

AVERY FIRE ASSOCIATION
October 3, 2013 - Gwaltney Station

The regular monthly meeting of the Avery Fire Association was called to order by Paul Buchanan with all departments represented except Green Valley.

Bob Pudney moved: "that the minutes of the September meeting be approved as posted on the website." Junior Sluder seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Paul introduced Corey Hughes who spoke to the group and offered to serve on the Fire Commission if elected.

In David Charle's absence, members discussed the Multi-State Drill noting that classroom portion would probably take place before April of 2014.

Bob Garland gave a report from the Chief's Committee meeting.

Joe Shoupe reminded members that the law requiring that clearing and burning be at least 1000 feet from a dwelling unless written permission was acquired from each homeowner - had been reduced to 500 feet and that this law was enforced by Air Quality.

He asked that members check their forestry equipment in case Fall Fire Season begins early. He announced that he would be holding a condensed version of Wildland Fire Suppression at the Green Valley Department in January.

Joe also announced that he was working on Community Protection Assessment Plans for Banner Elk & Newland and that he would be making a presentation of the plans at each department. He asked that members contact him if they were properly trained and wanted to join the strike team. Bridge crews were fully staffed and would be available again this year.

The next Fire Commission meeting was set for October 10th and the deadline for agenda items was the 4th. Members discussed how things should be brought to the Fire Commission thru Bobby Powell and Paul Buchanan. Members discussed the proposed voting process noting that the State Statute was clear that the four members would elect a fifth and that it was designed to protect both sides. The proposed voting method would not allow the Association's two votes to block a candidate.

Charlie announced that he had 54 free smoke detectors from a state grant and that he had put flyers out in the school system and at the County Fair. He asked that each department assign two members to do the installations. He said he could re-apply for more detectors if needed.

Melissa Phillips reported that changes from Raleigh would require two weeks advance notice for classes in the future. She announced Ladder I & II beginning the 14th at Newland and Ventilation I & II beginning the 14th at Banner Elk.

Junior Slider reminded members that the Western NC Fire Association meeting would be held October 16th and asked anyone wishing to ride together meet at the Crossnore Drug Store at 4:15.

The next meeting was set for November 7th at the Linville Fire Station with the Chief's meeting at 6:30 PM and the Association meeting at 7:00. Members were asked to wear class "A" uniforms to this the Awards Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.