

AVERY FIRE ASSOCIATION

Chief's Committee

April 4, 2013

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

Bob reported that the new tower at Seven Devils was ready and the power was available - but the equipment had not been installed. He also announced that the Cell tower site in Frank had been put into the proposed budget.

Bob reminded the chiefs to continue their efforts towards using I Am Responding - noting that it will be hard to get it into the budget if we don't use it. He also explained that it would be a big help in keeping up with pay per call.

Kennie McFee noted that the dispatchers were very slow to use IAR on two recent med calls. Bob said that the 911 committee was trying to get Southern Software to visit and prove to the dispatchers that IAR can be automatic with their system and does not require any effort from the dispatch staff. The county's other texting system was reported to be broken.

Kennie & Bob Garland reported that they had not met with attorney, Mack Turnow and Paul Buchanan said that he had been unable to meet with Kenny Poteat. It was decided that Kennie & Bob would wait until Paul meets with Kenny Poteat.

Paul gave forms to departments that were not members of the Western NC Fire Association so that they could join.

Paul explained that he had specifically asked dispatch to put out meeting notices on IAR and that they deliberately used their system instead. Paul asked for permission to access the IAR system to put out meeting notices and the chiefs agreed to do so.

Joe Shoupe reported that the county was installing broadband wireless equipment on Hawshaw. He said the lease for the site with the Forest Service requires permission for any new installations. He was worried about interference for existing site users.

Members discussed the county's radio repair policy - noting that there were no spare repair parts for transmitters and that repairmen typically would rob from another transmitter - which would take it out of service while waiting on parts.

Matt announced a program with Mayland Tech student nurses at his station on Saturday from 7:00 AM till 11:00 AM - where members could get a full physical for \$ 45.00. A number of tests and screenings were available and some were free.

Chiefs discussed the Fire Commission's recent action - where Dean was give a choice of stepping down as Chief or giving up his paid job. Crossnore offered to let the Assistant Chiefs work out problems. Kennie felt like the Association should ask the Fire Commission to change their protocols.

It was mentioned that most departments had elected paid members to officer's positions and that Seven Devils, Beech and Boone had paid chiefs. Members thought that the Fire Commission was breaking the law. Johnny Mathes said he was told that the county attorney had said that it was against county policy for the paid fireman to be chief.

Members also noted that the President of the Board of Directors could be the Chief's boss. Kennie moved that we challenge the Fire Commission's decision and policy. Matt seconded the motion. Chiefs voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.