

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the monthly meeting of The Board of Directors Saturday, July 1, 2017.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by President Kellogg. Board members present: Cliff Kellogg, Keith Ronchetti, Michael Pique, Glenn Borland, Robert Carlyle. Also present were Cal Fire Battalion Chief Cal Hendrie, Cal Fire Captain Dean Kowalski, CERT Coordinator Bill Leininger, former CERT Coordinators James Ewen & Alan Serry, Community Center of Palomar Mountain Board Member Rosie Lopresti, and Fire Safe Council President Yvonne Vaucher.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: none offered.

Financial Report: Keith Ronchetti presented his written report (The report has been included as part of these minutes.). Current assets, excluding CERT funds held by the board, are \$111,572.09. The report was approved.

Minutes: The minutes from the 06/03/2017 board meeting were approved with the clarification that Cliff had previously spoken to Bill Leininger about the CERT vehicle.

Station 79 Report: Captain Dean Kowalski presented an oral report. All equipment is in working order and we are addressing minor problems with the water tender and the patrol vehicle. We responded to a vehicle fire at the summit but generally a quiet month. Monte Vista has dispatched our water tender four times this week; twice while it was away, a medical alert went out with our crews away on the tender. The good news is that lots of resources are available right now, with usually two reserve crew here, which gives us four in all. All new hires are getting their initial professional training at Palomar. They then often move to Deluz or Ranchita. No word on the septic system fix, but Cliff Kellogg says the contractor is working on a new drawing/plan. The system will be dual capacity, for both the new station and the existing house. Captain Kowalski reported on Cal Fire's property inspections. Most of the center of the mountain has been done, now will work north to the Observatory, Conifer Road, and the far ends of the South and East Grades. He gets calls every day from furious people, mostly off-mountain owners. He says that if the crews see effort and nothing alarming, they will be very reasonable. The crews are sharing the chipping grant program information but are not allowed to recommend contractors when owners ask for clearing help. Yvonne Vaucher says to point them to the Fire Safe Council. Last night, over a dozen residents and local fire & law enforcement officers met to respond to the fireworks set off the past two weekends at the Kica Mik overlook, mile 10.2 on the East Grade. Volunteers have signed up to watch the site, as well as the Henshaw overlook, every night through the July 4 holiday. Cliff Kellogg said that having two water tenders was important for our ISO rating and asked what happened to our 2003-era 3200-gallon water tender, which left the mountain to be fitted with baffles and has not returned. Chief Hendrie will check on it; also on replacing it with a "tactical" tender and help on the driver shortage. The whole of north county has only six people rated to drive the engines and the tenders. He really wants to get the reserve program shifted toward keeping the senior people who can drive. Another difficulty is that the 43 firefighters who were working at San Miguel are now off-contract and jobs have to be held for them, preventing Cal Fire from filling any positions this past year. This has also been holding up the paramedic staffing. Finally, Captain Kowalski

and Alan Serry have been working on mapping-navigation drills so the reservists will know the mountain and can be guides for Cal Fire crews perhaps sent here from elsewhere.

CERT - Coordinator Bill Leininger says there has been a lot of turnover at county CERT and Office of Emergency Services. All CERT members now need to take new oaths, and our training sessions now have to be approved by county CERT, causing a big lag in our activities. We did receive a \$2500 grant from SDG&E to fund equipment and supplies for training.

Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (FSC): Yvonne Vaucher says we are at last financially sound thanks to an SDG&E grant. Our wildland-urban interface fire training class plans are on-hold waiting for the trainer, J P Harris, to be available. The Barricade fire-retardant gel stored since 2006 might be usable after special shaking, which George Lucia is equipped to do. We have applied for a \$29,000 grant from the Community Reinvestment Program for an applicator and 200 units of gel. Bill Leininger recalled that when CERT first got the gel, they had big plans to set out depots and be ready to apply gel in emergencies. Then, the realities of water pressure and the need to maintain the gel in storage intervened. Yvonne said the FSC still have clearing and chipping funds available in their grant, and the new contractor has started working out well. They need to work on an SRA fuel reduction grant application due in September; Cecelia Borland will go to the workshop about it. Phil Boczanowski urges 60 feet on each side of Conifer Road be cleared as part of the grant work.

Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM): Rosie Lopresti says the September 2nd event will be a pot-luck and "Fair" at the Observatory Outreach Center on Canfield Road. The PMVFD is welcome to sell T-shirts and such. On July 8, the first of two CCPM Movie Nights will be held at Tracey Chesney's house on State Park Road. Rosie will arrange for Diamond to remove the rental porta-potty from the Station 79 grounds since no upcoming events can be scheduled there because of the septic system failure.

New Business:

Administrative Office Trailers - Cliff Kellogg has confirmed with Kevin O'Leary that the county does not want them. The Board approved donating the trailers to the Palomar Mountain Community Church, to be moved at a date to be determined, with no cost to the PMVFD for the donation or the movement.

CERT Suburban - Bill Leininger says it's a great resource to have, but does have maintenance & insurance costs. Only James Ewen has driven it, to coordinate with drills at Valley Center CERT. We're getting clarification on the appropriate use of the vehicle for official duties.

Motorcycle Safety Letter - Alan Serry's draft will be revised for review next month.

Adjournment: 11:41 A.M. 07/01/2017

The next board meeting is Saturday 8/05/2017 at 9:00 AM, to include by-law revision work and Nominations Committee report.

- Michael Pique, Secretary

Minutes approved by PMVFD Board 08/05/2017.