

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Sunday, September 2, 2018

The meeting was called to order at noon by Board President Cliff Kellogg.

Board members present: Glenn Borland, Cliff Kellogg, Robert Carlyle, Michael Pique, Keith Ronchetti.

Community members in attendance included Cecelia Borland, Kathy Lande, Yvonne Vaucher, Brian Wagner, Walt Johnston, Rosemary Johnston, Anita Carlyle, Suzann Leininger, Bill Leininger, Rosie Lopresti, Jack Weisgerber, John Lesac, Jeanine Barrows, and Susie Kellogg. Cal Fire Firefighter Joel Zeir was present.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public comments: A suggestion that we offer coffee.

Approval of last annual meeting minutes: The minutes of the September 3, 2017, Annual General Meeting were approved as presented by Michael Pique.

Financial Report: Keith Ronchetti reported on the current financial status of the Department as submitted in his written report, included as part of these minutes. Net assets are \$107,950.91, down slightly from 2017's \$108, 833.16. Yesterday's book and miscellaneous sales grossed \$521, less 15% to the Community Center. The report was approved.

Station 79 Report: Captain Kowalski was away so Firefighter Joel Zeir reported. Over the last several months we've continued to have lots of motorcycle trauma cases, including over-the-sides. We've had the usual medical calls, and smoke scares especially from the Orange County Holy Fire, and campgrounds. Several defensible space inspection calls have ended up being a dispute between property owners. We explain that the fire department is not in that role. Rosemary Johnson asks how we are doing on having drivers for the trucks, Joel said that Cal Fire through the County Fire Authority (CFA) has two positions up here: "firefighter" and "engineer or captain". Joel has all the licenses to drive, but has not gone through the official program so he's not allowed to drive. Sometimes the reserves up here include a driver, but not too often. So until Cal Fire or the CFA get more driver operators up here we are limited. Cliff Kellogg said we are trying to get 3-0 staffing up here, meaning three firefighters around the clock, including two drivers so both Engine 79 and a water tender could respond to a call. Cliff added that even in the volunteer days we were often working with only one driver (or even just the rescue vehicle legally drivable). Joel says this is a nationwide problem. Alan Serry asked if Cal Fire would let Cliff Kellogg drive. Cliff said he would have to renew his license by CFA rules. It boils down to who holds the liability: CFA or

Cal Fire. Cal Fire is very strict. Joel is being promoted to Engineer and does not know where he'll be assigned to after that.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) report: CERT Coordinator Bill Leininger thanked the Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM) for the great picnic yesterday and the opportunity to do such good outreach to the community. September begins with National Preparedness Week. A CERT academy training is coming up.

Fire Safe Council (FSC) Report: Yvonne Vaucher said the FSC has \$2986 in the bank and has received a new 2018 SDG&E \$2500 education grant. Yvonne and Cecelia Borland attend the bimonthly San Diego County FSC meetings. San Diego County Fire has been focused on preparing community evacuation plan brochures. The original program was to structure the plans according to "PACE" (Primary, Alternate, Contingency escape routes and Emergency areas of refuge). They have now dropped all except the "P" and "A". We'd hoped our brochures would've been done by now but all are held up by the program change.

Do we need to clear the land below the station? The consensus was no. Our priority is to burn the chip piles between Birch Hill and the East Grade Road – It was not wet enough to burn them last winter..

We held our WUI (Wildland-Urban Interface) workshop in July; it was well-attended by Palomar residents and Valley Center FSC/CERT. We learned about fire behavior, the importance of early evacuation, and the importance of hardening houses to embers. In emergencies, the firefighting crew rates engine access, water supply, occupancy, and defensible space. Yvonne said the WUI workshop speaker said to make a detailed list of personal property including model numbers and serial numbers. The PMPO and the PMVFD Board have requested that the PMFSC prepare a letter about campfire safety to provide to weekend renters.

Rosemary Johnston said she's had insurance problems despite passing her defensible space inspection. Walt Johnston says the rates are supposedly based on a new law regarding brush risk ratings. He says to file a challenge if you are not renewed.

Yvonne said it has been a good year for grants. We finished that chipping grant at the end of summer. Our 2018 Neighborhood Reinvestment Program grant for \$10,000 paid for 72 fire-protection gel kits and two power washers. However, the Cal Fire Evacuation Route/Conifer Road clearing grant was not funded. Providing the required matching funds has been a problem. The agencies do let us count \$28 per hour for residents' work. "I am asking you for pledges for matching funding today". Our PMFSC-sponsored dumpster day is next weekend: limit two pickup truck loads per house until noon Sunday. Robert Carlyle could help people move their things over Saturday morning. Our PMFSC chainsaw workshop, taught by Tim Gray, will be held on November 17 at the USFS station near the Palomar Observatory.

Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM) report:

Rosie Lopresti said “We sure had fun yesterday”. Over 80 people came to the picnic! Thanks go to the whole community since only three of us were CCPM people. Thank you all for lugging chairs, setting up booths, and for all the food. Our community center annual meeting will be today after the fire department annual general meeting.

Station Construction Update:

Cliff Kellogg reported. The trailers are gone and the storage containers are relocated to the lower fence area. The ball is in the county’s court now. The county will be working on removing the tree, we assume, now that August, the nesting season, has passed. Cecilia Borland asked if any firewood will be available? Cliff said some; we'll see.

Board Elections:

Nominations Committee Chair Cecelia Borland said that three nominations for the three open board positions have been received: Glenn Borland, Cliff Kellogg, and Robert Carlyle. All three were seconded, accepted their nominations, and were voted in by unanimous show of hands from the community members and the board.

Adjournment of general meeting 12:42 PM

A brief meeting of the PMVFD Board members was held to elect officer positions. It was agreed that this would be as follows:

President: Cliff Kellogg

V.P.: Glenn Borland

Treasurer: Keith Ronchetti

Secretary: Michael Pique

Member-at-large: Robert Carlyle

Next board meeting October 6, 2018

Next Annual General Meeting September 1, 2019

Adjournment of board meeting 12:44 PM

Minutes approved at Annual General Meeting September 1, 2019.