

CHIEF'S COMMITTEE Minutes
Avery Fire Association
December 2012

The regular monthly meeting of the Avery County Fire Chief's Committee was called to order by Chief Bob Garland at the Newland Fire Station.

Paul Buchanan reported that the Avery County Commissioners had agreed to meet with the Avery Fire Association and the Fire Association to review truck titling. Reo Griffith said the titling issue was a power struggle. He said that the association should let him know what the group wants to do and that he would support the association if he was in agreement with the association's plan. Robert Wiseman would be contacting Paul about a meeting towards the end of January or the first of February. Bob Garland reminded members that some of the County Commissioners were give incorrect information and that the presentation needs to be well prepared and deal with the cure instead of the past.

Bob Garland explained that Green Valley & Frank departments were experiencing radio problems because of the narrow banding. The cure will require a tower that is line of site to Buck Hill. Banner Elk noted that they were having to leave burning buildings to regain communications. The Elk Park radio problem was discussed. Members considered the need for a re-design of the system to cure all of the problems cost effectively. David Charles Vance found some monies in one of his budgets to replace the Tac frequency transmitters that Jamie Johnson would not fund. Members were reminded that those frequencies would not be available after January 1st if the new transmitters were not in place.

Members discussed problems with dispatch - noting some dispatchers don't know how to use I Am Responding text messaging. Fall Creek reported that they receive text messages better than pages. Members were reminded to continue to push all firemen to use the I Am Responding system. Elk Park, Fall Creek and Crossnore reported that they are not getting call reports. Bob Pudney said that I Am Responding could be grouped so each department could have a list of all department members responding. Bob Garland had asked Jamie to let Bob Pudney train the dispatchers and agreed to try again to get that done. Members discussed adding EMS, the Sheriff and Forest Service to the I Am Responding system.

Bobby Powell announced that he received a call from Charlie Franklin about replacing the Equipment truck. He said \$ 75,000 was budgeted and that a committee needed to be set up to work on the project. The new truck should carry the cascade system, equipment and do rehab.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.