

The Palomar Mountain Community Fire Association

Minutes of the monthly meeting of The Board of Directors, January 4, 2025.

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, Keith Ronchetti, Tom Mendenhall, Mark Thompson. Board member joining by Zoom teleconference: Michael Pique. Also present in person were Yvonne Vaucher and Cliff Kellogg. Elizabeth Getzoff, Rosie Lopresti, and Miriam Munoz joined our Zoom teleconference. The Zoom connection was unstable throughout the meeting.

Pledge: Robert led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: Cliff Kellogg was concerned about some furniture and a painting that had been removed from the upstairs of the community center. He felt that all items removed from the community center should first be considered by the Board, as they were the ultimate owners of the items. Robert and Cliff discussed the specifics of the chairs and paintings for several minutes without a resolution being presented.

Minutes: The minutes from the December 7, 2024, meeting were approved.

Financial Report: Keith Ronchetti's written report (available at palomar-fire.org) showed a balance of \$90,947.89, with an additional \$1220.29 held for CERT. The only notable expense was \$345.02 for property taxes. Our Certificate of Deposit is due for renewal on January 17. The report was approved.

County Fire Advisory (CFA) Board. Cliff Kellogg says the next meeting is March 3.

Station 79 Report: Captain Kowalski away, no report.

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

Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM): Robert Carlyle, Chair. The December 23 Christmas Carol singing went well, with Bruce and Rita Druliner providing music and the Community Center providing refreshments. About 20 people attended.

Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (PMFSC): Yvonne Vaucher. We have \$47,888.74 of which \$7,138.74 is unrestricted. Our CAL FIRE CCI road improvement project is still waiting for CEQA approval in Sacramento; now languishing in archeological review. We will need landowner consent to work north from Crestline into Pedley Valley and west into Bailey's. Fire insurance update: Requirements reviewed for "Firewise" community participation program. Not necessary for now, given CCI, and access to SDRFF & NRP grants. Not required to qualify for CA FAIR fire insurance but may be helpful to Palomar Mountain homeowners if private insurance companies return to CA. Requires detailed community survey and active engagement of community members. New CA regulations issued 1/1/25 by Insurance Commissioner Lara to encourage insurance companies to return to CA. New insurance model premium will be

based on area's wildfire risk. Will require insurance companies to cover 85% of homes in at-risk areas. US Forest Service will burn cut piles above Kika Mic overlook when weather conditions permit. Robert Carlyle has been added to the notifications list for prescribed burning on Palomar, so that he could pass on community notifications via social media and/or email. Notifications are typically done the day prior to planned ignitions. The Fire Safe Council of San Diego County says that the Home Defensible Space Assessment Program & chipping will continue in 2025. New program has similar funding for communities in high wildfire risk areas with large elderly population (Julian, Wynola, Warner Springs); Per Morgan Dioli new program includes Palomar. There was no December PMFSC meeting; the next one will be 9 AM January 25; in person at the CCPM and by Zoom.

Zoom teleconference license: The board unanimously approved allowing the other community groups to use the license held by the PMCFA.

CCPM Internet connectivity: The quality of the connection seems to have dramatically dropped over the last few months. Michael Pique has emailed Fred White (of Western Broadband, the Internet Service Provider) asking for help, and suggesting the CCPM building have a connection separate from the one ("Station79") that the firefighters use for their non-work activities.

Palomar Mountain Planning Organization (PMPO): The next PMPO Board meeting will be Saturday February 22, at 10 AM immediately following the PMFSC meeting.

Adjournment: 9:47 AM 01/04/2025. The next PMCFA meeting will be at 9 AM, February 1, 2025, at the Community Center. Michael Pique will be off the mountain; we expect to have Zoom call-ins available.

Michael Pique, Secretary

Minutes approved by PMCFA Board 02/01/2025