

The Palomar Mountain Community Fire Association

Minutes of the monthly meeting of The Board of Directors, August 5, 2023.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 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 Cliff Kellogg, Rosie Lopresti, Bill Leininger, Cor Shaffer, Toby Roy, and Lynda & Gary Lockhard. CAL FIRE Captain Dean Kowalski, Lafe Ball, Jim Hamerly, Theresa McCarthy, Yvonne Vaucher, and Elizabeth Getzoff joined our Zoom teleconference.

Pledge: Robert led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: Cliff Kellogg noted the death a few weeks ago of Chuck Beer, husband of Heather Beer who served the PMVFD in several capacities over the years.

Minutes: The minutes from the 07/01/2023 board meeting were approved.

Financial Report: Keith Ronchetti's written report (available at palomar-fire.org) showed a balance of \$88,342.63 (plus \$1682.86 held for CERT) including a \$70,000 11-month certificate of deposit opened 06/14/2023 paying 5% annually. The report was approved.

Station 79 Report: Captain Kowalski says much cleanup work is needed on the property. The three hazardous trees are set to be taken down by Stumpmasters on August 22 or 23; need the county to approve the money. If funds are not approved, our PFCFA insurance might well be canceled. Station 79 operations are going well. The county is seeing vegetation fires daily, which means our water tender has been sent off-mountain every day last week. This could affect our EMS calls, since cover engines take a while, perhaps two hours, to get up here as a replacement vehicle and personnel. Ambulance transport has been "in the works" for quite some time – still held up by staffing issues. Eventually, we can expect a 4WD lifted van to be stationed here.

County Fire Advisory (CFA) Board, Cliff Kellogg: Next meeting is September 11; there will probably be an ambulance plan update.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Bill Leininger said the July first-aid training was well attended. CERT will have a booth at the September 2 Hoedown, shared with the Fire Safe Council.

Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (FSC), Yvonne Vaucher: The council has about \$70,000 cash including \$18,000 in unrestricted funds. We have plenty of dumpster money. We still have three boxes of Barricade fire gel and will be ordering more soon using NRP (Neighborhood Reinvestment Program) funds. Linda Thorne and Michael Pique are assembling a fund-raising letter to go to all Palomar Post Office boxes in early September. Stan Hill of the Resource Conservation District is trying to extend the

Healthy Forest Initiative brush-and-tree clearing work from the Observatory & Canfield Road area south into Crestline and Birch Hill. Residents are concerned about the SDG&E tree-trimming contractor leaving 30-foot tall trunks standing, surrounded by downed branches left in place. Best news is that our CCI road access improvement plan was approved; should be continued in October with funding of \$144,000. The FSC written report will be posted at palomar-fire.org. Next meeting 9 AM August 26, before the next PMPO board meeting.

Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM): Rosie Lopresti says the CCPM is well into plans for the Labor Day weekend “Mountain Hoedown”, to be held Saturday September 2, 11 AM to 2 PM. There will be live music, an opportunity drawing, information tables from CERT/FSC and the Friends of the Palomar State Park. The USFS Crestline Picnic Ground will be having a separate food event.

Board Insurance: Robert Carlyle is talking to Monica and Tonya at the County about insurance renewals. Robert got a quote for a “Board Officers Liability” policy, \$1076 per year for \$2,000,000 coverage from Burns and Wilcox. That quote was not for the “Directors and Officers” policy that we need. Robert called the agent but has not yet heard back for her about the “D&O” policy.

CERT Request to use Closet: Bill Leininger asked for approval to use the lower level former bathroom as a CERT office. The room would hold file cabinets, radio batteries, and some electronic gear. The PMCFA Board approved the request.

Bandstand and Stage: Jack & Rosie will remove the existing deteriorated plywood stage floor. Tom Mendenhall will send up a construction expert to evaluate the foundation and joists. He will get us a budget for repairs. Robert Carlyle has cleared the layer of dirt that had covered the adjacent concrete pad.

Palomar Mountain Planning Organization (PMPO), Michael Pique (Secretary): The next board meetings will be at 10 AM August 26 and December 9, 2023, February 24, 2024, and the next Annual General Meeting May 25, 2024.

Board Elections: Cliff Kellogg will serve as the Nominations Committee Chair for the three Board positions to be elected at the upcoming Annual General Meeting.

Adjournment: 10:00 AM 08/05/2023. The next PMCFA meeting is the Annual General Meeting on Sunday September 3, 2023, at 12 Noon, at the Community Center. We expect to have Zoom call-ins available.

- Michael Pique, Secretary. Minutes approved by PMCFA Board 10/07/2023.