

The Palomar Mountain Community Fire Association

Minutes of the monthly meeting of The Board of Directors, July 2, 2022.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by President Kellogg. Board members present by Zoom teleconference: Robert Carlyle, Cliff Kellogg, Michael Pique, Keith Ronchetti. Also participating were PMPO board member Elizabeth Getzoff, Community Center of Palomar Mountain board member Rosie Lopresti, Palomar Fire Safe Council President Yvonne Vaucher, and CAL FIRE Captain Dean Kowalski.

Public Comment: none offered.

Minutes: The minutes from the 06/04/2022 board meeting were approved.

Financial Report: Keith Ronchetti's written report (available at palomar-fire.org) showed a balance of \$89,641.92 (with \$2253.71 held for CERT), unchanged from last meeting; no noteworthy deposits or expenses. The report was approved.

Station 79 Report: Captain Kowalski is still officially "out" from his hand injury. Fire activity has picked up. Our water tender usage over the years has fluctuated. Our water tender 79 has been busy off-mountain, as far away as the Mexican border. Obviously, a long delay for us to get a Deer Springs water tender to come up and cover us. The new crew quarters have changed our lives dramatically from the get-go. Great for everyone: we were all ready to get out of the old cabin. The 3-0 staffing is really a plus. No plans for placing a new water tank up on the hill to fill engines or tender. (The one tank now on the hill is strictly for domestic water.) The county does not want us to give up the underground tanks but pulling water out of those tanks takes too much time.

Cliff says the county isn't maintaining the station grounds very well: the trees in the front need to be limbed-up, especially by the cargo container, and the weeds down the slope cleared. The limbing should be 6 feet up from the ground. Captain Kowalski says the station has no chipper. Robert Carlyle says he can do the chipping later in the summer. Cliff thinks grounds maintenance is not the crews' responsibility but the county's. Captain Kowalski says the station does have a weed whipper and the weeding is a crew responsibility. The big dead trees are not a defensible space issue because they are too far from the structures on the fire station grounds. Cliff says the removal of the dead trees is a county responsibility according to Tony Mecham last year. The fire clearance crews are no longer inmate crews because of Covid. New ground-clearance crews will be CAL FIRE, not inmate; that's why Camp Fox is being converted to CAL FIRE training and operations. California is setting up new crews to take down big trees. All of that is in the works but it will be a while for the crews to be formed. Cliff says the building also needs painting as he pointed out to Monica at the county.

County Fire Advisory (CFA) Board Update: Cliff was away and missed the last meeting, next one is in November.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT): Bill Leininger is away. The next CERT academy training at Station 79 will be August 13 and 20 to help residents prepare for the next disaster. CERT will participate in a county-wide quarterly outreach program next to the US Forest Service Crestline Picnic Ground on Saturday morning July 16.

Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (FSC) Yvonne Vaucher: The FSC met on Saturday June 25 by Zoom. The FSC ended May with \$7097 in unrestricted funds, now down to \$1800 after paying for dumpsters. We are still having problems getting roadside clearance permission from Crestline residents. A new letter is going out today asking for permission. We will start on the large trees and the rock at the west end of route 30 near the lodge, as identified by Captain Kowalski. But we can't remove the rock with CCI funds. Our neighborhood reinvestment program (NRP) grant application is being considered by the county supervisors, to be reviewed in August. We asked for \$49,000. The PMFSC web site is progressing and she hopes it will launch to the public in July. Next meeting 10 AM Saturday July 23. The PMCFA board approved \$700 to fund an additional summer dumpster.

Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM): Cliff Kellogg continues to talk to Monica Toledo at the county about possible legal arrangements for the community to reclaim use of the small house. Each groups' insurance would have to include Workers Compensation, Automobile, Bodily Injury, and Property Damage. Cliff will ask if groups who do not own motor vehicles will still need to buy the Automobile insurance. Cliff has asked Monica to modify the draft license to enable the community to use the surrounding outdoor spaces including the amphitheater and band stand.

Rosie Lopresti is getting quotes for the insurance required by the county to use the building. She keeps striking out and is now asking a State Farm agent to refer her. She expects the CCPM to have an event at the County Park the Saturday of Labor Day weekend.

Palomar Mountain Planning Organization (PMPO) Michael Pique (Secretary): next board meetings are August 27, December 3, and February 25, all 10 AM. After that is the Annual General Meeting, Saturday 05/27/2023 (Memorial Day weekend) at 10 AM.

Our new Battalion 33 Chief Gettman joined the call. He started in 2003 at Valley Center. He will be on duty Thursdays through Saturdays.

New Business – Board Elections – Cliff says he wishes to leave the board at the end of his term, this September. He will stay on the county fire advisory board and to serve as an advisor to the PMCFA Board. We need a nominating committee (one person, in reality); Michael Pique will ask Rob Dowell to serve if Cecelia Borland is unavailable.

Adjournment: 10:04 AM 07/02/2022. The next board meeting is Saturday 08/06/2022, at 9:00 AM, either by Zoom or at Station 79 with Zoom or telephone call-in available.

- Michael Pique, Secretary
Minutes approved by PMCFA Board 08/06/2022.