

avery fire association

Gwaltney Station - October 2, 2014

President Paul Buchanan called the meeting to order and thanked members of the Avery Ladder Company for the meal. Kennie McFee moved to accept the minutes as posted. Bob Pudney seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Roll was called by Bobby Powell and all departments were represented except Fall Creek.

Members were invited to inspect Crossnore's new truck.

David Hughes, President of the Western NC Fire Association was introduced. He told members that he and his board were very excited to come to Avery County and that it appeared that the attendance would be double their largest previous meeting.

There was no treasurer's report.

Charlie Franklin announced a communications exercise at the Parkway Fire Station on October 8th. He also reported that 105 people and 34 agencies attended the four-county, two state drill at Bethel School. 20 Avery county firemen attended.

Melissa Phillips announced a Chainsaw Class at Green Valley VFD beginning October 6th and said she was trying to re-schedule Davie Summey's water supply class. Bobby Powell reported that he was still working on a fire control class.

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

Ranger Joe Shoupe announced a bi-annual Strike team meeting on October 23rd at 7:00 pm in his office. He also reminded members to check their forestry equipment for the Fall Fire season.

Members discussed grants & grant writing - noting that it was easier to get 10 trucks than one. A motion was made to ask the Fire Commission to hire Bobby Powell to write a regional grant for the entire county. The motion passed unanimously.

Paul Buchanan explained that Roy Dellinger had installed two "Click to Enter" gate systems at Grandmother Lake and the subdivision behind the bank at Invershiel. The systems were not expensive and would open to a walkie-talkie or truck mobile transmission. Members discussed asking the planning board to require them on new gates.

Charlie Franklin wanted to set up hose testing with paid employees and bridge crews. Members agreed. He also announced that he was working with each department on the Fire Prevention schedule. Paul Buchanan said that he was getting very close to getting a new Fire Safety House for Avery County thru a grant.

Charlie Franklin reported that the new compressor had been installed at the Newland station and that he was giving instructions on its use.

Bobby Powell said that the deadline for fireman of the year and fire officer of the year was today - but he was still taking nominations.

The next meeting was set for November 6th at the Linville Fire Station. Dress uniforms were requested for the meeting. The next Fire Commission meeting was set for October 9th at 7:00 pm and members were reminded that the Western NC Fire Association meeting would be October 15th at the Camp in Linville.

The meeting was adjourned.