

CHIEF'S COMMITTEE - Avery Fire Association

Elk Park Fire Station - March 5th, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Avery Chief's Committee was called to order by Chief Bob Garland. All departments were represented except Banner Elk.

Bob reported for the 911 committee noting that Bertolini was still working on the Seven Devils site and that a new antenna or frequency may be needed. The TAC 1 & 2 frequencies are being bothered by a station in Mocksville that may have an improper antenna. Bob announced that EMS has a box that helped their frequency. Dean said that it worked everywhere except Newland from time to time. Chris was supposed to visit the Frank Tower soon - but said that the site would need a building & generator.

Bob Garland asked members to work harder to get everyone to use I Am Responding so that it doesn't get deleted from the budget. He reminded members that it is the best way to get on scene attendance. Linville used it during the storm to check who was available. Bob asked members having problems to call Bob Pudney at: 387-4612. He also announced that he would be checking each department's use of the system each month and asking why if they not using it.

Information was passed out for an online class on electric car response from Laura Tenney at Caldwell Tech.

The fire at Elk River was discussed. The homeowner's alarm system called Elk River Security who then called the Banner Elk Fire station instead of dispatch. It was noted that the same thing happens at Grandfather. Members discussed asking David Charles to address the problem. Paul said that there are no fire codes to address the situation. Mark Taylor said he was working on the Grandfather problem. Tony Hunter suggested that Banner Elk contact Bob Blumington and discuss the dangers they were taking on. Dean suggested that the association not get involved until Banner Elk and Linville try to resolve the problems.

Paul suggested that each department send all of their officers and as many members as possible to a Chief's 101 class. He also reminded members that they have to re-certify every 5 years and the next year would be the deadline for most Chief's.

It was noted that David Charles' wife was in the hospital.

Members discussed Banner Elk's lack of attendance and participation in the Association's business. They noted that fire association attendance used to be in the county contract and that the Fire Commission should be asked to put it back in the contract. Paul and Bobby asked if they could meet with Banner Elk on the matter and members agreed.

Dean Gibbs asked if the Association had made any progress towards getting David Charles help with required inspections. Members discussed the required inspection cycles for public buildings and decided to ask the fire commission to approach the county - being sure that the needed monies don't come out of the Fire Tax budget. Bob Garland said the information from ISO regarding inspections needed to be sent to the Fire Commission.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.