

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the monthly meeting of The Board of Directors, October 6, 2018.

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 A.M. by President Kellogg. Board members present: Cliff Kellogg, Keith Ronchetti, Michael Pique, Glenn Borland, Robert Carlyle. Also present were Cal Fire Captain Dean Kowalski, San Diego Unit North Division Chief Cristina Williamson, CERT Coordinator Bill Leininger, Fire Safe Council president Yvonne Vaucher, Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM) officer Rosie Lopresti, and Alan Serry.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: Alan Serry has information on propane tank valve failures. He also has a list of propane suppliers who serve Palomar Mountain, and says the price per gallon varies considerably: shop around, he advises. In case of emergency, regardless of what company is your supplier, you can call for local help from Ben Sulser (All State Propane, 760-315-7696; also 714-403-5105) or Eric Navarre (Kamps Propane, 760-504-6237). Eric conducts classes for Valley Center Fire and would be willing to come to Palomar for propane instruction classes for firefighters and for CERT.

Financial Report: Keith Ronchetti presented his written report (The report has been included as part of these minutes). Book and clothing sales at the CCPM picnic netted \$521, of which we returned 15% (\$78) to the CCPM. Current assets, excluding CERT funds held by the board, are \$108,397.26. The report was approved.

Minutes: The minutes from the 08/04/2018 meeting were approved as drafted.

Station 79 Report: Captain Kowalski reported all equipment operational. We now are minus two of our paramedic fire fighters and one engineer is off on his wife's maternity leave. This makes us technically half-staffed but doesn't change the community coverage. We usually have only one driver here. He thanks Robert Carlyle for two days chipping pieces of the big oak, including spreading around the parking lot and on the back slope to control erosion. Our calls have been mostly traffic accidents, including rollovers on the South Grade and East Grade Roads.

Chief Williamson: Cliff Kellogg led the welcoming-back of Chief Williamson, who's been 3 years away from Palomar working as an administration officer at Monte Vista. She now has Nick Schuler's job, Northern Division Chief. She says community residents with questions or concerns should communicate with her or with Cal Hendrie, our Battalion Chief. She says she was off work for 4 months with a heart condition and still has some restrictions on her activity. We're moving into a busy time for fire threats, despite the recent sprinkles on Palomar. There is a good partnership between San Diego County and Cal Fire – Chief Mecham has boosted east county protection. The county's economic boom is helping with coverage, but the pool of employables is limited so they are filling in with overtime hours.

CERT: Bill Leininger said they are working on renewing member ID cards. There will be no formal training session in October, but CERT recommends participation in the October 18 state-wide earthquake drill. He is putting together reference notebooks with contact information, Barricade fire gel inventory, and copies of procedure forms.

Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (PMFSC): Yvonne Vaucher says the PMFSC has \$5066 in the bank. The next event is the November 17 Chainsaw class. No news on the evacuation planning project. The USFS burns are still on hold pending winter weather, with Birch Hill still a priority. The CCC crews worked for two weeks preparing burn piles above Kica Mik (Penny Pines area). The FSC placed a community dumpster on the fire station grounds on September 8, the third this year. It was full by 8:30 AM. The fourth dumpster day will be next week. The PMVFD will give the FSC more money to cover the cost of renting the dumpster these additional times. Captain Kowalski says that the dumpster days perform a useful service whether people reduce flammable clutter either inside or outside their house. The only current pending grant proposal is to San Diego County Supervisors (District 5) Neighborhood Reinvestment Program for 2 pallets of Barricade for community distribution, 6 chipping days, and 6 dumpster days. The FSC got pledges from community members for work hours worth \$35,000 for the matching fund requirements. The FSC is following up on a request from the PMPO to prepare and distribute a brochure or poster about campfire safety, mostly to inform renters. Chief Williamson clarified that permits for burning brush piles are more restrictive than campfire permits "for warmth and cooking". She notes that CalFire has an online course on campfire safety, completion of which earns a one-year campfire permit required for fires on federally managed land. Cliff Kellogg received a letter to the PMVFD board from the Fire Safe Council:

Dear Chief Kellogg and Directors of the Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department:
Your confidence in us and your willingness to help us by donating the rent of the July dumpster is very encouraging. Yvonne has worked hard to energize and enliven our little organization, and your support, both moral and financial, is appreciated.
Gratefully, Cecelia Borland, Secretary PMFSC.

Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM): Rosie Lopresti said they made \$300 on the September 1 picnic. The September 15 Observatory star party and dessert potluck, organized by Steve Flanders, was a big hit, especially with the kids.

Old Business

Station Construction Progress: Cliff reported the cargo containers have been moved, the trailers moved out, and the big live oak tree is down on the ground. The pieces are available for firewood for personal, on-the-mountain use only. Captain Kowalski will monitor wood taking as well as he can.

Adjournment: 9:58 A.M. 10/06/2018. The next board meeting is Saturday 11/03/2018 at 9:00 AM. - Michael Pique, Secretary

Minutes approved by PMVFD Board 11/03/2018.