

CHIEF'S COMMITTEE - Avery Fire Association

Newland Fire Station - December 3, 2015

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

Bob reported that Jamey Johnson was working on missing street signs. Members discussed radio problems: an interfering station identifier, low volume, and poor reception in the Linville area.

Bob also noted that the Grant Committee had met and that they were working on grants. The Newland Equipment truck was a priority. Viper radios for each department were also considered.

Charlie Franklin reported that David Charles and the part time employee were working on the back log of commercial property inspections.

John Hall with Fortner Insurance came before the group. He explained that the death of the Green Valley member was not covered by the county's \$30,000 accidental death benefit since he was not on duty. Linville, Seven Devils, Beech Mountain and all Watauga departments have a \$50,000 death benefit and also have 24 hour a day on duty/off duty coverage. The cost to increase the other county departments would be about \$ 1,800. Unlike term life, member's ages would not increase coverage costs. This would also increase the weekly out of work subsidy from \$150 to \$500.

It was noted that the Firemen's Relief Fund monies could be used to pay for this increase in coverage. Members discussed the need to do more for their volunteer members and the fact that the Relief Fund monies are sitting in an account unused.

Departments were encouraged to contact the State Firemen's Association to see how much they could withdraw each year for the increase in coverage. Additional funds from the Fire Commission might have to cover costs for some departments.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.