PALOMAR MOUNTAIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
DBA

The Palomar Mountain Community Fire Association

Minutes of the monthly meeting of The Board of Directors, July 4, 2026.

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 A.M. by President Robert Carlyle. Board members present in person at the Community Center (Station 79 grounds): Robert Carlyle, Tom Mendenhall, Keith Ronchetti, Mark Thompson. Also present in-person were Cliff Kellogg and Yvonne Vaucher. Board member Michael Pique, Elizabeth Getzoff, Mike Wilson, Rosemary Johnston, and Walt Johnston joined by Zoom teleconference.

Pledge: Robert led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: Cliff Kellogg noted the passing of Bruce Graves. Bruce joined the volunteer fire department in 2003. He did repairs, taught everyone how to drive the fire engines. He always took the time to show Cliff what to do. He took Cliff down to get his drivers license test (that took all day). Bruce took every one of us through that. He was unique on the mountain. Cliff's in-laws, the McKinley's, were the founders of the Volunteer Fire Department. Former Department Chief George Lucia praised Bruce. Bruce Graves once told Cliff Kellogg that he was on an aircraft carrier flight deck in the Korean war. Elizabeth Getzoff said that Bruce's memorial service will be on 24 July at the Singing Hills Memorial Park. Mark Thompson suggests we put up a plaque honoring Bruce and his wife Lola.

Minutes: The minutes from the May 2, 2026, meeting were approved. Tom Mendenhall has notes from the June 6 meeting that he will give to Michael Pique for formatting.

Financial Report: Keith Ronchetti's written report (available at palomar-fire.org) showed a balance of $92,831.96, with an additional $1220.29 held for CERT. No notable income or expenses. The report was approved.

Station 79 Report: Captain Jason Nagano said that CAL FIRE crews have been busy with fires in Santa Ysabel, Camp Pendleton, and De Luz. Ramona will soon have a helicopter that can fly at night; the Ramona-based crews are now undergoing nighttime training.

County Fire Advisory (CFA) Board: Cliff Kellogg. The next meeting is August 17, 1:00 PM, at the County Offices. Open to the public.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT): Robert Carlyle said that the CERT trailer was inspected and checked last week, including its generator. About 6 to 7 Palomar Mountain CERT volunteers are active.

Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (PMFSC) Yvonne Vaucher says we have received our $37,000 CCI funding for road clearing. Stan Hill says he's coming back up

soon to continue work on the dead and dying tree removal. He has many logs to take away. They will then take down the remaining mapped trees. Yvonne said the San Diego Regional Fire Foundation got us $12,000 for the “SAFE” program. That will pay for two dumpsters and five chipping days. The PMPO is asked to contribute more dumpster days. Next Saturday will be the next dumpster day. It was noted that the complete Fire Safe Council meeting minutes can be found online at palomar-fire.org under Documents>Board Meetings.

There was no June Fire Safe Council meeting; the next ones will be 9 AM on July 25 and August 22, in person at the CCPM and by Zoom.

Palomar Mountain Planning Organization (PMPO): The next meeting will be on August 22, 10 AM, following the Fire Safe Council meeting.

Old Business:

Exercise Building: The County intends to build a 20x30 foot exercise building south of the Community Center building. Robert Carlyle asked the County’s Monica Toledo to leave plenty of space for vehicles to pass in between those two buildings. He will ask her when the County will have a plan to present, and we hope to accompany the architect and, if possible, to arrange a public meeting.

Placement of “Portable” Water Tanks: No news.

Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM): the Mountain Hoedown will be a week earlier than in the past because of a problem reserving the US Forest Service Crestline Campground on Labor Day weekend. The Hoedown will be on August 29.

New Business:

Rosemary Johnston brought up the proposed 500 kV power transmission line, now named the Golden State Power Link. Discussion ensued but no action was taken.

Our weed-whacking damaged a fire fighter’s truck window. The board authorized up to $400 as compensation.

Annual General Meeting and Election of the Board

Our AGM will be at 9 AM on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend, September 5. The usual time has been noon on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend. Three board positions are up for election. Tom Mendenhall and Robert Carlyle are willing to run again, with Mark Thompson “on the fence”. Cliff Kellogg will again chair the Nominations Committee.

Adjournment: 9:43 AM 07/04/2026. The next PMCFA meeting will be 9 AM Saturday, August 1, 2026, at the Community Center. We expect to have Zoom call-ins available. Michael Pique will be absent.

Michael Pique, Secretary

Minutes approved by PMCFA Board 09/05/2026. There was no August meeting.