

## **The Palomar Mountain Community Fire Association**

Minutes of the monthly meeting of The Board of Directors, June 3, 2023.

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 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 in person were Yvonne Vaucher, Cliff Kellogg, Rosie Lopresti, Bill Leininger, and CAL FIRE Captain Dean Kowalski. John Redman joined our Zoom teleconference.

Pledge: Robert led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: Cliff Kellogg said the fire department was recently called to care for a Palomar resident needing medical aid. The resident commended Captain Kowalski and crew. The resident said they were very professional with a good bedside manner.

Minutes: The minutes from the 05/06/2023 board meeting were approved.

Financial Report: Keith Ronchetti's written report (available at [palomar-fire.org](http://palomar-fire.org)) showed a balance of \$88,203.70 (plus \$2253.71 held for CERT). No recent income or expenses. We still need to update the signature authorizations on our bank account. The report was approved. The board approved moving \$70,000 from the board savings account into an 11-month certificate of deposit paying 5% annually. The board also authorized reimbursement to Robert Carlyle for a Zoom license; about \$150.

Station 79 Report: Captain Kowalski says the big thing on the horizon is an ambulance for Palomar. The county Emergency Management Services bureau is working to outfit ours, which will be not a "big box" but a slightly lifted all-wheel-drive "sprinter" with special tires. No projections yet on a detailed coverage plan with staffing and paramedic availability. A big reason for having full staffing would be the ability to get going to where the patient needs to be taken, usually Palomar medical in Escondido. There are still questions about conducting the defensible space inspections (DSI). The upside is that we are working with the residents and we hope they are motivated to do their blizzard cleanups. Exactly who will do the inspections is still open.

County Fire Advisory (CFA) Board, Cliff Kellogg: Cliff says the board accepted a NEXUS report of increasing the building permit fire mitigation fee by 400%; from \$0.58 to \$2.89 per square foot. Regarding the fire protection districts: we had Proposition L in 2004 on Palomar with a voter-approved cost escalator. Ours will go up 3% this year. The money *does* stay on Palomar, but the bookkeeping is quite opaque. The county reserve program is now up to 16 firefighters (it was 300 back when we were a volunteer department). We will try to get high school students involved. The county is still working on the "helitanks". Cliff got a call from Barry Stevens, a helitank competitor. Cliff met with him at the observatory and discussed placement of a tank at the parking lot picnic area. Each tank is \$40,000 to \$50,000 each, about 1/3 the cost of the helitanks the county is considering.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT): Bill Leininger reports Palomar CERT has three new members for a total of 16. Last month, we had Cal DART (Disaster Airlift Response Team) training. Next week will be a county-wide search and rescue exercise. A-frame signs for evacuation guidance have been ordered.

Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (FSC), Yvonne Vaucher: The council has about \$70,000 cash including \$20,000 in unrestricted funds. Our Resource Conservation District grant application was not funded. GSOB (Gold-spotted oak borer) infestation work is focusing on prevention rather than treatment. We are preparing a new CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plan) this year covering four areas that Yvonne thinks we can cover well. We have five chipping days left in our NRP Grant, which runs until July 31. We have plenty of dumpster money. We still have three boxes of Barricade fire gel after distributing six of the kits after the PMPO breakfast. We got some more chipping and dumpster money, about \$10,000, from the San Diego Regional Fire Foundation which we can use through March of next year. Brian Wagner will be helping Denise Yaeger get our website online. The FSC written report will be posted at [palomar-fire.org](http://palomar-fire.org).

Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM): Rosie Lopresti was pleased with the turnout at the May 5 Mountain Mingle. CERT was there and Lafe Ball was selling the PMPO resident tags. CCPM will meet this week to plan the Labor Day weekend barbecue, to be held Saturday September 2. A donor has stepped up to sponsor the barbecue this year.

Board Insurance: Robert Carlyle says we at last have obtained the Class A fire insurance the PMVFD/PMCFA needs to carry, although he has not yet received the official certificate. On the Board Officers policy, Robert is getting the forms for that.

Palomar Mountain Planning Organization (PMPO) Michael Pique (Secretary): the Annual General Meeting and Pancake Breakfast were held Saturday 05/27/2023. Toby Roy and Rosie Lopresti were elected to the board. The next board meetings will be August 26 and November 18, 2023, February 10, 2024, and the next Annual General Meeting May 25, 2024.

Adjournment: 10:03 AM 06/03/2023. The next PMCFA meeting is Saturday July 1, 2023, at 9 AM, at the Community Center. We expect to have Zoom call-ins available.

- Michael Pique, Secretary. Minutes approved by PMCFA Board 07/01/2023.