

**AVERY FIRE ASSOCIATION**  
**Seven Devils Town Council Chamber**  
August 1, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of the Avery Fire Association was called to order by President Paul Buchanan. All departments were represented. Bob Garland moved that "the minutes of the July 7th meeting be approved as presented" Kennie McFee seconded the motion and the motion passed. The minutes of the July 30th Special Meeting were read and Bob Garland moved: "that they be approved as read" Hardrock Stamey seconded the motion and the motion passed.

David Charles Vance was absent and gave no treasurer's report or Fire Marshal's report.

Bob Garland moved "that the Association pay Catherine Hemphill's legal fees out of the Ladder Company's reserves". Hardrock Stamey seconded the motion. The names of the voting directors of the Association were read. Bob noted that the reserves came about when Ralph Gwaltney saved money out of the Ladder Company budget like other departments before the Fire Commission came into being. He also explained that the Fire Commission made the Ladder Company pay an accountant to work on tax penalties that came about out of Ralph's death. Members decided to double check this action with Catherine Hemphill. Mark said that there might be more private money to pay the legal fees if this payment became a problem. Joe Shoupe was appointed to head the Teller committee to distribute secret ballots and count the votes. The motion passed.

Paul Buchanan introduced Steve Marks, Disaster Service Specialist with the Red Cross Chapter that covers our five county area. He explained that he was a retired Greensboro Fireman and currently serves with the Cove Creek VFD. He offered to help people who suffer a fire loss - whether they have a place to move or not. He also offered to help with events that last more than three hours - providing canteen services, He asked members to call as quickly as possible using the county communications center when the need arises. He announced that he was working out shelter agreements with the YMCA and Land harbors.

Bob Garland announced that the 911 committee would be working on the Tac frequencies now that they are on the county maintenance contract and that 5 new simplex Tac frequencies had been ordered. Paul asked that the committee look into an "All Page" for the county. Bob also said that the I Am Responding monies were left out of the budget again.

Joe Shoupe reminded members that the Forestry Grants were in the mail.

Melissa Phillips passed out a list of upcoming classes.

Paul Buchanan asked exactly who would be attending the August 6th Fire Commission meeting and what topics they wanted to cover. He decided to meet with the Chief's again after the Association meeting.

Jim Brooks passed out the OSFM grant program for smoke detectors. Members discussed the new Carbon Monoxide detector ordinance that would become effective October 1st, 2013. Paul

covered the recent CO deaths in Boone. Beech Mtn noted that they had a monitor that would check patients for Co poisoning if a department needed to borrow it.

Junior announced that Operation Pocket change had donated \$ 4,000 to help repair the Mayland Tech Burn Building. He also noted that we had \$1,000 in reserve to cover the full cost. He hoped that the college would budget for maintenance of the building in the future.

Nomination Committee Chairman Bobby Powell nominated the following members for the Association Officers election: Paul Buchanan - President, Bobby Powell - Vice President, David Charles Vance - Treasurer and Jim Brooks Secretary.

Paul Buchanan asked for nominations from the floor. No nominations were made. Junior Sluder moved: "that we elect the four nominees presented". Kennie McFee seconded the motion and it passed.

Nominations were opened for the Association's position on the Fire Commission. Matt McClellan offered to accept the position. No other members were nominated. Hardrock Stamey moved: "that the nominations be closed and that Matt be elected". Matt was elected.

Members discussed previously elected Fire Commission members noting that sometimes they voted from the heart instead of in accordance with the desires of the Association. Both Fire Commission representatives were asked to vote the way of the Association they represent. They were also asked to table motions if they felt like they needed to poll the Directors of the Association on a vote. Michael Johnson asked that the Association promote changes to the Fire Commission and the Budgets. Members discussed increasing the 50/50 matching grant monies and creating an agenda for the Fire Commission representatives to try get thru while serving. Members asked for the proposed meeting agenda by email 3 days prior to the agenda deadline - so it could be reviewed and ideas could be forwarded to both representatives. They also asked for Fire Commission minutes to be posted on the Association website.

Members discussed Bill Beuttel as a nominee for the Fire Commission. Bob Garland announced that he had talked with Bill and that he had agreed to serve. Others were asked for ideas for a nominee. Paul reminded members that the Chairman was never elected last year. Paul covered the required method for voting in the 5th member and electing officers.

Hardrock reported that the Avery Fair would be held September 5th thru 14th and that he wanted to organized a five man team Tug of War on Wednesday September 11th.

The next meeting was set for Thursday, September 5th, 2013 at the Banner Elk Fire Station

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.