

The Palomar Mountain Community Fire Association

Minutes of the monthly meeting of The Board of Directors, December 3, 2022.

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 A.M. by Acting President Robert Carlyle. Board members present in person at the Community Center (Station 79 grounds): Robert Carlyle, Tom Mendenhall, Michael Pique, Keith Ronchetti. Also present were Cliff Kellogg, Lafe Ball, Mark Thompson, and CAL FIRE Engineer Justin Holt. Attending by Zoom teleconference were Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council President Yvonne Vaucher, Community Center of Palomar Mountain board member Rosie Lopresti, Elizabeth Getzoff, Diana Forero-Cook, Karen Fraser, Chelsea Johnson, and Michael Walsh.

Public Comment: None offered

Minutes: The minutes from the 10/01/2022 board meeting were approved. There was no November meeting.

Financial Report: Keith Ronchetti's written report (available at palomar-fire.org) showed a balance of \$88,810.54 (plus \$2253.71 held for CERT) The report was approved.

Station 79 Report: Engineer Justin Holt said Chief Eaves is getting the station a new medic on some days; we will then be "4/0" instead of "3/0". In the winter we will have one fewer engineer than before, however. The Fire Safe Council roadside clearing on Crestline is helping. The US Forest Service is doing some burns this month, in barrels, so do not be alarmed if you see smoke. Cliff Kellogg said CAL FIRE Chief Mecham plans to station an ambulance either at Palomar or Mt. Laguna. The ambulance being considered is a four-wheel-drive tall box-shaped patrol vehicle.

County Fire Advisory (CFA) Board Update: Cliff attended the county fire advisory board meeting in November. The agricultural pass program "Phase Two" that would allow owner & worker access to groves & orchards in emergencies needs to have training sessions scheduled. SDG&E donated \$50,000 for roadside fire retardant. SDG&E will donate an additional \$200,000 in 2023. A new Defensible Space ordinance is going to the county supervisors. A periodic revision of the fire code is underway. The next fire advisory board meeting is March 6.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT): Bill Leininger reports by email that the next CERT academy training at Station 79 will be a first aid class on December 18. All welcome.

Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (FSC) Yvonne Vaucher: The council has received its final advance for the roadside clearing, to pay for 8 more days of work. The Gold-Spotted Oak Borer (GSOB) Town Hall here at Station 79 on October 1 was well-attended. The video shown there is now on-line at <https://youtu.be/M4LU5VXVB1I>. The

resource conservation district (RCD) has a phase 1 “Forest Health” project underway. We want to apply for phase 2, which will encompass individual private land owners. The FSC will send letters to land owners asking them to confirm their interest. The Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan (CWPP) needs to be updated this year. CERT has ordered evacuation signage, to be stored in the CERT trailer. The FSC has two new board members: John Lucia and Brian McBrayer. Next Saturday December 10, 10 AM, we will have a council meeting by zoom. The FSC written report is posted at palomar-fire.org.

Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM): Cliff Kellogg talked to Monica Toledo at the county two weeks ago, continuing the effort to make a legal arrangement for the community to reclaim use of the small house. She said “Good news soon” but can’t tell us yet, “hope to hear by the end of November”. Cliff talked to Jeff Collins, the County Fire Authority director. He said that CERT and the Palomar Mountain Sponsor Group can meet at the house without insurance because they are county-chartered organizations. Other groups, including 501(c)(3)’s, will need their own insurance. He thinks the requirement for “Storm Water Management Training” will be removed from the license terms.

Rosie Lopresti said she looked into insurance for their 501(c)(5) CCPM organization. She got a quote for \$1500 per year. Yvonne asked if she’d looked into funds from the Community Enhancement Program; Rosie said it looked difficult to qualify for.

Board Insurance: Cliff sent an email to our agent Stefanie because our coverage appears to have lapsed on November 1. She is supposed to be reaching out to some underwriters. Lafe Ball suggests purchasing an umbrella policy to cover all the groups using the house. Yvonne asks whether the PMCFA/PMVFD would get fire & flood insurance for the building and CERT trailer on the grounds. That might be a San Diego County responsibility but it’s not completely clear.

Board Vacancy and Election of Officers: The Board appointed Mark Thompson to fill the seat vacated by Glenn Borland’s death. The Board confirmed Robert Carlyle as President and elected Tom Mendenhall as Vice President.

Palomar Mountain Planning Organization (PMPO) Michael Pique (Secretary): next board meetings are today and February 25, both 10 AM. After that is the Annual General Meeting, Saturday 05/27/2023 (Memorial Day weekend) at 10 AM.

Adjournment: 09:55 AM 12/03/2022. The next PMCFA meeting is Saturday January 7, 2023, at 9 AM, at Station 79 with Zoom and/or telephone call-in available.

- Michael Pique, Secretary. Minutes approved by PMCFA Board 01/07/2023.