

AVERY FIRE ASSOCIATION

Chief's Committee Meeting

January 5, 2012

The Chiefs' committee of the Avery County Fire Association was called to order by Chief Bob Garland at the Newland branch of Mayland Community College. All departments were represented.

Members discussed the problems that some members were having with the dispatch center's text messaging noting that some phones were not set up properly by their cell provider and must be reprogrammed. Some dispatchers were not texting every call and some were texting calls well after the page. Bob asked members to see if the texting was filling in where the pagers would not reach.

Members questioned when the "I Am Responding System" would be implemented - since David Charles had found monies to pay for the system.

It was announced that the Yancey Academy would start FF I & II classes on January 10th. Class requests from Avery County were turned in to Melissa.

Mike Shook informed members that Homeland Security had a Recruitment and Retention Grant that could be used to train students in High School. It was noted that Fire and EMT certifications were offered at Watauga High.

John Hall gave out quotes to increase insurance coverage to the departments that he serves and noted that AF Insurance would do the same for the departments they cover.

David Hughes, 2nd Vice President of the Western N.C. Fire Association addressed the group and encouraged members to be more active and attend their meetings. Members discussed hosting a meeting in Avery County. Their next meeting is at Gamewell on April 18th.

Junior Sluder alerted members that he had received a citizen complaint about speeding fire equipment. He reminded members that lights & sirens don't give fire equipment the right of way - they just help secure it.

Paul Buchanan reminded members of the three county drill between Avery, Mitchell and Yancey counties. The dates were set for April 27th thru May 1st - day & night for 4 days. The scenario includes problems caused by an earthquake. Incident Command, Mass Casualty, and Technical rescue would all be practiced. He noted that the county needed to organize the times that each department would go.

Shane Garland reported for the Fire Commission. He asked members to be putting their N.C. State Grant requests together. Members remembered that last year the Fire Commission gave each department \$12,000 for fire equipment and \$2,000 for communications. All agreed to leave it that way.

Bob Garland asked if the chiefs would support a request to have the paid personnel test the ladder company hose noting that it wasn't fair to ask Linville to help test the hose each year. He also said that if they would honor the request, he would increase the Ladder Company budget to include hose testing by Waterway in the future. Tony Hunter moved that the chiefs make the request and Wayne Miller seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Danny Clark announced that Linville would be burning a house January 16th. He invited everyone to attend beginning at 8:30 AM. He requested tankers and said there would be training until lunch time.

Kennie McFee moved that we accept the insurance increases as presented and recommended. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.