

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the monthly meeting of The Board of Directors, December 1, 2018.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 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, Cal Fire Engineer Gerad Bullard, Fire Safe Council Secretary Cecelia Borland, Community Center of Palomar Mountain officers Rosie Lopresti & Jack Weisgerber, and Alan Serry.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. No Public Comment was offered.

Financial Report: Keith Ronchetti presented his written report (The report has been included as part of these minutes). We recently paid property taxes, insurance, and the 15% share of proceeds from the Labor Day weekend fair. Current assets, excluding CERT funds held by the board, are \$103,460.96. The report was approved.

Minutes: The minutes from the 11/03/2018 board meeting were approved with the correction of "Croley" to "Corley".

Station 79 Report: Captain Kowalski said the big need is for personnel, especially Medic. The station has been covered only through overtime shifts, often by people not at all familiar with the area. We should be staffed with three, not just two, CALfire people, at all times: 90% of our calls are traffic accidents on "one of the most dangerous roads in San Diego county". The rains have brought down a lot of mud and rocks on our roads, and his crews have responded day and night to clear obstructions. It's really the responsibility of the County Roads department, but they have only one person up here, Joe Corley, and it isn't clear whether residents are supposed to call him directly, or to call the PMFD. Alan Serry will get a clarification on this for us.

Captain Kowalski doesn't know when the USFS is going to burn the piles south of Crestline Road, on the slopes of the southern half of Section 14. Engineer Bullard understands the plan is to burn the piles when weather (winds and rain) allow, then later to burn some in between the piles. SDG&E is clearing trees close to power lines on State Park Road.

The middle south equipment bay door needs to be replaced: the repairs done to it are insufficient to allow it to operate reliably. Captain Kowalski has repeatedly asked the county to do this, with no success. Cliff will make some calls to help. It does not appear that the PMVFD insurance would cover the replacement. There were five leaks in the house during the rains - most likely flashing problems. Jack Weisgerber observed the house's gutters and downspouts need cleaning.

CERT: Bill Leininger sent an update that the November priority was getting CERT member IDs renewed. All have been submitted. A meeting open to all residents about earthquake preparedness will be on December 15.

Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (FSC): Cecelia Borland said the Community Reinvestment grant funding is secured, for chipping and dumpsters in 2019. The November 17 Chainsaw Maintenance and Safety workshop, conducted by Tim Gray of the USFS, was well received. Yvonne Vaucher sent a written summary of coming activity: "PMFSC will meet December 15. We plan to submit a CALFire Fire Prevention grant due Dec 19 for improvement of the Crestline-32J-Conifer alternate evacuation route. Would be very helpful to have the endorsement of the PMVFD and Station 79/SD CALfire. I am meeting with FSCSDC/Resource Conservation District (Sheryl Landrum) and USFS (Stephen Fillmore) next week to discuss grant."

Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM): Jack Weisgerber and Rosie Lopresti now have keys to the cargo container for lending out tables and chairs. They will ask Bonnie Phelps to email a request for the return of any borrowed tables and chairs.

Old Business

Chief Williamson Appreciation Dinner: Tonight, buffet-style, complete with a cake with a red fire engine. We have paid for 30 guests.

Station Construction Progress: Cliff reported the project is said to be still on track for this summer, with a facilities walk-through coming this Thursday. A construction manager has been designated. The cost is now \$1,500,000.

New Business

The county is offering to pay our insurance premiums (\$4,646 this year). The board is in favor but wants to see specifics before agreeing, and adopted the statement: "The PMVFD Board asks the county to propose an amendment to the lease agreement that the county will pay the Board's property insurance premiums."

Cliff Kellogg attended a CSA 135 Fire Advisory Board meeting on November 19. Chief Mecham prepared an elaborate report. Much of the discussions were about Julian and the signature drive protesting the dissolution of the Julian Fire Department board. The De Luz volunteer station may be closing: a brand new facility that has been rarely staffed. Don Heiser is working to restructure the county reserve program, revising the requirements so they can get crews back at stations again. Chief Mecham told Cliff that the Palomar Mountain area might change from FRA (Federal responsibility area) to SRA (State of California responsibility), which would mean the Observatory USFS station would become CalFire.

Adjournment: 10:43 A.M. 12/01/2018. The next board meeting is Saturday 01/05/2019 at 9:00 AM.

- Michael Pique, Secretary
Minutes approved by PMVFD Board 01/05/2019.