

## PALOMAR MOUNTAIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the monthly meeting of The Board of Directors, November 2, 2019.

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 A.M. by President Kellogg. Board members present: Cliff Kellogg, Robert Carlyle, Glenn Borland, Michael Pique, Keith Ronchetti. Also present were CalFire Chief Cal Hendrie, Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (FSC) President Yvonne Vaucher, and Community Center of Palomar Mountain officers Rosie Lopresti and Jack Weisgerber.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: None offered.

Minutes: The October 31 draft minutes from the 10/05/2019 board meeting were approved as submitted.

Financial Report: Keith Ronchetti's written report (included as part of these minutes) showing a balance of \$107,219.75 was approved.

Station 79 Report: Chief Hendrie says the station has been running off of the generator since the recent power outage. Although the utility power has been restored for a week, the station can't be switched back to it until the county sends up an electrician. In the meantime, the gasoline generator fuel is not available on the mountain so crews have to bring it up from the CalFire station on Highway 76. We are still staffed up for fire season, including patrols. We may down-staff this week.

The county has hired Rohde & Associates to help plan evacuation routes by carrying out fire potential assessments to feed into Community Wildfire Preparedness Plans (CWPPs). Robert Carlyle and Cecelia Borland attended a recent meeting. The county will publish an official "PAC" (Primary, Alternate, Contingency - no longer including "Emergency") set of routes and temporary refuge sites, to include the school camp, the Observatory, and the helipad. Station 79 crews will get Knox key entrance to these sites. The East Grade Road will be the primary evacuation route with the South Grade Road secondary. The USFS was there too and said that they have no evacuation plans for their campgrounds. The Palomar Christian Conference Center and the State Park have evacuation plans but the school camp does not and does not keep buses on site after dropping off the campers.

The discussion continued on alert sirens. Cliff Kellogg has talked to Dave Nissen from the county, who said the county doesn't endorse sirens because the sirens do not tell you what you need to do. Robert Carlyle says we need multiple complementary alert mechanisms; if each one works for, say, 20% of the community we will be covered. He mentioned that in the recent utility outage, the "land line" telephones went out soon after the electricity did. Rosie Lopresti says we need to have a community-wide fire safety resource meeting, perhaps when the county plan is published. Discussion continued on

non-siren alert mechanisms such as emergency radios in each house. A note to include in the upcoming PMPO newsletter the importance of registering mobile phones with the Alert San Diego system.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT): Bill Leininger sent a written report: 1) We have about a pallet's worth of non-perishable supplies in the cargo container now, ready for mountain need. 2) We should be ready to start working on the OES grant activities in the next month, as the final guidance comes out. 3) Statewide, some CERT authorization was provided to allow CERT to help with resident notifications and welfare checks during the Public Safety Power Shut-offs, if they were asked to help by the local authorities. We were not approached for help, so we never activated.

Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (FSC): Yvonne Vaucher said the FSC has received a \$2500 SDG&E education grant. We have finished the chipping and dumpsters for the year. Yvonne attended a Fire Prevention workshop outlining requirements for CalFire December Fire Prevention grant applications. The focus will be on evacuation. One requirement is letters of commitment from fuel-reduction contractors. The meeting was discouraging to most FSCs, especially the requirement for detailed quarterly reporting.

Chief Mecham approved our Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan (CWPP). The new format just adopted will be easier to organize and will allow for pictures. One problem with getting funding is that Palomar Mountain is not an official "community" based on population and acreage, which do not count our many daily visitors. We have submitted an SDG&E grant application for about \$91,000 for the Birch Hill evacuation route improvements; we should know its status soon. We are applying for Neighborhood Reinvestment Program funds for chipping, dumpsters, and water tank fittings. John Cooper, a local real estate agent, will include in his next Palomar Mountain mailing our solicitation for pledges of effort, which qualify as matching funds. The recent FSC board elections resulted in Robert Carlyle replacing Mike Wilson as Vice-President, with Yvonne Vaucher returning as President, Gina Aven as Treasurer, and Cecelia Borland as Secretary.

Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM): Rosie Lopresti reported the Labor Day Saturday picnic at the USFS Crestline Picnic Grounds was successful, with about \$520 in revenue, netting \$197.96. The CCPM has about \$5117 in the treasury.

Old Business:

Station Construction Progress and County Fire Authority Update: Cliff talked to Liz Johnson, who says the bid period closed on October 28, with some bids received. The county purchasing & contracts office is reviewing the bids and will make decisions next. The county issued a printed "Chiefs' Report" for September with numbers of calls and other statistics. Cliff will see if it is publicly available. The county also has a draft "2020-2025 Strategic Plan" that is not online yet.

Donation of 2500-gallon water storage tanks: The FSC and the PMVFD are still discussing where to put the two 2500-gallon water tanks we were given. Cliff Kellogg, Keith Ronchetti, and Alan Serry met with Palomar Mountain Mutual Water Company (PMMWC) system operator Mike Probert and selected a site for the tank near the Lodge. The PMMWC will run a water line to the tank if we pay for the parts. Cliff will prepare a budget. Mike Probert will take the plan to the PMMWC board next week. The PMVFD needs to send a letter to the Lodge owner that we are donating the tank with the condition that the water will be used for fire-fighting purposes only. Michael Pique will prepare a letter under Cliff's guidance. Chief Hendrie is meeting soon with the county and will ask about putting the second tank at Station 79. Jack Weisgerber notes that the Bailey's mutual water system has had a 20,000 gallon and an 8000 gallon tank relined and filled for fire-fighting, with 2 1/2 inch fittings.

New Business:

The Fire Safe Council requests a letter of support from the PMVFD for the FSC's 2019 CalFire fire prevention grant application. The board voted to do this; Michael Pique will prepare a letter under Yvonne's guidance for Cliff to sign.

Adjournment: 10:21 AM 11/02/2019. The next board meeting is Saturday 12/07/2019, at 9:00 AM.

- Michael Pique

Minutes approved by PMVFD Board 12/07/2019