

AVERY FIRE ASSOCIATION

Crossnore Fire Station - March 3, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Avery Fire Association was called to order by President Paul Buchanan. Members of the Elk Park Fire Department were thanked for the barbeque supper. Members were asked to keep the following members in their thoughts: Joe Shoupe- who lost his father, Dale Laws who suffered a heart attack, Rodney Harvey who passed away and Nedra Vance who broke her leg, Jack Wiseman who would be having knee surgery on Tuesday. Chief Bobby Powell called the roll: all departments were represented except Banner Elk & Fall Creek. Kennie McFee moved that the minutes be accepted as posted on the web site and the motion passed unanimously. Paul introduced the following candidates who addressed the membership: Rebecca Gryder - running for District Court Judge, Dianna Ballard - running for state senate, Reo Griffith & Woodie Young - running for county commission.

Charlie Franklin reported the association bank balance at: \$41,719.43

Melissa Phillips passed out class schedules for March & April. She announced that she was working on a Pump class in April, and Elevator Class - March 21st & 24th at Mayland in Newland, an Airplane Crash Simulator class the 1st week of August. Mark Parlier announced an EMS weekend Friday, Saturday & Sunday April 8th thru 10th. Members were reminded to vote in favor of the statewide Bond Referendum to help Mayland Tech and our burn building repairs.

Bob Garland reported from the Chief's Committee meeting.

Joe Shoupe asked about the two new tactical frequencies. Charlie said there were five that were approved. Members discussed better Radio SOPS and making sure all department radios were programed with the same seven frequencies and in the same order. They also discussed officers & trucks only on the paging frequency and having dispatch assign a tactical frequency when 1st unit arrives on scene. Paul appointed a committee of: Charlie Franklin, Bobby Powell, Bob Pudney & Joe Shoupe as chairman to work on improving the SOP's.

Joe Shoupe reminded members that three days of dry weather would put the county back into wildfire season. He announced that wardens: Skipper Blair & Johnny Mathis would fill in when needed and that the strike teams were now being paged and texted.

The fire commission reported that the budgets were being sent to the county commissioners and that the Innovapad information had been presented to Tim Greene - who had also agreed to attend fire commission meetings.

Members were reminded that the next Western Association meeting would be at Lovelady Fire Department April 20th. and that there are \$500 grants available to host or attend training for each department.

It was reported that the Fall Creek Tanker was not a total loss since the repair cost (\$ 140,000 to \$ 160,000) would not exceed 75% of the replacement cost.

Charlie Franklin asked that the Association consider adding plug in boxes for portable generators to each tower site in view of the fact that some of the fixed generators are 20 years old. The 50/50 matching grant and the Association fund balance were considered to cover the cost. Kennie reminded members that the Sheriff and EMS should pay 2/3 of the cost.

There being no further business, the next meeting was set for Thursday, April 7th at the Crossnore Fire station with the Chief's meeting beginning at 6:30 pm .