

## **CHIEF'S COMMITTEE**

### **Avery Fire Association - October 1, 2015 - Gwaltney Station**

Chief Bob Garland called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Elk Park & Frank departments were not represented.

Members noted that the Dispatch Center was doing much with I Am Responding and response text messages. Street signs were still a big issue for some departments. Crossnore's missing signs list had grown to 110. Newland reported 4 signs being stolen one hour after they were replaced. Bob Garland covered several dispatch issues from last month's meeting. He explained that dispatch sent the departments to Roan Mountain that were requested by Carter County dispatch. He also noted that Wings was the primary responder - but that the next nearest helicopter would be called if they were not available.

Bobby Powell reported that the Honeywell Air Pack replacement program would be ongoing and that the air pack upgrades could be put on the 50/50 State Grant.

Charlie Franklin announced that the inspections that were requested at the joint meeting with the County Commissioners were being done. Members could not understand how someone who was 100% disabled could be performing the work.

Kennie McFee warned members that the county needed to purchase an Viper Conversion Box so Avery Departments could communicate with Watauga & Mitchell county departments. The box would allow us to use existing VHF radios on mutual aid calls. Bob Garland reminded members that there are 10 fully charged Viper portables available at Dispatch if members are working calls with neighboring counties. It was noted that Avery county would loose their Viper Channels if we don't start using them. Eric Wiseman's Viper class would help get the use started.

Joe Shoupe told members that the Forest Service matching grant came out early this year and that Newland, Banner Elk & Fall Creek were approved for monies.

Bobby Powell explained that the county could apply thru one department for regional Federal Grants. Trucks, Stations, Air Packs and Communication equipment grants were recommended. A National Grant writing firm could be hired and the cost would be covered in the grants. Bob Garland reminded departments that members need to be current with their NIMS classes and that Officers would need all four for grant consideration. It was announced that Melissa was working with Eric Wiseman to get 100 & 200 classes for those who did not want to take them online.

Mark Taylor reported that the Innovapad information was supposed to be emailed to Charlie and that it was sent to Bill Beuttel by mistake. He agreed to resend the information.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.