

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors
Saturday, November 7, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 by Board President Leininger.

Board members present; Keith Ronchetti, Glenn Borland, David Robarts, Mike Pique and Suzann Leininger.

Others in attendance: CALFIRE Capt. Rick Johnson, Cliff and Suzie Kellogg, John Lesac Battalion Chief Christina Williamson and the Gene Owens family.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the October 5th board meeting were reviewed and corrections noted. Mike made the motion to approve, Glenn seconded and the motion was accepted.

Financial Report; Keith reviewed the current account balances from his written report. (This report has been included as part of these minutes.) The CSA account has been finalized and closed out. The balance has been transferred into the board savings account. The Station's insurance has been paid for out of the Board account and will be reimbursed out of County funds. Our only obligation is to pay the basic property tax bill of \$155.72. Glenn made the motion to approve the financial report, Keith seconded and the motion was accepted.

Chief's Report: Chief Christina Williamson read from her written report (submitted as part of these minutes). Christina reported on the efforts being made to track volunteer training hours and the impetus to keep up with County mandated training standards. Station 79 has been covered by the Rincon Station and Valley Center CALFIRE crews when there has been a shortage of staff here at Palomar. The SCBA building has been repaired and a new "Kilgore Room" sign made. A state of the art alerting system has been recently installed at the Palomar Fire Station, bringing us up to date with the other volunteer stations in the County.

Suzann updated the Board on current grants:

The submission period for the SRA grant is now open for next year. Christina suggested that this may be used for easement clearance along the East and South Grades. This would fall under the government mandated directions for statewide dead and dying tree removal.

The San Diego Regional Fire Foundation Grant is still active. This provides funding for any specialized training for dept. employees outside of what is normally provided by the County. There has been no update on our submission for funding a new CERT trailer. This is probably defunct for this year.

Chief's report continued:

Chief Williamson updated the Board on recent administrative actions. All county and Cal Fire vehicles assigned to Palomar will be equipped with tire chains. Reserve volunteers are being discouraged from responding code 3 to emergency calls unless they have the required driver training for insurance liability reasons. CERT is re organizing with Alan Serry recently giving up his leadership role. There will be a meeting of the newly reorganized Palomar Fire Safe Council on Nov. 21 at the Fire Station at 9:30 AM.

Defensible space inspections: Christina noted there has been some conflict between some Palomar property owners and Cal Fire inspectors from outside the area. Battalion #7 inspectors, familiar with the area, will be overseeing all local inspections from now on to avoid any potential problems.

El Nino: There will be a local cooperative meeting between all interested agencies, (County roads, Cal Trans, CHP and SD County Sheriffs), on Nov. 17 at The Valley Center Sheriff Station.

ISO Rating: The SDCFA has started a review process to reevaluate all community areas within CSA-135, (this includes Palomar). The ratings that come from a result of this review will have implications that will affect the insurance rates of the property owners within these communities.

County owned equipment and facilities: The PMVFD Board needs a list of what belongs to the Board and what is under the County's ownership. A detailed inventory needs to be undertaken and value assessed to determine what could be sold or retained. Any funds from the sale of excess items would be held in the Board account.

A quarterly meeting of the Volunteer Reserve Fire Fighter Representatives will be held Nov. 9 in Ramona. Chief Williamson and PMVFD Board President Leininger plan on attending.

Christina is on temporary assignment at The Monte Vista Cal Fire Station in El Cajon. She expressed her concerns about the potential lack of administrative oversight at the Palomar Station during her absence. Her responsibilities will still include the administrative duties for Station 79.

Keith made a motion to approve the Chief's report as given. Suzann seconded and the motion was accepted by the Board.

A Brief ceremony was held to honor Gene Owen's long service to the PMVFD. A plaque was presented to Gene from the PMVFD Board of Directors to commemorate his many years as a water tender driver for the department.

CERT Report: None given.

Old Business: An update was given on the Palomar Divide fuel break work under the current SRA Grant. The site work should begin very soon. The CEQA review has been a lengthy process but is now complete.

New Business:

Community chipping. The Board discussed possible options in coordinating a neighborhood brush chipping event. Suggestions were taken on when and where would be the best location.

PMVFD Station leadership: Suzann brought up the issue of the lack of onsite supervision to coordinate the daily activities of the station volunteer staff. According to Christina, the primary responsibility lies on shoulders of the Captain. Recent issues have brought up the need to put in a career fire fighter into a leadership role at the Palomar Station. Some of the advantages of this would be to provide guidance and mentoring for the volunteer reserves besides providing leadership on a day to day basis. Christina went on to say this position would result in better training for the reserves and better coverage for the community. Christina will forward a formal request from the Board of Directors to Chief Schuler of the SDCFA. The following resolution was adopted by the board to be included in this request, "The PMVFD resolves to enter into a contract with the San Diego County Fire Authority to provide direct overhead supervision in the form of a Cal Fire Captain to work in conjunction with the Volunteer reserves." Mike made a motion to adopt this resolution, Suzann seconded and the Board agreed.

A letter was suggested to be given to Fire fighter Mike Zavala in appreciation of his hard work at the Palomar Station.

The updating of the PMVFD bylaws will take place incrementally over the next few months by the Board.

Calendar Check: The next PMVFD board meeting will be held on December 5, Saturday at the Fire Station admin. building. There will be a holiday gathering and luncheon in the crew quarters house following the meeting at 11:00 A.M.

Jon Lesac, Community Center Committee Chairman, will coordinate with Christina on their requests to schedule upcoming events on the F.D. property. Upcoming community holiday events will be posted at the Post Office and web site.

Adjournment: 10:22