

EVERY FIRE ASSOCIATION

Newland Fire Station - December 4, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Avery Fire Association was called to order by President Paul Buchanan. Paul thanked Matt and the Newland department for supper. The minutes were approved as posted and the roll was called. All departments were represented except Elk Park.

New County Commission Chairman Reo Griffith was introduced and he addressed the group. He said he was a proponent of "essential government" and that he would listen to requests. Paul noted that Reo had served on the committee to work out problems between the Fire Association and Fire Commission. He asked Reo if there could be a meeting of the same committee during the winter.

The treasurer reported a bank balance of \$ 34,854.76 with all bills paid.

Mayland classes were discussed. The Flashover class was tentatively scheduled for the weekend after Easter, a Driver Operator class would be held at Crossnore in late January, and an Emergency Medical class would start December 15th at Frank.

Charlie Franklin said that he and David Charles were working on a spring drill. He wanted to do an Aircraft Mass Casualty drill with the hospital. He announced that air pack tresting would be the following week.

Paul Buchanan announced that he would be leaving his position in Watauga County and moving to the Fire Marshal's position in Mitchell County.

Members attending were also at the Chief's meeting and no report was given.

Charlie reminded members that budget time was coming. Members discussed how the new method of titling trucks was eliminating the volunteer fire department's exemption from the State New Vehicle tax. It cost the Fire Commission \$ 2,012 this year. Charlie agreed to discuss it with Bill Beutell, ask the new county attorney to research it and see if departments can file to get the tax back. Charlie told members that the reserve pumper would be out of service for a few days. Charlie agreed to look at the stock of foam and order some more on the next grant cycle.

The next meeting at Mayland Tech was moved to January 8th. Matt was asked if the Fire Commission would consider a joint meeting on that date. He agreed to bring it up.

Mark Taylor made a presentation on Innovapad. Linville and Crossnore want to sign up with them. He noted that Innovapad collects from insurance companies for auto wrecks in return for a commission on the amount recovered. The average wreck can generate \$ 1,000. Monies are built into the insurance premiums and cost the auto owner nothing. Uninsured drivers are not pursued. The Linville department had a lawyer review the contract. The County Commissioners will have to adopt a resolution allowing the service to operate in Avery County. Paul asked if Mark could get Innovapad to meet with the other county departments.

Paul thanked everyone who participated in the Annual Awards Dinner.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.