

## **The Palomar Mountain Community Fire Association**

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 A.M. by President Kellogg. Board members present by Zoom teleconference: Cliff Kellogg, Michael Pique, Keith Ronchetti, Robert Carlyle. Also on the 16-person session were Karen Fraser, Kathy Lande, David Drake, Hiroshi McDonald, Eddy Riener, Elizabeth Getzoff, Palomar Fire Safe Council President Yvonne Vaucher, Community Center of Palomar Mountain board member Rosie Lopresti, CAL FIRE Chief Cody Eaves, and CAL FIRE Captain Dean Kowalski.

Public Comment: None offered.

Minutes: The minutes from the 08/07/2021 board meeting were approved after discussion of the Station 79 staffing. The Annual General Meeting was held Sunday 09/05/2021, at noon. No board meeting was held in October.

Financial Report: Keith Ronchetti's written report (available at [palomar-fire.org](http://palomar-fire.org)) showed a balance of \$89,992.27 (with \$2,521.90 held for CERT). CERT expenses included trailer supplies and insurance. PMVFD insurance was about \$2000. The report was approved.

Station 79 Report: Chief Eaves said there was no update on snow plowing for the station; we will probably not know until it snows. All the chiefs are trying to resolve the problem, especially for 911 response. Captain Kowalski said the County Department of General Services, which is responsible for facilities repairs, would also be responsible for plowing. The big hurdle is a section of the bureaucracy that doesn't like the county road department on the property in case they damage a building. The Department of General Services technicians might have a plow to fit onto a truck to be on call for plowing. Cliff Kellogg will continue to follow up. Chief Eaves said burn restrictions were lifted on November 8 (permits still are issued by US Forest Service, not CAL FIRE), and that CAL FIRE will remain on peak staffing until January 3. KOGO radio AM 600 is our local emergency broadcast system station.

Captain Kowalski said the crew quarters construction is going well, and he is pleased with the vast majority of the work including driveways and grading. We'll see how we manage inclement weather. A possible pooling of water and icing will be avoided by extending the concrete retaining wall farther towards the East Grade Road, as authorized by Chief Mecham. Last hurdle is water supply: there is no pump on hand for the front standpipe. Staffing will be moving to "3-0" by the end of the month.

Rosie Lopresti asked about new water tanks in Bailey Meadows. Captain Kowalski says those tanks are really for the Bailey property, it's good they did that even if the tanks are down a long curvy road.

County Fire Advisory Board: Cliff Kellogg says the county fire agency is discussing an agricultural "Farm/Ranch" pass that would allow certain residents to re-enter areas faster after fire closures. The local fire safe council might manage the passes. County Supervisor Jim Desmond may follow up with us. A community paramedic plan is being considered by the Board of Supervisors. Chief Eaves said he had no information on that yet except that it would be a merger of county Emergency Medical Services with County Fire. Cliff Kellogg said San Diego County Fire Public Safety group manager Herman Reddick has retired; we don't know his replacement yet.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT): Bill Leininger offered a written report. The next phase of outfitting the CERT trailer is installing propane hoses and storage bins. They are getting reflective signs for the Palomar Christian Conference Center back roads.

Captain Kowalski noted the passing of Alan Serry, who has been a huge help over the years. We already feel his absence.

Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (FSC) Yvonne Vaucher: The FSC has \$5690 in unrestricted funds, no current restricted grant funds. They are hoping for a CAL FIRE advance in the next few weeks to start work on the Crestline and Birch Hill road clearing. We still need to mark the trees to be taken down and to notify residents when the work will start. Robert Carlyle and Captain Kowalski need to coordinate on that. Our grant for evacuation signage was not funded. Cecelia Borland and Linda Thorne were reelected to the FSC board. Katie Michelmores and Rob Dowell are new members. Next FSC meeting December 11 at 10 AM, probably by Zoom.

The US Forest Service soon begins their work in Jeff Valley, above the East Grade, and behind the USFS observatory fire station. 140 acres are piled up in Morgan Hill ready to be burned. No update on community evacuation brochures. Remember to sign up for alert San Diego: spotty communication on the mountain is an obstacle. David Drake, long time resident, noted that when he got back from Borrego Springs after the 2007 fire he found the lady living behind him on Crestline Road had not been notified and was still there. Cliff Kellogg acknowledged that notifying people is a problem. Chief Eaves says notifications are much improved since 2007. Robert Carlyle commented that the generator that keeps the land-line telephones working on Palomar ran out of fuel after a day, a problem that needs to be addressed.

Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM): Rosie Lopresti says we need a contract agreement for when we get the house back after the crews move to the new building. Cliff Kellogg said Herman Reddick, asked for ideas, said the county would likely sublease back to the PMVFD, but we need to ask Royce Avelo. Cliff left a message for Royce but he's on vacation now. The next Community Center meeting will invite Cliff Kellogg to discuss possible legal arrangements.

Palomar Mountain Planning Organization (PMPO) Michael Pique (Secretary): next meeting is 12/04/2021 at 10 AM, probably by WebEx. Next after that is 03/05/2022.

Old Business:

Land Donation: Cliff Kellogg reports the donation is still on hold over proxies, which may put a cloud on the title. This would delay our water supply expansion plans.

Mission Statement: The following revision was adopted at the September 5th Annual General Meeting:

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.

Adjournment: 09:55 AM 11/06/2021. The next board meeting is Saturday 12/04/2021, at 9:00 AM, **(NOTE: later postponed to 01/08/2022, location to be determined)**.

- Michael Pique, Secretary

Minutes approved by PMCFA Board 01/08/2022.