

The Palomar Mountain Community Fire Association

Minutes of the monthly meeting of The Board of Directors, January 7, 2023.

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 A.M. by President Robert Carlyle. Board members present in person at the Community Center (Station 79 grounds): Robert Carlyle, Tom Mendenhall, Michael Pique, Keith Ronchetti, Mark Thompson. Also present were Cliff Kellogg, Lafe Ball, Yvonne Vaucher, Bonnie Spears, and CAL FIRE Engineer Brett Waychak. Attending by Zoom teleconference were Community Center of Palomar Mountain board members Rosie Lopresti and Jack Weisgerber, Elizabeth Getzoff, Karen Fraser, and CAL FIRE Captain Dean Kowalski.

Public Comment: None offered

Minutes: The minutes from the 12/03/2022 board meeting were approved.

Financial Report: Keith Ronchetti's written report (available at palomar-fire.org) showed a balance of \$88,423.83 (plus \$2253.71 held for CERT). Recent expenses were for property taxes: \$299.86 and \$16.28. The report was approved.

Station 79 Report: Engineer Brett Waychak asked us to publicize that the fire crews are not allowed to put chains on vehicles for residents or visitors. Robert Carlyle will put that on the Next-door site. Captain Kowalski said the significant repetitive rains are good for the water table and good to carry us greener into the summer. You can now do US Forest Service burn permit applications online: burnpermit.fire.ca.gov. He said there's been a change of direct protection responsibility for the area from US Forest Service to CAL FIRE.

County Fire Advisory (CFA) Board, Cliff Kellogg: The next meeting is March 6.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT): Bill Leininger reports by email that the next CERT academy training at Station 79 will be on January 28 and is fully booked. The San Diego County CERT program managers will meet in January to plan 2023.

Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (FSC) Yvonne Vaucher: The council has \$13,647 in unrestricted funds. We were able to spend all of our \$165,000 by the end of 2022. Captain Kowalski said the work Robert Carlyle has supervised was "the biggest game-changer in access for medical aid and fire". "A great accomplishment, gives us access we've never had before. Big thanks to Gina for managing the money and Robert for managing StumpMasters. It's even easier for people to get to their homes now." The Cecil Lumber contractor is still working on thinning trees at the south end of Jeff Valley. We are working to support an application for CAL FIRE Forest Health grant "phase 2." We sent out over 100 letters of interest for property owners in the Crestline area and along Conifer Road to sign. We have not yet counted how many have been returned, about 30. We need a list of more property owners to send letters to. Lafe Ball will get us

the list of Palomar Resident tag buyers, many with phone numbers and email addresses.

Our review of the community wildfire protection plan (CWPP) has not yet begun. Bill Leininger will order evacuation signs for the CERT trailer, but has not yet done that, those are being paid for by the San Diego Regional Fire Foundation grant. The next dumpster will be in April. We have seven dumpster weeks funded for the coming year.

Yvonne says the Fire Safe Council needs to know the CFA priorities for the next CAL FIRE grant application. Captain Kowalski says: Bailey's. We would need to get permission from property owners there. How about the Gold-Spotted Oak Borer (GSOB) treatment or removal of dead oaks? Yvonne could put that in the grant proposal. Captain Kowalski would like to see more road improvements. Lafe says "getting trees out of the way, also doing some grading for fire access. Captain Kowalski says, "Fortify the roads. Lots of erosion has made access difficult". Robert Carlyle said we would need to hire a real contractor with a bulldozer to do that, probably installing drains, culverts, and diversion berms. Robert and Yvonne will develop a budget and budget justification. Next meeting January 28. The FSC written report will be posted at palomar-fire.org.

Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM): Rosie Lopresti said their Annual General Meeting will be held today, immediately after this meeting. Jack and Rosie are not seeking reelection: after six years they need a break. Bonnie Spears says she can help. Lafe suggests we put the street address on the new 4' x 8' sign we are planning.

License Agreement: We have a license agreement the county considers "final". Community groups, including 501(c)(3)'s, will not need their own insurance to use the building and grounds for meetings, but will need to sign the license agreement. CERT and the Sponsor Group are considered county-affiliates and do not need to sign the license. We will need to set up a calendar for scheduling, and to be sure to coordinate heating with the fire crews so we do not heat the building when not in use.

Board Insurance: Robert Carlyle has been investigating the Class A fire insurance the PMVFD/PMCFA needs to carry. It appears that only a California FAIR plan is possible and will require an inspection. The first agent has quoted an annual premium of \$8663 for Fire and Lightning with a Brush/Wildfire Area surcharge of \$21,591, total \$30,254 per year. Once we have two quotes, the County will pay for the insurance.

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

Adjournment: 10:20 AM 01/07/2023. The next PMCFA meeting is Saturday February 4, 2023, at 9 AM, at Station 79 with Zoom and/or telephone call-in available.

- Michael Pique, Secretary. Minutes approved by PMCFA Board 02/04/2023.