

## PALOMAR MOUNTAIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the monthly meeting of The Board of Directors, August 4, 2018.

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 Captain Dean Kowalski, Cal Fire Battalion Chief Cal Hendrie, CERT Coordinator Bill Leininger, Fire Safe Council president Yvonne Vaucher and secretary Cecelia Borland, and Palomar Christian Conference Center representative Joseph Moulton.

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). The \$2500 SDG&E CERT grant was received; no other notable deposits or expenses. Current assets, excluding CERT funds held by the board, are \$109,056.35. The report was approved.

Minutes: The minutes from the 07/07/2018 board meeting were discussed; in particular, the question of who is responsible for clearing adjacent property. The Zerkle family property, to the east, is the Board's responsibility to keep clear enough not to incur a citation. Cliff has talked to San Diego County Fire Chief Kevin O'Leary, who says since there are no structures there, the defensible space rules do not apply. Chief Hendrie said he might be able to get a crew in to clear 10 feet or so from the road. Cliff asked if the Fire Save Council might apply for a grant to clear at least the corner nearest the station. Yvonne Vaucher said the FSC's priority was Conifer Road. The draft minutes were amended to delete mention of "east of the station" and "the Zerkle family donation" and approved as amended.

Station 79 Report: Captain Kowalski said the majority of the Defensible Space inspections have been completed, including all along Conifer Road. Overall, there was better communication with residents this year and people were more committed. The firefighters will be slowing down on the DSI work as it worsens our response time. The past few months have seen an increase in call frequency and some medical aid flights. Our engine has been dispatched to a few fires but not our water tender. When the engine's away, the command center has been covering us from south county. We may see some lag times as the far southern stations come to cover us. Because Ranchita and De Luz are staffed by reserves, we are the battalion's only "Advanced Life Support" (paramedic) county station. The Palomar Mountain Mutual Water Company replaced our water meter and the county fixed a pressure regulator; problems responsible for some hours-long losses of water pressure.

Battalion Chief Hendrie said it's been a busy time, with three strike teams out and days-off cancelled. He said Tim Gray is not moving north so should be available to

teach the chain saw safety class this fall. The governor approved a Cal Fire mid-year supplemental budget.

CERT: Bill Leininger said the SDG&E grant is welcome news and noted that September is National Preparedness month. The power-washer training last month was helpful. SDG&E asked him who on Palomar is signed up for the Alert San Diego system and there was good response; however, most of the state has only a 4% participation. The next training will be the September 18 Wildland-Urban Interface fire class. CERT will be at the September 1 CCPM picnic with a preparedness table.

Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (FSC): Yvonne Vaucher said the FSC will do a third community dumpster day. Captain Kowalski said the dumpsters are one of the most useful things the FSC can do. Yvonne said the "PACE" evacuation planning has been simplified to "Primary" and "Alternate" routes, with focus on early evacuations. We will probably list Conifer Road (32J) and "Walls family" (11E) as alternate routes. The FSC has applied for a Neighborhood Reinvestment grant (chipping and fire gel). We are soliciting property owners' pledges of fire clearance work hours, to be credited as matching funds for certain grant applications. Cecelia Borland said she is having a hard time locating the community Barricade fire gel stocks. Some of the packs may have been thrown away, including the ones at the Graves' on Birch Hill. Bill Leininger said he has a list and can help.

Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM): The picnic/potluck/fair will be at the county park on Saturday September 1. The PMVFD will have a table; Cliff and Keith will be there to talk to residents and sell books & clothing. The event after that is the Star Party at the Palomar Observatory on September 15.

#### Old Business

Station Construction Progress: Joseph Moulton of the Christian Conference Center says they are still trying to schedule moving the trailers. Cliff said they have only until October 1 to move them or they will be torn down as scrap. Robert Carlyle will arrange for their safe disassembly and responsible disposal.

CERT Suburban: Bill Leininger said that CERT no longer needs it and the PMVFD can sell it.

Elections: Cecelia Borland, Chair of the Nominations Committee, reported that the three incumbents up for re-election were the only nominations received by the deadline. These are Cliff Kellogg, Glenn Borland, and Robert Carlyle.

Adjournment: 10:07 A.M. 8/04/2018. The next meeting is the Annual General Meeting at noon Sunday September 2, with a short organizational board meeting immediately following.

- Michael Pique, Secretary  
Minutes approved by PMVFD Board 10/06/2018.