

EVERY FIRE ASSOCIATION

MARCH 1, 2012

ELK PARK FIRE STATION

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Avery Fire Association was called to order by President Junior Sluder. The minutes of the February meeting were read and approved as read. Roll was called and all departments were represented.

Members of the Elk Park Department were thanked for the chicken dinner.

Deborah Phillips representing the Heritage Pension Service addressed the group. She noted that the NC State Firemen's Association wanted to put together a retirement plan for non-governmental members who can't join the state retirement plan. She said that her company had created a Defined Contribution plan that was not quite as good as the state's plan - but also not prohibitively expensive. Members receiving a W-2 from a volunteer department could contribute to the plan, departments could match to the plan, and members could add retirement monies from other plans. The state fire association agreed to pay the first five year's cost. Departments with less than 10 members would be charged \$ 550 per year after the first five years. Monies would be invested in one of 31 different mutual funds. There would be free investment counseling until the fund goes over \$ 5,000. Participants would be fully vested after 6 years. The minimum age to take money out would be 60. She agreed to check and see if the Fire Commission employees could participate. Her cell phone number was given: 1-336-408-5515.

There was no treasurer's report or fire marshal's report.

The 911 committee reported that the text messaging was not working well and that dispatch was working to get it fixed. They also announced that "I Am Responding" was being ordered and that Danny Clark, Bob Garland and Bob Pudney had been appointed to a committee to get the paper work done.

The following training was announced: Helicopter Class: Linville Central Rescue, 3/10/12 at 10:00A.M., NIMS 400 March 5th at Seven Devils, Rescue I & II at Seven Devils.

Bob Garland summarized the Chief's meeting.

Junior reminded members of the Western North Carolina Fire Association meeting at the Gamewell Department on April 18th.

Members were asked to try to get more Avery County Firemen to register online for the Three County Earthquake Drill beginning April 27th and lasting 4 days.

Junior announced that Jake Owen was doing better - but was still weak. He would be starting a new regimen at Duke soon. Members were encouraged to drop by or call him.

The Next meeting was set for Crossnore on April 5th at 6:30 p.m. for the chief's meeting and 7:00 p.m. for the association meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

AFTER THE MEETING, JUNIOR CALLED MRS. PHILLIPS AND CONFIRMED THAT THE ONLY MEMBERS WHO COULD PARTICIPATE IN THE PENSION PLAN WERE THOSE WHO RECEIVED A W-2 FROM THEIR FIRE DEPARTMENT.