

The Palomar Mountain Community Fire Association

Minutes of the monthly meeting of The Board of Directors, January 6, 2024.

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 and CAL FIRE Captain Dean Kowalski. Yvonne Vaucher, Rosie Lopresti, Elizabeth Getzoff, and Don Risti joined our Zoom teleconference.

Pledge: Robert led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: Cliff Kellogg noted that we are expecting high winds.

Minutes: The minutes from the 12/02/2023 board meeting were approved.

Financial Report: Keith Ronchetti's written report (available at palomar-fire.org) showed a balance of \$88,688.91, with an additional \$1220.29 held for CERT. Keith reminds us that he continues to purchase coffee that the board donates to the firefighters. The board approved continuing this. The report was approved.

Station 79 Report: Captain Kowalski reported that staffing has been better these past few weeks. We have issued only a few burn permit applications so far. We got snow chains for our interim ambulance; we hope to see our permanent one arrive in a couple of months. We are expecting a warmer but wetter winter than last year. Our Station 79 snow plowing situation is the same as before. Joe has left the County Roads department; do not know his replacement. Cliff Kellogg will again follow up with the county about being sure that the Station 79 grounds are plowed.

County Fire Advisory (CFA) Board, Cliff Kellogg: Got an update on the county ambulance program. Expecting a deficit of 3 to 5 million dollars this year. County wants to increase the transfer fees, now that the transport is by a public entity. Land has been donated for a new county fire station at Borrego Springs.

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

Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (FSC), Yvonne Vaucher: The annual FSC taxes have become more complicated so we are hiring an outside person to complete them, for \$1200. Good news is that the Nonprofit Insurance Alliance has approved us for membership. Our insurance would be \$1800 but we need to be sure it covers the PMVFD and has the proper liability coverage for contract work. We also need Directors and Officers insurance quote. We received over \$2000 in August donations. We will be hosting the Last Chance Survival Simulation workshop on February 17; we need to get the word out. Dana Barre and Cindy Petrich are back as our USFS Palomar District rangers. There is a San Diego County Fire Safe Council program for free defensible space assessments. Our CWPP (community wildfire protection plan) needs redoing every five years and that is now. Yvonne will be away in March as usual. CCI money

has finally been approved this week; do not know when it will really arrive. The CEQA will be done by Davey Resources. This is a three-year grant. Our website is palomarfiresafecouncil.org. The FSC written report will be posted at palomar-fire.org. Next meeting 9 AM January 27.

Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM): Rosie Lopresti says no news.

Board Insurance: Robert Carlyle says we are still nowhere. He is still trying to purchase insurance for only the Board, not liability coverage because the county covers that. Robert expects it to cost about \$700.

Disposal of Surplus Equipment: Cliff Kellogg reminds us that the PMVFD/PMCFA has items stored on the Station 79 grounds that we no longer need, and could likely sell. This includes a large water pump, a Honda generator, and a snow blower. We could use the proceeds, if any, to buy a log splitter for the fire crews. We will find a warm day to meet and test which of these work.

Palomar Mountain Planning Organization (PMPO): The next PMPO board meeting will be at 10 AM February 24, 2024, following a Fire Safe Council meeting that begins at 9 AM. The next PMPO Annual General Meeting will be on May 25, 2024.

Adjournment: 9:56 AM 01/06/2024. The next PMCFA meeting is Saturday February 3, 2024 at 9 AM, at the Community Center. We expect to have Zoom call-ins available.

Michael Pique, Secretary

Minutes approved by PMCFA Board 02/03/2024