

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the monthly meeting of The Board of Directors, July 6, 2019.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by President Kellogg. Board members present: Cliff Kellogg, Robert Carlyle, Glenn Borland, Michael Pique, Keith Ronchetti. Also present were CalFire Battalion Chief Cal Hendrie, CalFire Captain Dean Kowalski, Palomar CERT Director Bill Leininger, Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council Secretary Cecelia Borland, and Community Center of Palomar Mountain officer Rosie Lopresti.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: Rosie Lopresti said she was impressed with the brush clearing being done alongside the South Grade Road.

Minutes: The draft minutes from the 06/01/2019 board meeting were approved.

Financial Report: Keith Ronchetti's written report (included as part of these minutes) showing a balance of \$107,092.10 was approved. The \$2500 San Diego Gas & Electric grant to Palomar Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) has been deposited.

Station 79 Report: Captain Kowalski said that Engineer Gerad Bullard has been promoted and no longer here. We will be getting a new engineer. Many new county reserves are coming in but typically stay just a few months. The Defensible Space Inspections have made their way down Birch Hill and Crestline almost to the station. We are not doing the re-inspections; those are referred to various inspectors who know no local geography. We've seen routine medical aid calls but no fires close. A new Engine 79 is to be delivered from Monte Vista headquarters but, as far as we know, it is identical to our current Engine 79. Our PMVFD water tender (WT-52) is on loan down the hill for special projects. The spring rains have encouraged so much vegetation growth it is even less likely we'll be able to get Engine 79 down our roads - please get your neighbors to trim back their trees and shrubs. The CalFire team is no longer getting good maintenance service from the county Department of General Services (DGS). Procuring a sink drain fitting can take three months, forcing repair chores onto the CalFire crews, who have neither budget nor expertise for plumbing or electrical work. Worse, there is no route for reimbursement of personal crew expenses. For the first year, county DGS came up fairly promptly. There's since been a shift in the direction of "let's have the firefighters order parts and fix the station".

Battalion Report: Chief Hendrie is back on duty, healing from a severe hand injury in September. The CalFire prediction services are still forecasting more fires this season in central and northern California, but he's seen the grasses ten feet tall in Jamul & Dulzura. Crest and Guatay [off of I-8 between Descanso & Pine Valley] are scheduled to have clearing help from a tracked-chipper and masticator. The Palomar Fire Safe Council should get him a proposal and budget for clearing routes along private lands.

The heavy vegetation burst might or might not yield a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review waiver.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT): Bill Leininger has prepared “activation preparation notebooks” with contact numbers, procedures, and checklists for initial preparation (radios, flashlights ...). They have handed out more Barricade gel kits recently and will update the records. The end of May saw a statewide CERT conference in San Diego, with a chief activity to establish a central database for mutual aid qualification, especially including records of background checks for “human contact” roles such as shelter management. CERT is working on a grant proposal to fund new uniforms (vests, helmets, eye protection), background checks, supplemental liability insurance, and a CERT trailer. However, they need to recruit & list 440 community contacts in the next 18 months. They may try to achieve these during presentations at the Palomar Christian Conference Center.

Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (FSC): Cecelia Borland: Dumpster for residents’ use today and every 1st Saturday. Chipping for residences to help owners clear their properties for fire safety - several days more available this summer - call Robert Carlyle to sign up. The FSC has \$14,128 in treasury, \$10,000 of which is restricted for dumpsters and chipping. The US Forest Service’s Tim Gray needs support for a grant to clear the sides of Conifer Road, which might also cover some work on the 32J Birch Hill evacuation route. The two 2500-gallon water tanks are still parked at Robert Carlyle’s house pending decision on where along Crestline to place them. Captain Kowalski suggests the Lodge and the fire station. Robert Carlyle says he has site approval from Mike Appelman on Crestline but not from the Lodge owners.

Community Center of Palomar Mountain: Rosie Lopresti succeeded in reserving the US Forest Service’s Crestline Picnic Ground (next to the Fire Station, on Summit Circle) for the August 31 Picnic. Noreen Kirby is a new board member. The CCPM annual meeting will be held September 1, after the PMVFD Annual General Meeting.

PMVFD Board of Directors Election: Two terms expire in September: those of Michael Pique and Keith Ronchetti. Cecelia Borland will chair the Nominations Committee, publicizing the opportunities and reporting nominees back to the Board.

Old Business:

Station Construction Progress: Cliff and Suzann Leininger are going to a County Fire Authority meeting July 15; they will find out if there are updates on the new building.

Adjournment: 10:10 AM 07/06/2019. The next board meeting is Saturday 08/03/2019 at 9:00 AM. Next meeting after that is the Annual General Meeting Sunday 09/01/2019, at noon.

- Michael Pique

Minutes approved by PMVFD Board 08/03/2019.