

The Palomar Mountain Community Fire Association

Minutes of the monthly meeting of The Board of Directors, March 5, 2022.

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 A.M. by President Kellogg. Board members present by Zoom teleconference: Glenn Borland, Robert Carlyle, Cliff Kellogg, Michael Pique, Keith Ronchetti. Also on the call were CAL FIRE Chief Cody Eaves and Captain Dean Kowalski, Karen Fraser, Palomar Fire Safe Council President Yvonne Vaucher, and CERT coordinator Bill Leininger.

Public Comment: none offered.

Minutes: The minutes from the 02/05/2022 board meeting were approved.

Financial Report: Keith Ronchetti's written report (available at palomar-fire.org) showed a balance of \$89,639.77 (with \$2253.71 held for CERT). CERT received \$444 revenue from address sign sales. Keith filed our RRF-1 form. The report was approved.

Station 79 Report: Cliff invites everyone to a ceremonial ribbon cutting for the new crew quarters by county supervisor Jim Desmond at 10 AM, this Tuesday, March 8. Chief Eaves says that he and fellow Battalion Chief Reynolds will unfortunately not be able to attend the ribbon cutting. Captain Kowalski says the crews are busy trying to get the new quarters cleaned up and furnished, working on everything from cabinet handles to beds. The station property suffered much storm damage, with many tree branches downed. He asked the county to send up a chipper and crew but the request was denied. Cliff warns that a big tree is threatening the two steel CONEX boxes.

County Fire Advisory (CFA) Board Update: Cliff says it will be at least another year before we see the proposed agricultural "Farm/Ranch" pass that would allow certain residents to re-enter areas faster after fire closures. Cliff and Chief Reynolds are discussing possible Palomar locations for "heli hydrants" (open-top water tanks for helicopter fire-fighting). The CFA board voted to support the SDG&E fire-fighting helicopter co-op agreement, which would make five helicopters available with SDG&E sharing costs. The CFA board also voted to support continuing the "fire mitigation fee" program, a tax on new construction of \$0.58 per square foot. The county's roadside vegetation maintenance budget for mowing will increase from 500 to 800 roadside miles per year. The mowing will prioritize critical evacuation corridors and mow 20 feet from the roadside, increased from 10 feet. County Fire personnel are enhancing community outreach and increasing Defensible Space Inspections to 34,000 parcels per year, on a three-year cycle.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT): Bill Leininger said CERT will hold a county-wide quarterly outreach program on Saturday morning April 23. They will resume the CERT Academy, then in May or June start a new Academy cycle. The trailer work continues, getting supplies installed, and they hope soon to apply the county decals. Cliff Kellogg has finished the slide-out platform rack to hold the generator.

Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (FSC) Yvonne Vaucher: The FSC has about \$5700 in unrestricted funds, and about \$37,000 to continue brush clearing work on the Crestline and Birch Hill roads. We have almost used up our first advance payment and will soon apply for the second part, which will fund removing large trees that block emergency vehicle access. Our February 1 mailing to Palomar Mountain post office box holders has so far yielded \$3400 in donations. We are working on a single-sheet emergency evacuation roadmap, chiefly for posting in vacation rental properties. Web site is still not up. Next meeting Saturday March 26, 10 AM.

Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM): Cliff Kellogg continues to talk to Monica Toledo at the county about possible legal arrangements for the CCPM to reclaim use of the small house. Monica on February 16 replied to Cliff that the county can be flexible on scheduling. We don't yet know who will pay for insurance and property taxes; county legal department is looking into that. Once the crew quarters are habitable, the contractor will start work on renovations to the small house, chiefly restroom rearrangements.

Palomar Mountain Planning Organization (PMPO) Michael Pique (Secretary): next meeting is today, 03/05/2022 at 10:30 AM, by WebEx.

Old Business:

Cliff Kellogg said that when the foot of snow fell last week, the county snow plow made the situation worse by piling up a high berm that blocked the entire driveway. At the recent fire advisory board meeting, Cliff told Jeff Collins, the director of the San Diego County Fire Protection District, that the current method is not working; Collins assured him "I'm on it".

Adjournment: 9:48 AM 03/05/2022. The next board meeting is Saturday 04/02/2022, at 9:00 AM. - Michael Pique, Secretary

Minutes approved by PMCFA Board 04/02/2022.