

EVERY FIRE ASSOCIATION

July 12, 2016 - Beech Mtn VFD Station Two

The regular monthly meeting was called to order by President Paul Buchanan. The meeting date was changed because of the Grandfather Mountain Highland games. Vice President Bobby Powell called the roll. Elk Park, Linville and Newland were absent. The minutes that were posted on the web site were approved by unanimous vote. There was no treasurer's report. There was no Chief's Committee meeting.

Bob Garland reported that Chris Bertilini had the optimizer equipment and planned to install it over the next week. He claimed that this would help with radio reception. He also said that the TAC frequencies had been approved and would be tested from Beech and Hawshaw to see if they could be used without interference. Jamie Johnson said that the Frank Tower was once again taken out of the budget because he thinks the pagers are working fine in the Frank area and that Frank would eventually use Viper towers. The district line between Crossnore and Linville on the Parkway was squared away. He also noted that the Grandmother tower had been repaired, the voting system had been upgraded and that all consoles now had the siren tone set up for medical calls. He asked that all departments reprogram their pagers so he could begin paging fire and medical separately. Kenny McFee asked if the Association could buy programming cables and software. Ron Hancock agreed to survey each department's inventory of pagers. Bob Garland moved "that the Association buy the cables and software for reprogramming pagers" Kenny McFee seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Bob Pudney agreed to give the association a cable for reprogramming Minitor IV's.

Bobby Powell reported that he had not met with the Green Valley Department to discuss filing for a county wide Federal Grant for Viper radios.

Members discussed "tree in the Road" dispatch protocols. Bob Garland said that the protocols require dispatchers to call a list of "on call" DOT personnel before calling the fire department. He noted that the DOT "on call" people don't answer the phone calls. He also explained that DOT workers were not allowed to take vehicles home which further delayed response. Kenny McFee thought Charlie Franklin was meeting with the DOT. Paul Buchanan and Bobby Powell agreed to visit with the Area Director in Boone to see if they could resolve the problem.

Ranger Joe Shoupe offered training for anyone in need. Crossnore asked for additional 400 classes.

Members discussed the County Contract noting that the portion of the contract that relates to payment in a dispute after the 1st of July pays very little for operations and does not make arrangements to repay the department after the dispute is resolved. It was also noted that paragraph three needed to be changed to put a lien on each truck and title the trucks to the individual departments to save \$ 1,200 in tax on each truck. Paul reminded Commission members that finalized budgets need to be given to the departments earlier so that issues could be resolved before July 1st.

Members discussed Piggy Back bidding and HGAC bidding which would save money on equipment purchasing and still meet the State bidding statutes.

Mayland did not get enough students to make the Haz Mat Awareness class that was to be preemptory to the Regional Drill. A Level One class will be offered starting August 15th and specialty classes will be offered in each county.

Kennie McFee thanked members for their help with Cory's funeral. Paul thanked members for help with the Gusher's Hill search.

Paul reminded members that the elections would be held at the next meeting. Paul requested that the Crossnore, Frank and Fall Creek departments provide one member to serve on the nominating committee for the elections and give report at the next meeting. Members discussed the term of office for the Fire Commission.

Paul asked members to continue making a full response on all alarm calls in spite of the recent ISO changes. Members agreed.

The next meeting was set for August 4th at the Seven Devils Fire Station. The next Fire Commission meeting was set for the following Thursday and the Western Association meeting was scheduled for July 20th.

The meeting was then adjourned.