

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the monthly meeting of The Board of Directors, June 6, 2020.

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 A.M. by President Kellogg. Board members present by Zoom teleconference: Cliff Kellogg, Glenn Borland, Robert Carlyle, Keith Ronchetti, Michael Pique. Also on the call were CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Robert Reynolds, Palomar CERT coordinator Bill Leininger, Palomar Fire Safe Council president Yvonne Vaucher, and Community Center of Palomar Mountain board member Rosie Lopresti.

Public Comment: none offered.

Minutes: The minutes from the 03/07/2020 board meeting were approved.

Financial Report: Keith Ronchetti's written report (available at palomar-fire.org) showed a balance of \$103,154.71 (with \$13,944.67 held for CERT). CERT received a \$2500 grant from SDG&E and the PMVFD received \$582.16 from the county. The report was approved.

Station 79 Report: Chief Reynold says we are moving forward to an August-September crew quarters groundbreaking, including refurbishment of the bathrooms in the house. CAL FIRE plans to bring 3-person staffing to all stations, including Palomar, despite County Fire Authority budget problems. He outlined the response to the recent Bailey Meadows barn fire: The engine and patrol arrived with 750 gallons of water and found a venting propane tank shooting fire. Rincon and La Jolla Indian Reservations brought up water tenders to shuttle water from the observatory, and an on-site 50-gallons-per-minute well was available. The propane tank fire was extinguished and the fire was prevented from spreading to adjacent vegetation and structures. About 10,000 gallons of water were used overall. Rosie Lopresti thanked the firefighters and she was relieved to see such response from the county. She is aware of Next Door web criticisms of the PMVFD board.

County Fire Authority Update - Cliff Kellogg said there have been no fire advisory board meetings since March. Liz Johnson is no longer our construction liaison; Cliff will meet her replacement, Royce Abalos. A new battalion chief, Cody Eaves, is to start in June, dividing work days with Chief Reynolds. Cliff says there may be structural problems with having two new restrooms: we might have to install a toilet where the shower is now. The plan is for two tanks on the hill above the station, one for the sprinkler system, the other for crew domestic water. Cliff wants a third tank for firefighting water. Yvonne Vaucher wants to apply for funding for the tank if there's room for it, also for two tanks on State Park Road. Robert Carlyle believes a 10,000 gallon tank at the station is the highest priority. Cliff says any grant proposal needs to include a pump, not just gravity fill. Jack Weisgerber wants to have tanks on Bailey's, perhaps on the Carlyle property or at the Bailey Mutual Water company tank site.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT): Bill Leininger says there is little hope for conducting a planned July 18 Preparedness Meeting. He sent a written report:

1) California OES Listos Grant Status – all required signatures to qualify for full funding have been collected. Bill Leininger has a meeting with the lead agent at CAL OES next week (10 June) to discuss PM CERT's progress, and discuss the way ahead for spending funds. Funds will initially be spent on state mandated equipment (helmet and CERT vest), background checks, and supplemental insurance. Any remaining funds will go toward purchasing a trailer for the storage and transport of CERT supplies. The COVID 19 pandemic has delayed background check activities.

2) Reflective House Number Signs – 45/46 signs distributed. The activities have been revenue neutral for CERT. Final financial reconciliation in progress with the PMVFD Treasurer.

3) SDG&E Annual \$2500 Grant – approved and deposited in the PMVFD acct. Funds will likely go to upgrades for the CERT trailer.

4) Fire Season Preparedness Meeting – a community that was planned for May was postponed to July. This outreach event will involve SDG&E on public safety power shut-offs (PSPS's), CALFIRE on defensible space inspections, FSC on grant availability, and CERT on fire/disaster preparedness. However, continuing public gathering restrictions may necessitate a further delay in holding the event. CERT will keep the community notified about when we'll be able to hold the event.

5) Community Outreach (Virtual) – CERT has continued to share preparedness reminders through Next Door, covering topics like Pet Evacuation Preparedness and the "7 P's of Emergency Evacuation" (+1 for Pandemic preparation). The materials have been developed through CAL OES and FEMA, and edited for local applicability (i.e. we don't send out tsunami preparedness info for the Palomar Mountain community).

Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (FSC): FSC President Yvonne Vaucher reports the FSC has \$6455. Our only expense so far. Linda Ford is developing a donor packet to distribute later in the year. We have heard nothing from the county about the evacuation flier. Our Community Wildfire Protection Plan was at last officially approved. One stumbling block was the name "Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department" as a partner. How should this group be known, so its inclusion does not wave red flags? The Neighborhood Reinvestment Program is now reviewing the FSC's grant request for 36 fire gel kits, 8 dumpster days, and 6 chipping days.

Community Center of Palomar Mountain: Rosie Lopresti says the tax statements are all filed, balance in hand \$5110. They have canceled the Labor Day weekend picnic, at least for now.

New Business:

Name of the Board and of the underlying PMVFD 501(c)3 Organization: We could file a DBA (Doing Business As) statement with the county more easily than changing the official name. What would Yvonne and the FSC like to see as a replacement? Should it be fire-specific? Should it include the Community Center function? Some suggestions include: Palomar Mountain Community Fire Board, Palomar Mountain Fire Advisory Board, Palomar Mountain Fire Board

Old Business:

Donation to the Fallen Firefighters Memorial Foundation in honor of Henry Vargas. Robert Carlyle moves (Keith Ronchetti seconds; approved unanimously) \$500 be allocated; Cliff will ask for a brick or other concrete memorial.

Elections Nominating Committee Chair: Glenn Borland will ask Cecelia Borland if she is willing to serve again.

Adjournment: 10:20 AM 06/06/2020. The next board meeting is Saturday 07/11/2020, at 9:00 AM, postponed from July 4, most likely by Zoom or other teleconference.

- Michael Pique

Minutes approved by PMVFD Board 07/11/2020.