

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors
Saturday, December 5, 2015

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

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

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public comment: Terry Sproul made the suggestion that the PMVFD Board meeting be moved to 10:00 A.M. and would like to see more PMVFD representation at the monthly Community Center meetings, the first Friday of the month at 6:30 P.M.

The minutes of the Nov. 7, 2015 board meeting were reviewed and corrections noted. Keith made the motion to accept, and Suzann seconded. Motion approved.

Financial Report; Keith reviewed the current account balances from his written report. (This report has been included as part of these minutes.) A \$4,602 reimbursement request has been submitted to the County for our yearly insurance premium that was paid for out of our board account. A new printer was purchased to replace the broken one in the office. Suzann made the motion to accept the report, Glenn seconded and the motion was approved.

Chief's Report; Chief Cristina Williamson read from her written report. (Submitted as part of these minutes.) She stated that there is still a shortage of qualified drivers among the County volunteer reserves. She explained that this was mostly due to the fact that once trained they tend to be picked up quickly by other agencies. She has been asking for staffing out of the DeLuz Station in order to provide coverage for Palomar.

An estimate for \$600 has been approved by the County to take care of cleaning and repairs to the chimney in the crew's quarters.

The request for funding a CERT trailer was not rewarded from the San Diego Regional Fire Foundation grant program for this year.

Cristina related a recent incident that involved the Palomar crew; they helped out a dog that was in distress by administering oxygen through a special canine mask that was donated by a local animal rescue organization. This story was picked up by the San Diego media.

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Captain Johnson, from the Rincon Cal Fire Station, reported on the recent El Nino cooperating agency meeting held in Valley Center. He said the local CHP representative talked about traffic control strategies for snow emergencies on Palomar, cooperative training among the local agencies and County roads response for snow removal on the mountain. There is a County Roads employee in residence and on call.

Cristina has compiled a list PMVFD owned equipment that could be either sold or kept. She suggested that the Board determine what items could be gotten rid of.

The County has approved the purchase of a snow blower for the station's use. The Board recommended that we purchase this directly out of Board funds.

Suzann reported on the quarterly meeting of the Volunteer Reserve Station representatives held recently in Ramona .She said that the driver operator training issue was discussed and is being reviewed by the County. Fire fighters will now be able to receive a stipend to attend this specialized training. She also reported on the official change of title from the San Diego County Fire Authority to "County Fire".

Keith made the motion to accept the Chief's report, Suzann seconded and the report was approved.

Old Business:

1. Community chipping days. Mike Pique reported on his contacts with local contractor, Ron Bowen. The current proposal is to have people sign up to have their individual piles chipped. There needs to be guidelines established and communicated to participants as to what materials can be chipped, maximum size of material, pile orientation and accessibility for equipment. Cristina suggested contacting the Deer Springs Fire Safe Council for their guidelines since they have had prior experience. It is anticipated that there would be funding for 5-6 days of chipping. Linda Fortney asked about burn permits and commented on recent fire clearance inspection problems. Cristina said that any violations issued by the out of area inspectors are being held up until a re-inspection is done by local authorities.
2. Station staffing. Suzann will be working with Cristina to submit a formal request to the County to fund a career fire fighter position at the Palomar Station. This position would at the rank of Captain.
3. Bylaws. Any changes to the bylaws will have to approved at the annual meeting in September. They will be worked on by the Board in the meantime.

New Business:

1. Mike Wilson, Vice- President of the Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council spoke to the PMVFD Board. They are currently putting together their files and records for the purpose of reinstatement with California State authorities and the local S.D. County Organization. Mike said that they will probably need a source of funding to offset anticipated reinstatement fees and penalties. He also said that they plan on getting some training in grant writing for interested FSC board members.
2. CERT manager. James Ewen introduced himself as the newly appointed CERT team Manager for the local Palomar organization. He is an active U.S. Navy corpsman, stationed at Camp Pendleton and is a Palomar Mountain resident. He is coordinating with CalFire Station 70 representative, Steve Chapman on training and other topics. Linda Fortney volunteered to fill in for James in the event of his absence. A motion was made by Suzann for the PMVFD Board to officially recognize his appointment as head of the Palomar CERT team. Keith seconded and the motion was approved.

Calendar check:

The next scheduled board meeting will be on January 9, 2016 at 9:00 A.M. at the Palomar Fire Station admin. office building.

Adjournment:

9:45 A.M.