

## **CHIEF'S COMMITTEE**

### **Avery Fire Association**

Beech Mountain Station Two, June 27th, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of the Chief's committee was called to order by Bob Garland at the Beech Mountain Volunteer Fire Department Substation.

Bob reported that the 911 committee did not meet. Chris Bertolini was supposed to be working on obtaining extra tactical frequencies at a cost of \$ 250 each.

Members discussed budgets. Green valley received \$ 49,474 in operating funds (\$1,600 less than last year), the grant allocation and \$ 6,000 to build two bathrooms. The Ladder company was cut \$ 6,000 and asked to replace their roof and fix the parking out of their reserves. Crossnore was cut \$ 1,700 and noted that they had been cut \$ 1,500 each of the past two years. Their phone and internet were cut.

The fire commission representative did not know how much was collected in taxes.

Members thought that a lot more was collected than distributed. Kennie noted that budgets were presented in February and then not approved until mid June with no explanations. Junior Sluder agreed to get the exact collection figures from Tim Greene.

It was thought that collections were well above what was anticipated. Bob Garland told members that the Ladder Company was recommending that the association allow them to make station repairs out of reserves and then split the money amongst the other departments.

Linville announced that they got about the same - but internet and fuel were cut. Rescue was cut \$ 6,000. Members could not understand why the commission was trying to cut budgets every year. Johnny noted that the commission cut internet and a lot of small items.

It was noted that the fire tax was raised a 1/2 cent last year and the Rescue squad was added into the budget. Newland and Crossnore were supposed to get new trucks.

There should have been \$ 70,000 left over from the Banner Elk used truck purchase. Members agreed to wait until after the Highland Games, call a special meeting of the Chief's and then go to the County Commission if necessary.

Members again considered that budget approvals were mailed June 19th with no explanations and given 10 days to sign and accept. Members discussed changing the contracts to one or two months instead of twelve. Matt moved "that we change the contracts to six months". The motion was seconded and passed by a unanimous vote.

Levin Sudderth reported on his review of the I Am Responding system. He thought the dispatchers were getting better except when there are multiple agency calls. If the dispatchers use the system correctly it works fine. Bob asked departments to quit using the Dispatch center for announcements and to use IAR to send out messages and announcements. He also asked departments to use IAR reports to make sure call reports are accurate.

Paul Buchanan and Bob Pudney agreed to do county wide texts for members.

There being no further business, the Chief's Committee was adjourned.