

AVERY FIRE ASSOCIATION

Green Valley Fire Station

February 7, 2013

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Avery Fire Association was called to order by President Paul Buchanan.

Bobby Powell called the roll and all member departments were represented. Paul thanked Chief Kennie McFee and the Green Valley Ladies Auxiliary for the fine meal. Commissioner Reo Griffith was recognized.

David Charles Vance reported an association bank balance of \$ 25,271.14 and noted that he had paid for servicing both air compressors. Bob Garland moved that the Association treasurer collect an equal share from each department to pay for the Association's awards dinner, reimburse Linville VFD for the meal and that each department add this cost to next year's budget. Kennie McFee seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

David Charles reported that he had talked with Superintendent Burlison about the recent school shooting and that a retired FBI expert on school safety had been engaged to give a program at the High School on March 14th. The presentation would begin at 8:30am and last until noon, break for a meal provided and then continue from 1:15 till 4:15pm. He invited all 1st responders to attend and asked that attendees call: Leslie at the Board of Education office to reserve a meal. Paul Buchanan agreed to ask the Fire Commission to send all paid firemen.

Packets were distributed for the earthquake exercise: "Quake 2.0 - The Aftershock" by Rob Michaleski to be posted at each station and on the web site. The exercise was set for April 26th thru 29th. Paul challenged each department to send at least two members.

David Charles announced that Homeland Security had gifted a 175 KW generator to Avery County to be maintained and available thru his office.

Bob Garland covered topics discussed in the Chief's Committee meeting. He also recommended that each department consider putting a repeater into their budget for at least their first out truck and that the association consider the same for the equipment truck and ladder truck. He explained how valuable the RIT class was and encouraged members to consider holding the class again in Avery County. Bob discussed the importance of expanding our TAC channels and setting up an SOP that would require that operations on calls be moved to a TAC frequency. He reminded members that the association voted on using the same order on the first seven frequencies on every radio. Members decided that state fire was the best frequency to use if TAC frequencies weren't available. The 911 committee agreed to try to secure additional TAC frequencies.

Joe Shoupe reminded members that fire season would start soon. He noted that two helicopters would be available this spring and a third by summer. The BRIDGE program would be run totally by Forest Service employees and should be fully staffed by spring fire season. He announced a Strike Team meeting and training session on February 12th at the Newland Station. An S-215 class was announced for February 18th at the Green Valley Station.

Wayne Miller reported for the Fire Commission and announced the plans for implementing a fuel reimbursement program beginning December 12, 2012 and running thru December 12, 2013. The program would pay \$ 5.00 to \$6.00 per call to members of primary departments responding to structure fire calls. The maximum paid to any member would be \$ 599.00. He also asked for volunteers to help him organize RIT teams thru out the county. He reminded members that budget were due on Monday.

In Melissa's absence, classes were announced at Banner Elk, Linville and Frank. Members were asked to visit the Mayland Tech website and look in the Continuing Education portion of the site for exact times & dates. Paul reported from the Western NC Fire Association meeting that there were a number of Pension Fund changes, the ISO rating system would see a lot of changes next year and the next meeting would be at McDowell High on April 17th.

John Hall announced that he would be obtaining insurance quotes for several levels of coverage based on member's ages.

Kennie Mcfee noted a problem with GPS systems and asked if anyone knew how to get it corrected. The GPS shows Henson's Creek road to be open to Cane Creek . After a discussion it was noted that corrections could not be made.

Charlie announced that he was working on I.D. badges and a command board. He wanted the association to look at the system. Levin thought the association should consider adopting a system for the whole county. He noted that he and David Charles had a system that would make the cards. Tiawana Ramsey mentioned a system that Emergency Management has that is web based and statewide. Members tabled project until the state system becomes available and agreed to gather ideas.

The next meeting was set for March 7th at the Elk Park Fire station with the Chief's Committee meeting at 6:30pm and the meeting was adjourned.