

## EVERY FIRE ASSOCIATION CHIEFS MEETING

September 6, 2012

Banner Elk Fire Station

Chief Bob Garland called the meeting to order. There were no minutes from August since the Chief's did not meet.

Bob Garland reported that he had asked the Fire Commission to allow the paid personnel help with the I Am Responding implementation. Bob Pudney distributed forms for each department to sign, fill out and return so the individual websites could be built.

A letter from Bob Garland to Robert Wiseman, the Fire Commission, and the County Commissioners was read and discussed.

Members also discussed the need to have the system re-engineered after the narrow banding is finished and the new coverage area is known.

Standard Operating Guidelines for "Mayday", Emergency Evacuation and Structure orientation were passed out for each department to consider. These SOG's were adopted by Watauga County. Bob Garland asked chiefs to adopt these for the whole county. Jack Wiseman moved that they be adopted for the whole county, Bob Pudney 2nd the motion and it passed unanimously. SOG's were to be posted on the website.

A RIT team class was announced for September 12, 22, 23, 29 & 30th at the Parkway Fire Station. Members discussed setting up county RIT teams.

Paul Buchanan asked that the Association do a "Fire Person of the year" and asked that this be done at the Linville meeting November 1st. He asked each department to nominate a "Firefighter of the Year" noting that the nomination could be a member of a neighboring department. Members decided that officers, firefighters and paid personnel would all be eligible. Forms were passed out to be returned by the next meeting.

Members were reminded to call Brandy Eller if they were not getting text messages.

Jim Brooks reported on his meeting with Attorney Mack Tornow in behalf of the Association. Mack pulled up all of the Avery County fire department's charters. He found that they were all active and good standing. He said he could help us make changes and noted that we may also need to change by-laws because they are more important than the charters. He said a good long term lease written with our controls built in would be OK - but that we would need to have a lawyer on our side. He agreed to work for \$ 250 per hour if he could help us out. Most departments agreed that they needed to get their charters and bylaws set to return buildings and equipment to the county should a department dissolve. Bob Garland thought there was another way to encumber trucks and equipment to protect the county when trucks & buildings are titled to fire departments. Members agreed to get a note from Mack Tornow showing another way to

protect the county so trucks and buildings could be titled to each department and to let Paul Buchanan present it to the Fire Commission.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Letter:

<http://averyfirefighters.org/images/stories/Minutes/Chiefs 2012/AveryFF 911 Committee Letter 2012.pdf>