

The Palomar Mountain Community Fire Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Sunday, September 5, 2021

The meeting, held at Station 79 and by Zoom teleconference, was called to order at 12:03 PM by Board President Cliff Kellogg.

Board members present in person or by teleconference: Glenn Borland, Robert Carlyle, Cliff Kellogg, Michael Pique, Keith Ronchetti.

About 12 community members were in attendance including Cecelia Borland, Karen Fraser, Bill Leininger, Yvonne Vaucher, Rosie Lopresti, Eddie Reiner, Elizabeth Getzoff, Linda Fortney, Kimberly Meade, Jim & Peggy Hamerly, and Susie Kellogg. Station 79 CAL FIRE firefighter Brett Wyckoff attended by telephone.

Public comments: None offered.

Approval of last annual meeting minutes:

The minutes of the September 6, 2020, Annual General Meeting were approved.

Financial Report:

Keith Ronchetti reported on the current financial status of the Department as submitted in his written report, available on our palomar-fire.org web site. Our current balance is \$94,836.63, down from September 2019's \$102,633.50. Upcoming expenses include \$515 for trailer insurance. The report was approved.

Station 79 Report:

Firefighter Brett Wyckoff introduced himself. He has been here on Palomar for six months; 20 years in San Diego county. At least one paramedic is on duty on the mountain at all times. A big problem is access: finding the address is the biggest thing for us, that it's not obscured by brush, has good contrast, and is clearly visible from the vehicle coming down the road at night. Know your easement road number. Try to have a neighbor walk up and flag us down if you have called for help in an emergency. Is there a fire engine access? We take the small patrol vehicle also if we can. Staffing is still "2-0" not "3-0": we want to be sure that who we have up here is well-trained, so we are holding up 3-0 until the end of the year "give or take".

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) report:

CERT Program Manager Bill Leininger says September is National Preparedness month; the current topic is how to put the earthquake alert app onto your phone. The CERT academy will be resumed once the current COVID surge recedes; he will send out email about the schedule. Contact palomar.mountain.cert@gmail.com to be placed on the mailing list. The CERT trailer is being provisioned. It will let us help out on evacuations: it has a generator to charge phones, some water, and food. We will be giving trailer tours outside every five minutes after this meeting. Reflective house number signs are available now again, see Bill after the meeting. They are \$12; post them facing both ways. Our CERT will be renamed away from "Palomar Mountain" to some county name. There will be more resources but also more paperwork.

Fire Safe Council (FSC) Report:

Yvonne Vaucher said the FSC has \$8000, about \$1700 of which is unrestricted. We are still working on our evacuation flyer, which has become a three-year project. The evacuation plan follows the PACE model; the primary (P) is the East Grade Road, the alternate (A) is the South Grade; there is no contingency (C) route. There are two emergency (E) areas of refuge – the Observatory and the Doane Meadow parking lots. We are talking with CERT and have requested evacuation signs and barricades also some emergency water in a \$4900 mini-grant we have submitted. We should know on that one by 1 October. Our Annual Meeting will be at the end of October; two board seats will be open for election then.

We received a renewal of our Neighborhood Reinvestment Program (NRP) grant to pay for chipping and dumpsters this season. If you need chipping done, call Robert Carlyle. We still have some cases of Barricade gel that residents can take to protect their homes. Cecelia Borland is coordinating permissions from private owners for clearing alongside Crestline and Birch Hill roads; if you have not yet given us permission, please do so. The Defensible Space requirement is now for 100 feet, raised from 50 feet. Yvonne said that the US forest service is soon to start clearing in Jeff Valley (east of Birch Hill).

Palomar property owners are eligible for a no-cost chipping program: go to the Fire Safe Council of San Diego web page to sign up. This is separate from the local FSC program described above.

Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM) report:

Rosie Lopresti says the CCPM has held a board election. Mostly we are waiting to see if and when we get the use of the "little house" back from the county. The CCPM has about \$5000 in its treasury.

New Business: Revising the Mission Statement

In 1976, the PMVFD was chartered as a nonprofit organization to provide fire protection and medical assistance on Palomar Mountain. For 40 years, volunteers protected the mountain. The county in 2016 decided to have CAL FIRE provide protection. In December 2016, the PMVFD Board leased the property to the county for 50 years in exchange for protection. Last year, the PMVFD adopted a “doing business as the Palomar Mountain Community Fire Association”. We think it's appropriate now to change our mission statement to reflect our current activities. We're not required to have, or change, a mission statement but we think it's good to remind the community and the Board of what we strive to accomplish. After considerable discussion the following was adopted as the new Palomar Mountain Community Fire Association mission statement: *The Palomar Mountain Community Fire Association dedicates itself to supporting professional and community-based fire service organizations in their efforts to mitigate fire danger, educate the public, and protect life, property and the Palomar Mountain quality of life.*

Old Business:

Two new water tanks have been installed across Crestline Road from the Lodge. A donation of land across Crestline Road from the Fire Station is still pending. When this donation is completed, we will install tanks on that property to hold about 10,000 gallons of water.

Board Elections:

Nominations Committee Chair Cecelia Borland said that two nominations have been received for the two open board positions: incumbents Michael Pique and Keith Ronchetti. Resident Eddie Reiner offered himself in nomination. He says he was six years in the Navy, and has been in California for 11 years. He does accounting, builds online forms, and could take on the treasurer job. He is full-time on the mountain now. The nomination from the floor failed for lack of a second. Pique and Ronchetti were voted in by show of hands from the community members.

Next board meeting 9 AM Saturday October 2, 2021.

Next Annual General Meeting noon Sunday September 4, 2022.

Adjournment of general meeting 12:57 PM

Cliff Kellogg thanked the CAL FIRE crews for setting up tables and chairs. All present in person are now invited to tour the CERT trailer and view the construction site for the new crew quarters.

Minutes approved at 2022 Annual General Meeting, September 4, 2022

Special Board meeting September 5, 2021; 12:59 PM

A brief meeting of the PMVFD/PMCFA Board members was held to elect officer positions. It was agreed that this would be as follows:

President: Cliff Kellogg

V.P.: Glenn Borland

Treasurer: Keith Ronchetti

Secretary: Michael Pique

Member-at-large: Robert Carlyle

Adjournment of board meeting 1:05 PM