

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

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

**Sunday, September 3, 2023**

The meeting, held at Station 79 and by Zoom teleconference, was called to order at 12:04 PM by Board President Robert Carlyle.

Board members present in person: Robert Carlyle, Michael Pique, Keith Ronchetti, Tom Mendenhall, Mark Thompson. Two community members were present in person: Yvonne Vaucher and Bill Leininger. Attendees participating by Zoom teleconference included Rosie Lopresti, Elizabeth Getzoff, and CAL FIRE Captain Dean Kowalski.

**Public comments:** None offered.

#### **Approval of last Annual General Meeting minutes:**

The minutes of the September 4, 2022, Annual General Meeting were approved.

#### **Financial Report:**

Keith Ronchetti reported on the current financial status of the Association as submitted in his written report, available on our palomar-fire.org web site. Our current balance is \$88,243.66, little changed from September 2022's \$88,950.26. This excludes \$1611.14 of CERT funds held in our account. No noteworthy recent or upcoming expenses. The report was approved.

#### **Station 79 Report:**

CAL FIRE Captain Dean Kowalski gave a report by Zoom. Station personnel are finished with the defensible space inspections (DSI) for this year; the county-level ones may continue. The cyclone really helped boost our fuels moisture level. An early fall, wet winter is predicted. Recent fires have been quickly caught and stopped. On the medical side, taking over the transport business for ambulances has been an enormous task. Not immediately, but at some point in time, we will get an ambulance here. On September 30, the Mercy Ambulance at the bottom of the mountain will be replaced by a CAL FIRE one. No one knows how this will affect coverage overall. It will be stationed on Highway 76 either at Camp Fox or at the La Jolla Reservation fire station once construction is completed. This ambulance will not be four-wheel-drive at the start – “a whole landscape of hoops need to be maneuvered around to get that.”

### **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) report:**

CERT Program Manager Bill Leininger says September is National Preparedness month, with the theme from the Federal Emergency Management Agency "Preparations for older adults." The CERT academy has been resumed; if you are interested, contact [palomar.mountain.cert@gmail.com](mailto:palomar.mountain.cert@gmail.com) to be placed on the academy schedule mailing list. We have moved our emergency response gear into the small CONEX box. Many people came by the CERT/FSC table yesterday at the Hoedown: in fact, about 5% of the entire Palomar population.

### **Fire Safe Council (FSC) Report:**

Yvonne Vaucher said the FSC has about \$60,000, about \$16,000 of which is unrestricted. The web site is live at last: [palomarfiresafecouncil.org](http://palomarfiresafecouncil.org). Elizabeth Getzoff will ask her daughter, Elizabeth Gettys, to link it into the [PMPOInfo.com](http://PMPOInfo.com) site. We thank Robert Carlyle for organizing to have removed some dangerous trees on the Hoedown site, and CERT for sharing their table.

The Barricade home protection gel kits are now in the big CONEX. We held Barricade usage training on August 12. We have ordered 36 more Barricade kits. Robert Carlyle asks if we should buy a paint shaker to keep the Barricade gel properly mixed. Yvonne will ask Jim Courter (Valley Center Fire Safe Council) what to get.

Our Neighborhood Reinvestment Program (NRP) grant has about \$2500 left to pay for chipping and \$4300 for dumpsters the rest of this season. If you need chipping done, call Robert Carlyle. The next CAL FIRE grant will start at the end of October; CEQA will be the hold-up for actually starting work, for about 5 months. The Resource Conservation District has big plans for a Forest Health Initiative that could do fuels reduction on both private and public lands.

Our Annual Meeting will be at the end of October; our next monthly meeting is 9 AM Saturday September 23, in-person at the Community Center and also Zoom. We will be starting all of our monthly meetings at 9 AM, some of them will be followed by a PMPO meeting at 10 AM.

### **Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM) report:**

Rosie Lopresti says the CCPM is overjoyed that yesterday's Mountain Hoedown had such a good turnout. Gary and Linda Lockhard sponsored the whole thing and advanced \$3764 for the food. Unfortunately Gary was not feeling well and missed the event. The band, Chris Clarke and Friends, was popular: perhaps we should do a Bluegrass Festival sometime. Many people helped, including Robert Carlyle, Michael Walsh, Cor Shaffer and Toby Roy (with their off-road Polaris), Dylan Healey, Cliff and Susie Kellogg, Tom Mendenhall, Michael Pique, Friends of the State Park.

**PMCFA/PMVFD Insurance:**

The CCPM is paying about \$900 per year for their Directors & Officers liability insurance. Robert Carlyle is still trying to get a quote for our Directors & Officers insurance, with a separate quote for adding liability coverage. Since the county is self-insured on liability, it is possible we do not need that.

**Bandstand Repair:**

Tom Mendenhall will get a quote for lumber for new joists and decking for the bandstand; his estimate is about \$1000; he will get the labor costs donated by Bailey's Resort. The CFA board suggests it donate \$300, to be matched by the Fire Safe Council and the PMPO. Motion approved.

**Board Elections:**

Nominations for the two open board seats were received for incumbents Keith Ronchetti and Michael Pique. The two were voted in by show of hands from the community members.

Next board meeting 9:00 AM Saturday October 4, 2023.

Next Annual General Meeting noon Sunday September 1, 2024.

**Adjournment of Annual General Meeting 1:07 PM**

**Minutes approved at 2024 Annual General Meeting, September 1, 2024.**

— Michael Pique, Secretary