

CHIEF'S COMMITTEE

Avery Fire Association - May 1, 2014

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

Bobby Powell announced that he was monitoring the Homeland Security frequencies for use as TAC frequencies and that they seemed to be interference-free. He agreed to monitor them until the next meeting.

Bob Garland passed out a listing of the I Am Responding usage for each department. Bob told departments that if they weren't using I Am Responding and didn't want the rating points and advantages - that should be taken off so the money could be saved. He then asked departments why they weren't using it.

He told members that water points and hydrants could be added to the system so that they would come up on the I Am Responding phone maps. He also noted that the fire commission had directed the paid employees to use the system. Paul Buchanan asked if it would be possible for the text calls to differentiate between medical and fire. He also wanted to set a protocol for what information would be a priority on each call. Members discussed dispatch's inability to consistently use I Am Responding. Some members thought that they were only using it on simple calls.

It was reported that 20 people attended the Chief's 101 class in Elk Park.

Members discussed the required county fire inspections - noting that everything would have to be done the first year and then certain properties would be done on a 3 or 5 year cycle. Rating points were at risk. It was noted that Charlie Franklin was not certified to do the inspections.

Banner Elk requested a written bill instead of an email bill for the payment to Katherine Hemphill for Association services.

Bob Garland explained that he had asked the Fire Commission about their proposal to move Charlie Franklin to Newland and that the Fire Commission had not made a decision.

Members discussed the Fire Rating Class at Western Piedmont. Members wanted the paid fire employees to attend. They noted that it was highly unlikely that we could get a class locally and wanted the Fire Commission to let the paid employees to go to Western Piedmont.

Gary Miller asked Bob Garland to bring up the incorrect ESN's at the 911 meeting. He also requested a list of ESN's so he could double check the whole list.

Joe Shoupe agreed to get the group a list of State Forest Service frequencies to add to their radios. It was noted that the agreed upon 7 frequencies should be double-checked and added to all radios when we add the TAC frequencies.

Bob asked Matt & Johnnie if they had heard anything about the county contracts. They had not. Bob agreed to bring it up at the next Fire Commission meeting.

Paul gave out copies of letters to the state complaining about the proposed Forest Service Budget cuts.

Larry Cuthbertson announced a rescue class on May 30 & 31st and invited members to send students. Melissa asked for a list of classes that members who are near certification needed. Members discussed a county-wide school with the most needed classes.

Paul handed out a letter from Bill Beuttel about Charlie's job description and a copy of the job description. It was noted that it did not have an hourly schedule of work for each day. Members thought that Charlie was definitely an asset - but that work schedules needed to be more defined and organized. No one knew if he was salaried or hourly. Members wondered why the county did not pay the Fire Commission for work that Charlie did to cover for David Charles. It was explained that the county paid for Charlie's fuel.

Mark Taylor told members that paid personnel could also be volunteers and come to calls when they were not on the clock without being paid - since they worked for the Fire Commission - not the department that they were volunteering.