

CHIEF'S COMMITTEE - AVERY FIRE ASSOCIATION

Crossnore Fire Station - April 3, 2014

Chief Bobby Powell called the regular monthly meeting to order and all departments were represented except Fall Creek.

Bobby Powell reported for the 911 Committee. The box that would help with the frequency interference was found to be impractical because every tower and every frequency would need one. Chris still had not obtained new TAC frequencies. Kennie noted that it had been 1 1/2 years. Bobby said the Bob Garland wanted to save our \$ 1,250.00 and try the free Homeland Security frequencies. Members agreed to let Bobby Powell monitor the traffic on the proposed frequencies and report back. It was noted that Chief Pudney had agreed to train the dispatch staff on I Am Responding - but that Jamie had not scheduled a date. Members discussed problems with dispatch that were related to I Am Responding. Dean Gibbs said his department would use the system more - but the County Commissioners deleted the computer & monitor for the truck bay from his budget. Levin noted that the school system recently sold a large number of computers. Members decided to ask the Fire Commission to try to secure surplus computers for departments that need them. Kennie reported a problem communicating from Lower Bent Creek.

A Chief's 101 class was scheduled for Elk Park: April 11th & 12th. Members were reminded that all officers or prospective officers needed to attend.

It was announced that David Charlie's wife had a surgery and that David Charles was optimistic about the results.

Members discussed meeting attendance. Gary Miller said he couldn't get any help from his members when he was unable to attend.

Bobby Powell brought up the need for help with Fire Inspections from the March meeting. Members agreed to ask the Fire Commission to help with the problem so that rating points would not be lost - jeopardizing each department's rating. It was suggested that the level 2 inspector in the inspections department be allowed to complete his level three class and take over inspections during this slow building period.

Jim Brooks reported that the Ladder Company had \$ 998.43 in their donations account to use towards replacing the \$2,780 spent on the attorney. The Ladder Company also had a \$ 950.00 credit for repairs that was donated that could be put towards the bill. Members agreed to split the remaining \$ 831.57. The Secretary was asked to bill each department.

Members discussed a possible move of Charlie's office back to Newland from Gwaltney Station. Members noted the funds expended to build his office, the three year effort to get him to the station, the absence of a paid person at that station, and the resulting lost rating points. A motion was made to: "ask the Fire Commission to leave him and his office at the Gwaltney station". Members present voted in favor of the motion with two abstentions. All members agreed that they did not want any fire tax money to pay for Charlie's move or rent. Members also agreed that they did not want fire tax money paying for inspections.

A Fire Rating class was announced at Western Piedmont Community College on May 13th from 8:00AM until 5:00 PM. Kennie McFee moved "that the Association ask the Fire Commission to allow paid employees to attend". The motion carried unanimously.

Gary Miller asked that the 911 Committee help get the ESN's for Lowes hardware & Elk River Club corrected. It was noted that the same problem existed on Isaac's Branch in Frank and at Adam's Apple in Seven Devils.

Joe Shoupe discussed a frequency problem with radios that aren't programmed with the state fire frequency on large fires. He also shared a pending problem with the Forest Service Budget: the Department of Agriculture was considering a 2% budget cut specifically aimed at part time seasonal employees. This would leave many counties like ours a "one man County". He asked that the Association consider writing members of the legislature.

Levin Sudderth reported that the Contract Committee members had come to an agreement on the County Contract and that they had only deleted things that were already state law and added a negotiation extension of 60 days. The chiefs agreed to send it to the Fire Commission to take to Robert Wiseman.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.