

The Palomar Mountain Community Fire Association

Minutes of the monthly meeting of The Board of Directors, January 3, 2026.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by President Robert Carlyle. Board members present in person at the Community Center (Station 79 grounds): Robert Carlyle, Keith Ronchetti, Tom Mendenhall, Mark Thompson. Also present in-person was Cliff Kellogg. Michael Pique, Elizabeth Getzoff, Yvonne Vaucher, Rosie Lopresti, and Miriam Munoz joined by Zoom teleconference.

Pledge: Robert led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: None offered. Tom Mendenhall is thanked for bringing doughnuts.

Minutes: The minutes from the December 6, 2025, meeting were approved.

Financial Report: Keith Ronchetti's written report (available at palomar-fire.org) showed a balance of \$90,099.34, with an additional \$1220.29 held for CERT. Notable expenses were \$362 for San Diego County assessments. California Bank & Trust mistakenly charged us a \$5 "Internet Banking Fee" for a paper check deposit, but that has been refunded. Keith noted that the Station 79 property has an assessed tax value of only \$26,017. Does that low value limit our insurance coverage, which the county pays for? He will ask Monica Toledo. The report was approved.

Station 79 Report: No captains in attendance, no report. Yvonne Vaucher says that we really need a station Captain to come to these meetings. Robert says he has been emailing Captain Dean Kowalski but not Captain Matthew Waters or the three San Diego County Fire Captains. Yvonne will pass their email addresses to Robert.

County Fire Advisory (CFA) Board: Cliff Kellogg. The next meeting is March 2.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT): No report.

Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM): Robert Carlyle, Chair. About 15 people came to the December Christmas party. The next event is the February 8 afternoon Super Bowl party.

Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (PMFSC): Yvonne Vaucher says there was no December meeting. Elizabeth Getzoff will contact Tom Shoots for help in completing our FIREWISE application. Robert says that the Dead and Dying Tree Removal crews are still felling trees on the Birch Hill 32J easement road. The next FSC meeting will be 9 AM Saturday, January 24, in person at the CCPM and by Zoom.

Palomar Mountain Planning Organization (PMPO): The next meeting is 10 AM February 28, immediately following a 9 AM PMFSC meeting.

Old Business: the Emergency Telephone outside of Station 79. The device has not worked for about three years, according to Captain Kowalski. Cliff Kellogg suggests we take an “out-of-order” sign to the Captains for them to post on it.

Adjournment: 9:40 AM 01/03/2026. The next PMCFA meeting will be 9 AM Saturday, February 7, 2026, at the Community Center. We expect to have Zoom call-ins available.

Michael Pique, Secretary

Minutes approved by PMCFA Board 02/07/2026