

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the monthly meeting of The Board of Directors, March 6, 2021.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by President Kellogg. Board members present by Zoom teleconference: Cliff Kellogg, Glenn Borland, Keith Ronchetti, Michael Pique. Also on the call were CAL FIRE Captain Dean Kowalski, Lafe Ball, Alan Serry, CERT Coordinator Bill Leininger, Fire Safe Council President Yvonne Vaucher, Karen Fraser, and Community Center of Palomar Mountain officer Rosie Lopresti.

Public Comment: Alan Serry says the sheriff's vehicles *do not* have the "high-low" sound available, only CAL FIRE vehicles do. The sheriff vehicles do have a "warble" that might be as effective, but is not the standard evacuation signal being promoted across California. Lafe Ball wants to procure mobile A-frame stand-up emergency evacuation routing signs. These signs could say, for example "Road Closed", "Emergency Exit", and "Evacuation Route". Alan Serry will send a price/quote to Yvonne Vaucher for consideration in an upcoming NRP (Neighborhood Reinvestment Program) grant request. Bill Leininger says CERT might or might not be able to deploy the signs, depending on how much notice was given.

Minutes: The minutes from the 02/06/2021 board meeting were approved.

Financial Report: Keith Ronchetti's written report (available at palomar-fire.org) showed a balance of \$97,701.17 (with \$9,399.16 held for CERT). The report was approved.

Station 79 Report: Captain Kowalski reports that everything is moving fast now on the construction. The root ball from the old Live Oak has been removed and the excavation for the east-side retaining wall is well underway with the hillside dug back as far as the flagpole. A new paramedic, Todd Gayley, will be coming on board as engineer Alejandro Rodrigues has been promoted to captain and is moving north. Tom Waldron is on as a temporary until summer. Mostly has been quiet except for snow days. Yesterday, he took the two new crew around the mountain and tested the electric gate code for Ray Carpenter's gate into Mendenhall Valley.

County Fire Advisory Board Meeting Update: Each of the county supervisors appoints two representatives to the Advisory Board: ours are Cliff Kellogg and Suzann Leininger. Cliff attended the recent meeting; discussions included the San Diego County Fire Protection District reorganization, the status of the Reserve program, and progress on COVID-19 testing and vaccinations in the back country. Cliff will bring up our station's (and Mount Laguna's) problems with snow removal.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT): Bill Leininger reports:

- 1) Monthly on-line virtual training will resume soon.
- 2) The trailer construction is proceeding, expecting May delivery. It will be kept on the station grounds.
- 3) Sue Hanson served as our CERT representative at recent CAL FIRE funerals.

Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (FSC): Yvonne Vaucher says the FSC treasury has \$19,377 of which \$6000 is unrestricted. Our dumpster sessions, funded by the Neighborhood Reinvestment Program, have been extended to span two weekends each. Michael Pique will work with Cecelia Borland and Bonnie Phelps on determining which gated driveways are candidates for having Knox Boxes installed. Robert Carlyle and Cecelia Borland took our CAL FIRE forester Cheyenne Borello touring where we intend to clear in our CCI brush and road clearing grant. She was enthusiastic about the Crestline/Birch Hill clearing but not so much about the electrical power line "infrastructure". She has also talked at length with Captain Kowalski, who said that the area north of the Lodge is a rough no-go zone for his vehicles: the road condition is the chief problem, which is not within the scope of this grant. He will tag trees that specifically need to be removed so they can be included in the contract. Cheyenne Borello suggests using any funds not used for Crestline/Birch Hill to work on whatever other residential areas need help. Captain Kowalski said that Honeysuckle Lane in the Baileys area is one road that needs to be made passable by clearing trees beside and above it. Rosie Lopresti said she could work on getting owner permissions for the Baileys area. Our CEQA evaluation is the next step in the grant process, and Yvonne has started calling foresters who prepare such. Lafe suggests the contractors might be able legitimately to include a "road access surcharge" as part of the tree & brush clearing work.

Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM): Rosie Lopresti said the CCPM had its required annual meeting last week. She has submitted all the necessary state and federal forms for 2021. She hopes that the CCPM can do a Labor Day weekend picnic at the County Park, possibly in cooperation with the PMPO. The CCPM board would like to add someone with property management experience to help manage the little house once the county returns control of it to the PMVFD.

Old Business:

Land Donation: Cliff reports that he talked to Chris Blankenhorn, one of the owners of the parcel across Crestline Road from the station, who are considering donating it to the PMVFD. She has two of the three needed notarized quitclaim deeds and expects to record all three soon. Cliff says that this parcel would not fall under the 50-year county lease.

New Business:

Mission Statement: Cliff Kellogg wants to update our Mission Statement, which would need approval at an Annual General Meeting as a change to the by-laws. We might have a special public meeting this spring to discuss this. The current statement is: *The Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department dedicates itself to providing a professional service that protects life and property and preserves the Palomar Mountain quality of life.*

Adjournment: 10:04 AM 03/06/2021. The next meeting is Saturday 04/03/2021, at 9:00 AM, likely by Zoom.

- Michael Pique

Minutes approved by PMVFD Board 04/03/2021.