

The Palomar Mountain Community Fire Association

Minutes of the monthly meeting of The Board of Directors, October 7, 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 Yvonne Vaucher, Cliff Kellogg, Rosie Lopresti, and CAL FIRE Captain Dean Kowalski. Elizabeth Getzoff, Lafe Ball, and Jim Hamerly joined our Zoom teleconference.

Pledge: Robert led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: Cliff Kellogg suggests we sell some board assets no longer in use. This includes one snowblower, a large 500 gallon per minute 50 PSI pump, and a generator. The generator is a 6500 W Honda pull-start; one of the firefighters would be interested in buying it. Lafe Ball can help sell these items if the board wants. Lafe will order the "EERO" wi-fi extender that Captain Kowalski says will improve the CCPM Internet.

Minutes: The minutes from the 08/05/2023 and 09/03/2023 board meetings were approved.

Financial Report: Keith Ronchetti's written report (available at palomar-fire.org) showed a balance of \$88,931.38 (plus \$1220.29 held for CERT) including \$70,866.28 in an 11-month certificate of deposit paying 5% annually. No significant recent deposits or expenses. The report was approved.

Station 79 Report: Captain Kowalski says that the big news is as of September 30, the county ambulance program is in operation. Our closest ambulances are at Station 79 in Rincon and Station 71 in Valley Center. The staff at Station 71 are AMR employees under contract. A discussion followed about patient transport and ambulance-to-ambulance handoff. Captain Kowalski says there will be attempts to move backup units closer to us when our ambulance is busy. He is not sure if the four-wheel-drive conversions have gone through. This is a big work in progress..

County Fire Advisory (CFA) Board, Cliff Kellogg: Met September 11; the ambulance program was the main topic. CAL FIRE chief Mecham says Mercy Ambulance's downsizing left big holes in service around the county. There are now 17 ambulances in service, soon to be 22. By the end of November, we should have here a four-wheel-drive customized Ford "Transit" van as our ambulance. The CFA will next meet in November.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Bill Leininger is away, no report.

Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (FSC), Yvonne Vaucher: The council has about \$35,445 cash including \$19,213 in unrestricted funds. Our NRP Grant ended July 31. We have plenty of dumpster money. We received our two pallets, 72 kits, of Barricade fire gel and will begin distributing it next Saturday. We are still unable to find reasonably priced directors & officers (D&O) and general liability insurance policies. As a stopgap, we purchased a four-month policy which began 1 October. We paid twice what the whole year cost last year. Stan Hill from the Resource Conservation District is organizing a meeting to discuss an October 31 application for a Community Wildfire Defense Grant to fund work on both public and private lands in Birch Hill, Crestline, and along Conifer & East Grade roads. Our website is palomarfiresafecouncil.org. The FSC written report will be posted at palomar-fire.org. Next meeting 9 AM October 28, the Annual General Meeting with board elections.

Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM): Rosie Lopresti says the CCPM successfully held their Labor Day weekend event on Saturday September 2. Some concerns were raised about attendees over-using the CCPM indoor restrooms instead of the intended rented Porta-Potty. We may need to put down erosion-control straw wattles in the amphitheater area. The CCPM have managed to obtain D&O insurance. Tom Mendenhall has an estimate for replacing the bandstand floor (not including the railings and steps, or electric service) of \$1035 for Douglas Fir flooring lumber and \$200 for screws & hardware. The PMPO, CCPM, PMCFA, and PMFSC have each pledged \$300 for the work. The PMCFA Board approved \$1300 immediately to move the work forward before winter.

Board Insurance: Robert Carlyle reports no real progress on separating “Board Directors & Officers” policy from “Liability” policy. Cliff Kellogg believes the county requires the Liability policy. Robert believes that is covered by our overall policy that the county reimburses us for. The cost of the D&O is around \$600 to \$1000; we have not had it in the past, do we really need it? Robert will call the agent next week.

Palomar Mountain Planning Organization (PMPO), Michael Pique (Secretary): The next board meetings’ dates have changed: now will be at 10 AM December 9, 2023 and February 24, 2024, each of those following a Fire Safe Council meeting that begins at 9 AM. The next PMPO Annual General Meeting will be on May 25, 2024.

Adjournment: 10:10 AM 10/07/2023. The next PMCFA meeting is Saturday November 4, 2023, at 9 AM, at the Community Center. We expect to have Zoom call-ins available.

- Michael Pique, Secretary. Minutes approved by PMCFA Board 11/04/2023.