

The Palomar Mountain Community Fire Association

Minutes of the monthly meeting of The Board of Directors, February 5, 2022.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by President Kellogg. Board members present by Zoom teleconference: Glenn Borland, Robert Carlyle, Cliff Kellogg, Michael Pique, Keith Ronchetti. Also on the call were Lafe Ball, Karen Fraser, Kathy Bates-Lande, Courtney Berger, Palomar Fire Safe Council President Yvonne Vaucher, Community Center of Palomar Mountain board member Rosie Lopresti, and CERT coordinator Bill Leininger.

Public Comment: Robert Carlyle says the next Sponsor Group meeting will be on February 17 (third Thursday of the month) at 6 PM. Agenda topics are a building permit on Observatory Pointe property and community signage.

Minutes: The minutes from the 01/08/2022 board meeting were approved.

Financial Report: Keith Ronchetti's written report (available at palomar-fire.org) showed a balance of \$89,654.64 (with \$1809.71 held for CERT). New CERT expenses were \$712.19. The report was approved.

Station 79 Report: Captain Kowalski was not available. Cliff Kellogg said hiring a contractor to plow snow from the station driveway failed, no one showed up. The real issue is that both the front and back need to be plowed. No one knows when the new crew quarters will be operational as the county is still ordering changes. Nevertheless, a ceremonial ribbon cutting by the county supervisors will be done at 10 AM, March 8. Cliff said "heli hydrants" (water tanks for helicopter fire-fighting) are still being looked at seriously, perhaps one at the observatory. Cost for the open 5000 gallon tank is about \$150,000.

The county will likely create in 2023 an agricultural "Farm/Ranch" pass that would allow certain residents to re-enter areas faster after fire closures. The burden on this is with the state fire marshal.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT): Bill Leininger said the trailer fittings are on order but delayed. A slide-out for the generator is also on order. At the outreach meeting on January 22, six households were given emergency go-bags. CERT is still unable to meet in person for training because of "pandemic issues".

Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (FSC) Yvonne Vaucher: The FSC has \$5600 in unrestricted funds, and has received a \$42,000 advance payment from CAL FIRE to start work on the Crestline and Birch Hill road clearing once the weather allows. We received no response from our donation request letters sent out to local casinos and businesses. We have made a new mailing to Palomar Mountain post office box holders with a similar request. The San Diego County Fire Safe Councils are offering a "last chance survival" talk to local communities, but they are now all booked up. We are on

the waitlist for that workshop. Joan Jones is the San Diego Fire Foundation administrator for our SDG&E grant. She says we can include insurance and dumpster days on this grant. The US Forest Service did an 80-acre Palomar Divide clearing and also work on Fry Creek. Robert Carlyle offers free chips from the upcoming tree work, he can even bring you a dump truck load.

Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM): Rosie Lopresti says no news; they are waiting to hear from the county about use of the small house after the new crew quarters are in service.

Cliff Kellogg continues to talk to Monica Toledo at the county about possible legal arrangements for the CCPM to reclaim use of the small house, hoping to get a draft/sample sublease or license for us to review. Monica wanted a list of who would be using the building. Cliff replied at least the PMPO, the CCPM, the Mutual Water Company, and the Fire Safe Council. She said she thought the real estate department wanted to know the days of the week each organization would have access to the building to prevent future scheduling issues. Cliff said "We've met in that house for decades and we manage our schedule". She said she would take it back to the county real estate division. Cliff wants to know how much maintenance and control the county would take on. He thinks it's not necessary for us to sign a licensing agreement: the question is, are we getting it back or not? One claimed problem with a sublease is said to be dividing up the driveway. Yvonne says the scheduling must be done locally as needed. Michael Pique says we don't want use to be limited to approved organized groups; we should be able to hold Super-Bowl parties again, for example. Courtney agrees that we should have open access within the community. Rosie says it's also helpful for the county to know that we would use the house as a live community information center in case of emergency.

Palomar Mountain Planning Organization (PMPO) Michael Pique (Secretary): next meeting is 03/05/2022 at 10:30 AM, probably by WebEx.

Old Business:

Cliff says the donation of the land adjacent to the station across Crestline Road has encountered major difficulties and should be considered dead.

Adjournment: 09:45AM 02/05/2022. The next board meeting is Saturday 03/05/2022, at 9:00 AM. - Michael Pique, Secretary

Minutes approved by PMCFA Board 03/05/2022.