

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the monthly meeting of The Board of Directors, December 19, 2020.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by President Kellogg. Board members present by Zoom teleconference: Cliff Kellogg, Glenn Borland, Keith Ronchetti, Robert Carlyle, Michael Pique. Also on the call were Cal FIRE Chief Cody, Lafe Ball, Karen Fraser, CERT Coordinator Bill Leininger, Fire Safe Council President Yvonne Vaucher, and Community Center of Palomar Mountain officer Rosie Lopresti.

Public Comment: None offered.

Minutes: The minutes from the 10/03/2020 board meeting were approved.

Financial Report: Keith Ronchetti's written report (available at palomar-fire.org) showed a balance of \$97, 699.12 (with \$733.27 held for CERT). Noteworthy activity was payment of \$13,215.41 on behalf of the CERT trailer, \$304.50 for property taxes, and income of \$500 from SDG&E grant. The report was approved.

Station 79 Report: Chief Cody reports that Cal FIRE is still in peak staffing, with all stations open, until the end of the month. Vaccination plans are being assembled. A minor vegetation fire by Lake Henshaw was put out.

County Fire Authority Update: Cliff Kellogg reports station construction will start in January. The "County Fire Authority" has become the "San Diego County Fire Protection District" as of December 7. The SDCFPD is under the county Board of Supervisors and fire protection services have been added to the county charter.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT): Bill Leininger reports:

1) Palomar Mountain CERT, like all CERTs in the unincorporated areas, has become part of the San Diego County Fire Protection District. This should make it easier to apply for larger grants.

2) CERT Trailer and PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) have been purchased and waiting for reimbursement from the California OES grant; and we expect delivery in January 2021.

3) CERT Academy - had to be suspended "half done" since in-person training is not yet possible under current COVID restrictions.

4) COVID restrictions have also slowed down background checks and fingerprinting.

Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (FSC): Yvonne Vaucher says the FSC met (by Zoom) on December 12 but failed to reach a quorum. The FSC treasury has about \$21,000 of which \$6100 is unrestricted. We have done 4 of the funded 6 dumpster days and 6 of 10 chipping days. We received about \$300 in donations during the

dumpster days. Lee Silvesti, the founder of our chipping contractor Stumpmasters, is selling his business; he has assured us the existing contracts will be fulfilled. We have looked at liability insurance to cover possible injuries to our volunteers, such as at the dumpster days: \$200 per year would offer some coverage. Our CCI brush and road clearing grant needs CEQA approval and our USFS forester Cheyenne Borello needs a tour of where we intend to clear. Station 79 Captain Kowalski says he has seen only limited response to the free "Knox Box" program. The problem on Palomar is that many homes are behind locked gates and the current county program does not cover the special Knox locks needed for gates.

Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM): Rosie Lopresti says the large Conex box (shipping container) is infested with mice; she also found a larger dead animal in a blanket inside. There appear to be too many openings to try to block them.

Land Donation: Cliff reports that the owners of the parcel across Crestline Road from the station are considering donating it to the PMVFD. It is about 3/4 acres and may or may not have a water share. The board voted unanimously to pursue this offer. Keith estimates expenses of about \$500 per year; we are already committed to keeping it fire-safe.

PMPO Newsletter: Glenn Borland will be collecting articles, including material from the PMVFD and Cal FIRE, for the April newsletter.

Old Business:

Name of the Board and of the underlying PMVFD 501(c)(3) Organization: The DBA (Doing Business As) "Palomar Mountain Community Fire Association" has been completed and verified. We need to create some letterhead and update our web site.

Adjournment: 9:55 AM 12/19/2020. The next meeting is Saturday 02/06/2021, at 9:00 AM, likely by Zoom.

- Michael Pique

Minutes approved by PMVFD Board 02/06/2021.