

CHIEF'S COMMITTEE
AVERY FIRE ASSOCIATION
February 7, 2013

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

Bob reported that his committee had met to prepare for the meeting with the Avery County Commissioners and the Avery Fire Commission. He also noted that the County Commissioners had not set a date for the meeting.

The 911 Committee announced that they would have a meeting the following week to see about permission to put a transmitter on the cell tower by Johnny Mathes' house. Permission to use the Hawshaw Viper tower was turned down. Members noted that text messages were not being sent out. Paul Buchanan visited the I Am Responding booth at the Piedmont Fire Expo and said that maps locating calls would be available with the system in the future. Bobby Powell said that he had not heard anything from the Fire Commission regarding the equipment truck. He thought that it would probably be in the next budget year.

Bob Garland reported that the RIT class was one of the best classes held in our county. He recommended that every department send members thru a RIT class and said we could schedule it again in our county. He said that we should have a RIT team available on every structure call. Wayne said that the Fire Commission had asked him to organize RIT teams thru out the county. Levin said that every officer should take the class - noting that it teaches the limits of air packs, gives May Day experience, practices resource management and trains members on scene management. He also note that Firefighter1 is only required if a student wants to certify.

Bob Garland discussed I Am Responding use. He asked each department to find at least one member to learn the operation of I Am Responding and be responsible for it's management. He requested that departments use the system to send out meeting notices, class notices and messages to individuals, officers, or the whole department - saving the dispatchers valuable time. He asked each department to build a calendar so meeting and class notices would go out automatically. Bob also asked members to try to get members to use the system so records of attendance on structure fire calls would be available from primary and auto aid departments - which would drastically improve our rating points.

Wayne Miller announced a Fuel Reimbursement program from December 1st to December 1st based on attendance of primary department members on structure fire calls. Officers of each department would be responsible for keeping records and confirming attendance. The maximum paid to each member will be \$ 599.00 and checks would be mailed in mid December.

Paul Buchanan asked each department to provide a membership roster with dates of birth for an insurance company quote to try to get our coverage increased.

Paul also asked if every department if they would agree to change their charters to protect Avery County with buildings & equipment reverting to the county if a department was to dissolve. Every department was agreeable except: Crossnore had not met on the subject yet, Banner Elk had a substation and three trucks that were purchased with donated money, Fall Creek had one station that sits on land deeded in a Life Estate and the Ladder Company station sits on land leased for 40 years.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.