

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the monthly meeting of The Board of Directors Saturday, November 5, 2016.

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 A.M. by President Kellogg. Board members present: Cliff Kellogg, Michael Pique, Keith Ronchetti, Glenn Borland, Robert Carlyle. Also present were CAL FIRE Chief Tony Mecham, CAL FIRE North Zone Battalion Chief Cal Hendri, Palomar Mountain CERT Coordinator James Ewen, Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council president Yvonne Vaucher, and about 20 Palomar residents including former Fire Board presidents Suzann Leininger and Linda Fortney.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chief Mecham Report: CAL FIRE San Diego County Unit Chief Tony Mecham related the history of problems retaining volunteer drivers and keeping staffing levels at the station. Last winter we had career staffing on a temporary basis, and this fall received promise of one-year career staffing.

1. Palomar Mountain will have career staffing. The county has agreed to fund permanent career staffing at 5 stations, including Palomar Mountain, and by spring 2017 we will have full-time paramedic coverage as well. He complimented Suzanne Leininger and the Fire Board for keeping a 'positive message' with the county supervisors' office, documenting our number of visitors and response time requirements.
2. Palomar Mountain may see improved insurance ratings. We expect to go from an ISO 9/10 to an ISO 3, as long as your property is within 3 miles of the station, otherwise to a 3X. But he cautioned that many agencies base coverage & premiums on fire-line data more than on ISO ratings, so this might not affect your insurance after all.
3. Palomar Mountain will get a new water tender, from a community development grant. It will be a 'tactical' type with breathing apparatus and hoses; should be here by July. We will then have two water tenders, with our older WT 79 weighing less and back in service. A new shorter-wheelbase main engine 79 is in the plan.
4. CAL FIRE will perform the defensible space clearance inspections the year, although the US Forest Service remains the primary protection agency.

Questions: who can provide the water needed for the ISO rating, the 250 gallons per minute for 20 minutes? A: That includes credit for bringing water in tenders, but probably not from Mutual Water Company tanks. Q: When will the new ISO rating take effect? A: The ISO publishes evaluations in January - try calling your agent then.

Public Comment: Alan Serry said new emergency telephone number magnets will be ready soon. On Thursday, November 10 we will have a snow emergency planning meeting at Valley Center.

Financial Report: Keith Ronchetti reported. (The report has been included as part of these minutes.) We have paid the first invoice for the Palomar Divide work, for \$3485, to be reimbursed. Suzanne Leininger has talked to Capt. Johnson and it should not be long before the work is finished. Current assets, net of training grant earmark, are \$103,625.81. Cliff Kellogg will find out if the training grant funds can be used for CERT training. The report was approved.

Minutes: The minutes from the 10/01/2016 board meeting were approved as presented by Michael Pique.

Station 79 Report: Cory Clausen presented his oral report. We saw 7 calls in October. The electric service has been upgraded in the equipment bay. Chief Hendri also presented an oral Battalion report.

Station Upgrade: Cliff Kellogg met with Kevin O'Leary, says we're now looking at 2018-2019 for construction of barracks (replacing the double-wide modular office). Mount Laguna and Descanso are ahead of us; Chief Mecham said there is still a small chance we will start in July 2017. The plan is to bring in a triple-wide modular at grade level, allowing the house to go back to serving as a Community Center.

CERT: James Ewen says community fire extinguisher training is expected to be held November 19, in cooperation with Valley Center CERT. He says if enough people show interest, CERT is willing to conduct "CERT Academy" training on the mountain.

Fire Safe Council: Yvonne Vaucher said the Palomar council got its federal 501(c)3 status approved and the California approval is in progress. A USFS grant for \$121,000 has been approved, with \$80,000 for free chipping and 50% cost-sharing pre-chip preparation. The FSC has applied for a \$200,000 SRA grant for clearing outside the 100' defensible space and should know this month whether it will be funded.

Planning for Storage Container Removal: CAL FIRE took some minor usable items such as orange cones; CERT will look next. The CCPM can take the barbecue supplies. Michael Pique says the county has strict permit requirements to keep the storage containers on the property, assuming the county and CAL FIRE agreed. Chief Mecham said we could likely get a temporary permit, but that he will get a storage shed into the plans, certainly to keep tables and chairs for community events. He assured Terri Sproul that the county would help with interim storage between when the old containers are removed and the new shed storage becomes available. Cliff Kellogg asked about retention and disposition of paper records; Chief Mecham will get us an official retention schedule.

New Business:

Dave Robarts was presented with a plaque honoring his service on the Board.

Upcoming Community Center events: Terri Sproul says December 3 for Christmas event at Mother's Kitchen, 6 to 9 PM: bring an appetizer or dessert and enjoy the Ugly Sweater Contest. November 28, 6:30 PM, will be CCPM planning meeting for 2017. They would still like to do Movie Nights but holding them routinely at the Fire Station seems too disruptive.

Adjournment: 9:58 A.M. 11/05/2016

The next board meeting is Saturday 12/03/2016 at 9:00 AM, By-law revision emphasis. The PMPO board meeting will follow at 11:00 AM.

- Michael Pique, Secretary

Minutes approved by PMVFD Board December 3, 2016.