

AVERY COUNTY FIRE ASSOCIATION

Chief's Committee May 3, 2012

Chief Bob Garland called the committee meeting to order and minutes of the April meeting were read and approved as read. All departments were represented.

Junior Sluder collected guest counts from each department for the Appreciation Dinner. A total of 430 members & guests thought they could attend. Dates and times were discussed. Members agreed on September 8th or 15th at 6:00 pm. The Crossnore Baptist Church was considered as a possible location.

Members agreed that text messaging was working well – noting that the dispatchers sometimes forget to send texts out. Several departments wanted their meeting notices sent by text message. It was decided that the “I Am Responding” system would be a better way to get email and text notices to the members and dispatch would not have to be involved.

Wayne Miller reported that the Piedmont Natural Gas class was short, but very informative. Kennie asked Junior to schedule a class for Green Valley and Mark asked for a class at Linville.

Bob Garland passed a narrow band coverage map around and noted that the committee was working on a repeater system for Seven Devils and looking at the Whitaker Branch cell tower to help out Elk Park. Kennie confirmed that the fire commission would make money available for the narrow band conversion. Chris Bertilini agreed to research ways to switch over to narrow band without losing service during the one to two day system shutdown. It was noted that we may have to work off fewer towers and maybe use Tac 1 & 2. We might also have to share frequencies with EMS and the Sheriffs department. Departments will be able to go ahead and switch radios before the county switches. Narrow band will work with broad band. Charlie Franklin will obtain a radio inventory so all radio models can be checked to make sure they will convert. It was noted that Minitor IV's will not narrow band.

The scholarship committee announced that they had reached a decision and that Levin would award the scholarship.

Wayne Miller asked members to consider standardizing equipment. Members discussed inventorying all makes & brands of equipment. Wayne noted that we were all together at budget time and that we needed to do the same with our equipment.

Forms were passed out for pre-registration for the controlled burn at the Prison on June 30th.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.