

## PALOMAR MOUNTAIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the monthly meeting of The Board of Directors, February 6, 2021.

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, Michael Pique. Also on the call were CAL FIRE Chief Robert Reynolds, Lafe Ball, Alan Serry, CERT Coordinator Bill Leininger, Fire Safe Council President Yvonne Vaucher, and Community Center of Palomar Mountain officer Rosie Lopresti.

Public Comment: Lafe Ball reported that the PMPO will likely make and sell more “Palomar Resident” tags this spring, as the current ones expire in July. The 2021-2023 ones will be a different color. Cliff Kellogg said the tag worked for his wife, Suzie, to be waved past the chain inspection station at the base of the South Grade. Alan Serry says the sheriff’s office is going to publicize a “high-low” emergency “evacuate now” signal across California. Chief Reynolds says it’s a special sound, like European sirens, and the equipment for the sound is already present on CAL FIRE vehicles.

Minutes: The minutes from the 12/19/2020 board meeting were approved.

Financial Report: Keith Ronchetti’s written report (available at palomar–fire.org) showed a balance of \$97,700.52 (with \$733.27 held for CERT). Noteworthy activity was that Cliff received the CERT grant reimbursement and will deposit the check. Keith filed our IRS and California 990N & 199N tax returns on January 24. The report was approved.

Station 79 Report: Chief Reynolds reports that the station is fully staffed. Crew quarters construction is to start within a week or so. The generator has been moved out of the way of the retaining wall footings. He has been receiving multiple phone calls about the snow days. He says CHP has taken a staffing hit, which reduces how much help CHP can send up. Alan Serry says trying to activate our snow emergency plan has proven difficult; we did get some US Forest Service help this last time. Cliff said it was upsetting that our crews could not get through the crowds to handle a medical emergency on State Park Road. He noted that shutting down S6, the South Grade, at the Highway 76 intersection backed up traffic along 76; he suggests moving the chain checks up to the wide overlook. Michael Pique noted that he saw that the station was once again not plowed. Chief Reynolds acknowledged that the County Road Department does not see the station as a County facility or a County Road responsibility. Michael suggests that the county might be in violation of its lease terms to maintain the station operations. Cliff thinks it annoying that County Roads plows the Summit store lot but not the fire station. Chief Reynolds is working to resolve this.

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

- 1) Palomar Mountain CERT is not participating in helping at off-mountain vaccination points-of-dispensing (PODs) because our background checks are not complete.
- 2) Our background checks are set to resume in a few weeks.

3) We have submitted our final paperwork for the \$11,500 we were funded under LISTOS for the CERT Trailer and PPE (Personal Protective Equipment).

4) The newly organized San Diego County Fire Protection District is moving along; Bill will go to the county Office of Emergency Services to pick up information packets and supplies. He hopes to resume monthly training, slowly, on-line.

Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (FSC): Yvonne Vaucher says the FSC treasury has about \$21,000 of which \$6100 is unrestricted. We have done 4 of the 6 dumpster days and 6 of 10 chipping days funded by the Neighborhood Reinvestment Program. Our CCI brush and road clearing grant needs CEQA approval and our CAL FIRE forester Cheyenne Borello will soon be touring where we intend to clear, with Robert Carlyle and Cecelia Borland. Michelle Clock of the San Diego County Fire Protection District came on the call to say that the residential "Knox Box" program has been extended through 2021. 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. Alan Serry notes the Upper Meadow road has a combination lock and asks if the CAL FIRE vehicles have the combination: yes. The US Forest Service told Yvonne that five pile-and-burn projects are lined up for Palomar, as well as hand-cutting and piling in Jeff Valley, immediately east of Crestline and Birch Hill.

Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM): Rosie Lopresti says all 2021 plans still on hold pending in-person gathering restrictions being lifted.

Old Business:

Land Donation: Cliff reports that the owners of the parcel across Crestline Road from the station, who are considering donating it to the PMVFD, are meeting with a real estate attorney. It is about 3/4 acres and Cliff has confirmed it does have a Palomar Mountain Mutual Water Company water share, but no existing water line.

Adjournment: 9:59 AM 02/06/2021. The next meeting is Saturday 03/06/2021, at 9:00 AM, likely by Zoom.

- Michael Pique

Minutes approved by PMVFD Board 03/06/2021.