

**Board Members Present:** Cecelia Borland, Glenn Borland, Robert Carlyle, Elizabeth Getzoff, Don Grant, Sue Hanson, Rosemary Johnston, Katie Michelmores, Michael Pique, Alan Serry, Michael Walsh, Jack Weisgerber, Mark Wisnosky.

**Board Members Absent:** James Ewen, Yvonne Vaucher.

The PMPO Board Meeting was called to order at 10:01 AM at the Palomar Mountain Fire Department, by Glenn Borland, chair. A quorum of Board members was present.

Treasurer Michael Walsh reported our current combined checking and savings account balance is \$46,734.85. Recent expenses have been \$367.53 for pancake breakfast food. Recent revenue has been \$3,066 including breakfast receipts and 15 donations. The report was approved. Secretary Michael Pique presented the minutes of the February 25 and May 27 board meetings, which were approved as submitted.

**Old Business**

**Traffic Safety:**

Burt Hulbert notes a great reduction in hazardous traffic the past few weekends, with few motorcycles racing. Alan Serry says CHP Captain Amy Mangin stationed pairs of motorcycle police along the South Grade road. Glenn Borland said the joint PMPO-PMVFD thank-you letter to her went out last week.

**Palomar Mountain Fire Department (PMFD):**

Cliff Kellogg, PMVFD President and former Fire Chief, said our station now has full-time paramedic staffing. Nanci Healey said her husband, Rick, had to be life-flighted off the mountain recently and she was very impressed with the Fire Department service. No official schedule on the new fire station building yet, but we will be moving the storage cargo containers soon. The PMVFD adopted new by-laws at the September 3 Annual General Meeting, refocusing emphasis from day-to-day running a fire department to overseeing the activity.

Cal Fire Captain Dean Kowalski said that property inspections for defensible space are under way. A second water tender is up here, but lacks a driver. He said, in fact, "Right now, 4 vehicles are up here but I'm the only one who can drive any of them." Robert Carlyle asked if Rincon Cal Fire station could help: yes, but they have only one driver too. But Captain Kowalski said the biggest problem is that many access roads can't be driven by our fire engine: they are too narrow or have low-hanging tree branches. Sue Hanson asked if the inspections could include access requirements. Answer: not really as I don't know who exactly owns what piece of road, since the actual roads are seldom along the legally plotted easement. Trees growing up encroaching on the sides of the roads is a huge problem as there's just no way to push past them, especially to make turns. The fire engine needs 13 to 15 foot clearance across and as high as possible.

Jack Weisgerber moved a resolution: To improve firefighter ability to respond to incidents, the PMPO resolves to encourage property owners to clear easements on their property to allow 15-foot wide and 15-foot tall clearances. Rosemary Johnston seconded and the motion was approved. Cecelia Borland suggests we follow alongside the fire engine and mark trees needing trimming or removal.

**Sheriff's Community Action Group:**

Alan Serry says major topics at the recent Valley Center meeting were thefts of marijuana and avocado.

**Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (PMFSC):**

PMFSC Board Secretary Cecelia Borland reported that the Council held a Wildland-Urban Interface fire workshop on August 26 and a chain saw safety workshop on September 23. They still have about \$25,000 available for on-site chipping. They are requesting \$10,000 from the county supervisors for a Barricade fire gel class. George Lucia has power-shaken the old gel (c. 2007) and much was still usable. The PMFSC is looking for \$200,000 to clear a swath west of Conifer

Road and to straighten the 32J easement road that leads north from Birch Hill, connecting with Conifer Road.

**Community Emergency Response Team (CERT):**

Bill Leininger says next Saturday's CERT meeting, open to the public, will have George Lucia teaching when and how to apply Barricade fire protection gel. Bill says that if you have enough water pressure, you can coat a single-story house in less than an hour using three gallons of gel concentrate.

**Neighborhood Watch:**

Alan Serry says that if you see firefighting aircraft or smell smoke, check with [nextdoor.com](http://nextdoor.com) for information. Brandy Contreras from the Valley Center Sheriff office tells residents to call the sheriff's dispatch if someone is threatening you or wandering the streets shouting.

**Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM):**

Rosie Lopresti said CCPM this summer held two movie nights and the Labor Day Saturday Fair. The CCPM board is willing to do these events in 2018: "it was fun".

**S6 "Highway to the Stars" Road Signs:**

Alan Serry has located photographs of the 1947 originals and is arranging high-quality replicas to be made by Highway Safety in Escondido. They will be the original size with "Via Palomar Mtn" text replacing the Valley Center. The cost will be \$26 each, at 50 for \$1300. The PMPO board authorized purchasing 6 for immediate installation along the South Grade Road with 4 as spares. The rest will be sold to the public through the Palomar General Store.

**Palomar Mountain Mutual Water Company (PMMWC):**

Sue Hanson says the Mutual Water wells, in Pedley Valley, have gone back up to levels not seen for five years, thanks to the 45 inches of rain this season. The hand-dug Darby well has water again but is not being used since it's not been re-certified by the health department.

**Bailey Meadow Mutual Water Company:**

Jack Weisgerber reports their 20,000 gallon tank is getting a new vinyl liner.

**Palomar Mountain State Park:**

Rosemary Johnston's says the "Friends of the Palomar Mountain State Park" have hired a park interpreter, who will be leading guided hikes and campfire talks. Rosemary went to Sacramento for a June 20 park advocacy meeting. They hope to put a park-funding bond on the ballot.

Local writer Scott Turner has just updated Jerry Schad's classic book "Afoot and Afield: San Diego County. It now recommends Doane Valley Nature Trail as "Number One".

The Palomar State Park Apple Festival will be on October 15 this year; last year's was enjoyed by over 1000 visitors.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 AM.

Next board meeting is Saturday November 11, 2017, 10:00 AM.

Michael Pique, Secretary (email: [secretary@pmpoinfo.com](mailto:secretary@pmpoinfo.com))

Minutes approved by PMPO board February 10, 2018.