

Avery Fire Association Meeting

Seven Devils Town Hall

August 7, 2014

Chief Bobby Powell called the meeting to order and introduced Faith Canterbury with: Southeastern Biomedical. Her firm services & repairs AED's. They could service any brand. Members discussed a county-wide service day for AED's

President Paul Buchanan returned to the meeting and thanked Bobby Powell and the Seven Devils Fire Department for the meal. Bob Garland moved that the minutes of the July meeting be approved as posted online. Bobby Powell seconded the motion and the minutes were approved. Roll was called : Banner Elk, Elk Park, Newland and Fall Creek were absent. A quorum was present. There was no treasurer's report.

Members were invited to participate in the multi-county - two state drill at the Bethel school on September 6th. A tabletop drill was also announced at the Captain's table August 9th. A rating & water handling class with Davie Summey was announced for the 8th of August at the Newland Fire Department. Bobby Powell reported that he was trying to organize a fire control class for late September. Levin Sudderth announced that he had not received any interest for a flashover class. Members thought there was still interest and asked that he see if he could schedule the trailer. An emergency vehicle driving class was scheduled for August 19th at Foscoe VFD.

The Chief's Committee did not meet and there was no report.

Bob Garland noted that there were several computers & screens at the Gwaltney station if departments wanted screens in their truck bays for I Am Responding.

Paul Buchanan reported that the Attorney's bill for the association was 3 months past due. Bill Buettell and Paul were unable to get a meeting with the county manager about payment. Paul asked if any department had enough donated money to cover the bill quickly and be reimbursed if the county turned down payment again.

Paul also brought a written opinion from the NC School of Government confirming that Fire Tax Monies could be used for this purpose. The written opinion was as follows: " A fire department has a contract with the county (or with a fire Commission) to provide specified services in one or more service areas. The county may pay for these services with general county funds or with fire district tax proceeds.

As long as a fire department performs its duties under the contract, it is free to expend any monies it receives from the county as the fire department sees fit. The county may place further restrictions on the monies, but these would have to be specifically included in the contract with the fire department. In the absence of additional restrictions, the fire department may expend the monies for any purpose." Bob Garland made a motion to pay

the attorney's bill from the Ladder Company account if the county did not pay the bill by Monday. The motion carried.

Bob Garland reported from the 911 Committee noting that the Sherriff's frequency was being tested to determine which PL was needed. If the Sherriff's radios need to be reprogramed we would also do ours and add VTAC. Tac 1 & 2 were still experiencing interference.

Green Valley decided to use Crossnore's repeater system. Members were asked to contact Crossnore for repeater information so all departments would be in the same system. Members discussed a problem with Emergency Management's Viper radios - all batteries were dead when borrowed. Others noted the same problem. Paul agreed to talk with Sherriff Frye and see if we could offer to help David Charkles maintain the radios and batteries.

Joe Shoupe reminded members that some lands along the Tennessee border were experiencing drought conditions. He also announced that the Grant was open and that a good number of departments need more forestry PPE.

The Western NC Fall meeting was discussed. Members were assigned duties: Dean Gibbs & the Crossnore department agreed to handle parking, Johnnie Mathis agreed to be in charge of outdoor Vendor setup, Bob Garland agreed to handle indoor Vendor setup, Levin Sudderth agreed to organize the Silent Auction and Door prize collection and distribution.

Mark Taylor reminded members to start thinking about the Annual Meeting at Linville in November.

Paul Buchanan passed out two patch designs from Junior's granddaughter and Kennie's daughter. Members voted in favor of Kennie's daughter's design.

Kennie McFee, chairman of the nominating committee gave the nominating committee report: Paul Buchanan was nominated for President. Nominations from the floor were requested. After the required time period and hearing none, nominations were closed and Paul was elected by acclamation. The following slate of officers were elected in the same fashion with no nominations from the floor: Bobby Powell - Vice President, David Charles Vance - Treasurer, Jim Brooks Secretary, and Johnnie Mathis - Fire Commission.

The next meeting was set for September 4th at the Banner Elk Fire Station with the Chief's meeting at: 6:30 pm and the Association at 7:00 pm. Members were reminded to attend the Fire Commission meeting at 7:00 pm on August 14th.

The meeting was adjourned.

