

The Palomar Mountain Community Fire Association

Minutes of the monthly meeting of The Board of Directors, May 4, 2024.

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 Rosie Lopresti, CAL FIRE Captain Dean Kowalski, Burt Hulbert, Cecelia Borland, and Christine Locken. Elizabeth Getzoff, Sharon Dall, and Bill Kaiser joined our Zoom teleconference.

Pledge: Robert led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: none offered.

Minutes: The minutes from the 03/02/2024 board meeting were approved. There was no April meeting because of snow.

Financial Report: Keith Ronchetti's written report (available at palomar-fire.org) showed a balance of \$90,297.72, with an additional \$1220.29 held for CERT. Our certificate of deposit will be renewed on May 13. We sold the snow blower for \$250 and the Honda generator for \$500. The report was approved.

County Fire Advisory (CFA) Board. Cliff Kellogg was away, no report.

Station 79 Report: Captain Kowalski says the defensible space inspections (DSI) will start soon. There are many changes in the DSI procedures this year and we need updated training. As usual, we will start at Birch Hill and move west along Crestline. We have a new ambulance, not yet in full service. It is a van conversion, all-wheel drive with a slight lift. It has B F Goodrich all-terrain tires. We are doing "full continuous care transport", so if we get tied up transporting a patient, say to Temecula, we will be gone several hours. Also, the ambulance can be pulled from here to, for example, Valley Center. All this is new – no one here has seen a fire department take over an ambulance service. We are hoping for new staffing, but that is doubtful to come soon.

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

Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (FSC), Cecelia Borland for Yvonne Vaucher. Yvonne is still writing grant applications. Our CEQA costs are higher than expected. We are still trying to get Directors and Officers insurance.

Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM): Rosie Lopresti says the next CCPM board meeting will have to fill the seats vacated by Amanda Thompson and John Washburn, then those of Rosie and of Bonnie Spear. We now have the CCPM charter and by-laws scanned into text, but need minor clean-up.

Board Insurance: Robert Carlyle says the two agents he contacted about our Directors & Officers insurance have not gotten back to him.

Gates across Summit Circle: The US Forest Service intends to re-establish a group camp site where the current Crestline Picnic Ground is. This will include installing gates to close off Summit Circle from both ends, at least during the winter. The location of the property boundary between the USFS and the PMVFD varies depending on which map you look at. We may find our dumpster access closed off, or even be forced to move our Conex boxes. Tom Mendenhall says we might need to hire a lawyer to help. Robert Carlyle has a friend at the county; he will look for the original plat (plot plan) of our two parcels [APN 135-040-82,83].

Palomar Mountain Planning Organization (PMPO): The PMPO Annual General Meeting will be on May 25, 2024, 10 AM, immediately after the Pancake Breakfast.

New Business:

Electrical Transmission Line: Michael Pique: The state of California intends to build a new 500,000 Volt transmission line from near Ocotillo in the Imperial Valley up to Orange County, near San Clemente. One possible route is over Palomar Mountain, generally following the East Grade Road from Panorama Trail to the Summit, then either through the State Park or down the South Grade Road. A group is being formed to discuss this. It is likely that the PMPO will form a committee to address it.

Adjournment: 9:30 AM 05/04/2024. The next PMCFA meeting is Saturday June 1, 2024 at 9 AM, at the Community Center. We expect to have Zoom call-ins available.

Michael Pique, Secretary

Minutes approved by PMCFA Board 06/01/2024