

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the monthly meeting of The Board of Directors, April 3, 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, Robert Carlyle, Keith Ronchetti, Michael Pique. Also on the call were CAL FIRE Captain Dean Kowalski, Kathy Bates-Lande, Alan Serry, CERT Coordinator Bill Leininger, Fire Safe Council President Yvonne Vaucher, and Community Center of Palomar Mountain officer Rosie Lopresti.

Public Comment: Robert Carlyle says the county has asked our North Mountain Sponsor Group to give guidance on priority of work on our county-maintained roads. The next meeting (by Zoom) is 6 PM Thursday April 15. Robert can send Zoom invitations on request. Alan Serry reported that both the Sheriff and the CHP were at the recent snow day meeting. Karla Menzies, the new lieutenant at the Valley Center sheriff's substation, will come up for a familiarization tour soon. They are working on alternatives to the "hi-low" emergency evacuation siren.

Minutes: The minutes from the 03/06/2021 board meeting were approved.

Financial Report: Keith Ronchetti's written report (available at palomar-fire.org) showed a balance of \$97,719.94 (with \$12,010.96 held for CERT). We received a \$2,629.80 CERT Office of Emergency Services grant reimbursement. The report was approved. Keith notes that we will have to list the value of the station improvements to the property on our tax form next year.

Station 79 Report: Captain Kowalski reports that the construction is moving faster than expected, even though rocks and large boulders are being found during the dig-refill-compact foundation work. Water for the work is being supplied by the Christian Conference Center. The station has a stack of pamphlets about the county residential Knox Box program; he will put some in the general store and at the post office. A resident asked Captain Kowalski how to get help for people during COVID-19, like food or medical transportation. Bill Leininger said CERT has flyers about this, including vaccination and testing sites. Rosie Lopresti will print some and post on the Community Center bulletin board next to the post office.

County Fire Advisory Board Meeting Update: Cliff Kellogg said next meeting is Monday. We are hoping to see 3-person staffing at our station this summer, as was promised last year. That will not require a Station 79 formal policy change. Cliff will also bring up the problems Palomar has faced with snow plowing at the station.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT): Bill Leininger reports CERT is spending funds from the California LISTOS grant: new vests and helmets, purchase of trailer; some funds still on hand for radios, shelving. We may install an electrical generator (at the station now, but not in use) if it can be converted from gasoline to propane fuel. Background checks continue, especially needed for helping on paperwork at county vaccination sites.

Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (FSC): Yvonne Vaucher says the FSC has not spent much recently. Our dumpster sessions, funded by the Neighborhood Reinvestment Program (NRP), have been extended to span two weekends each. Chipping work will resume when weather improves, also funded from the NRP grant, with four full days budgeted. These funds must be spent by June 30. Our next NRP grant request will include dumpster & chipping days, evacuation signage, Barricade gel kits, and Knox boxes for gates. We have hired a forester to prepare our CEQA evaluation for our CCI grant, \$4500 for the 12 acres. Land owner consent forms for this project are ready to be mailed. The county is still discussing evacuation flyers; Yvonne will email Bob Uribe about their status. Clint Green, our USFS battalion chief, says they are doing pile-burning on 21 acres near the observatory and 11 acres near the USFS station. In April they will trim the Crestline Picnic Grounds. The county supervisors have approved clearing 20 feet on each side of S6 and S7, including Canfield and State Park Roads as well as the South and East Grades.

Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM): Rosie Lopresti said the CCPM will not plan a Labor Day weekend picnic at this time.

Old Business:

Land Donation: Cliff reports that he got email from Chris Blankenhorn, one of the owners of the parcel across Crestline Road from the station, who are attempting to donate it to the PMVFD. The county wanted minor corrections to the legal documents but expect it to be cleared "soon". Cliff and Palomar Mountain Mutual Water System operator Mike Probert believe there is room for water tanks on the parcel; installation of a water meter (if needed) would be \$11,000.

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: 10:05 AM 04/03/2021. The next meeting is Saturday 05/01/2021, at 9:00 AM, likely by Zoom.

- Michael Pique

Minutes approved by PMVFD Board 05/01/2021