so 1099 paperwork (a trivial matter) would have to be filed by both our organization and the recipient. The recipient would also have to pay into Social Security and Medicare but would eventually receive some return benefits. The amount, while not Earth-shattering, could urge members to increase their level of participation and produce good feelings about how much their efforts are appreciated. If the total amount Portal Rescue could afford were to be spread thinly across more members, it might have a lesser effect, but the award could not be given to the same active member for more than three consecutive years. Announcing and advertising this recognition could help to raise the visibility of Portal Rescue in the community and lead to greater appreciation of services PR provides.

David presented an additional idea, designed to value and reward length of service to the organization. Our insurer, VFIS, offers a LOSAP (Length of Service Award Program). LOSAPs are commonly used by volunteer fire departments to encourage long-term volunteering. These programs typically pay out after 15 to 25 years of active service. Encouraging long-term volunteering is desirable because it takes so long to gain experience as a responder. David said he would contact

VFIS to get details on the program. As an aside, the State of New Mexico has a pension program for their volunteer firefighters. The State of Arizona has no such equivalent.