

Avery Fire Association Linville Fire Station

November 1, 2012

President Paul Buchanan called the meeting to order and thanked Lorretta Trivette and the Linville members for a wonderful meal. Roll was called and all departments were represented. Minutes of the October meeting were read and approved as read. David Charles Vance reported an Association bank balance of \$ 18,461.23 with all bills paid except for the new smoke machine

David Charles gave the Fire Marshal/Emergency Management report and thanked departments for their help during Hurricane Sandy. He asked members to be especially careful and position trucks correctly when dealing with weather related calls. He reminded members that a DOT worker was killed cutting trees out of the road earlier in the year.

Bob Garland gave the Chief's Committee and 911 Committee reports. He asked members to get off the Paging channel as quickly as possible and use the Tac channels. He reported that the old Tac channel transmitters could not be narrow banded. They were purchased by the association when the association had the money, channels were available and the county would not pay for the transmitters. Now that they were part of the communications system - Bob felt like the county should pay for their replacement and agreed to pursue their replacement with the county. The cost would be \$2,400.00.

Bob Pudney reported that I Am Responding was fully operational - but that the benefits would not be fully realized until everyone was using it regularly. He emphasized that it provides accountability to the insurance company, department's rating points and pay per call - in addition to all the other uses.

It was noted that the Fire Commission would meet the following Thursday.

Melissa Phillips announced that Frank would be having classes in December and that Beech and Fall Creek would be holding FF I & II classes before the first of the year. She also announced EMT B classes starting January 22nd in the evenings and on weekends in an effort to get 22 hours per month. Banner Elk announced a driver/operator class beginning November 13th.

Paul Buchanan reminded departments to make sure all vehicles have replacement permanent tags before December 31st. He said Eric Wiseman asked him to hosting a Western N.C. Fire Association meeting in 2014. He asked members to look for a place.

David Hughes was introduced and he gave a quick summary of the Western NC Fire Association's last meeting.

Reo Griffin - County Commission candidate was introduced and he asked everyone to vote for him on Tuesday.

Paul Buchanan announced the names of the Avery County firemen with 20 years or more of service. Junior Sluder was presented a plaque in recognition of his 50 years of service. Jack Wiseman was also awarded a plaque for his 34 years of service. Retiring Chief Tony Hunter was given a plaque for over 20 years of service. David Charles Vance was given a plaque and recognized for his service as Treasurer of the Association since it's inception.

Ridge Phillips of the Newland Fire Department was awarded "Firefighter of the Year" for 2012.

Johnny Mathis was presented a plaque for saving a family from a burning home and recognized as the Western NC Fire Association Officer of the Year.

The next meeting was set for December 6th, 2012 at the Newland Fire station with the Chief's meeting at 6:30 pm.