

AVERY FIRE ASSOCIATION

Banner Elk Substation - September 1, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Avery Fire Association was called to order by President Bobby Powell. Bobby thanked the Banner Elk Department for dinner. A motion was made to accept the minutes of the August meeting as posted on the website and the motion passed. Roll was called and all member departments were represented except Newland and Elk Park. The treasurer reported a bank balance of \$ 38,246.51 with all current bills paid.

Paul Buchanan announced that he had been hired as the Assistant Avery County Fire Marshal. His position would begin September 12th and he would to put emphasis on Fire Inspections.

Melissa Phillips passed out class schedules for Mayland Tech. She noted that Aircraft Rescue Class would begin Sept 16th at Green Valley VFD.

Bob Garland Reported that the chiefs did not meet. He noted that the Ladder Truck has suffered several damaged items and that people are not reporting them. He said that repairs cannot be made if he is not made aware of the damage. The situation could be dangerous. He asked members to never fill the DOT bottle past 4,500 pounds. From the 911 committee he reported that the siren tone has been changed to a medical tone and that all pagers need to be reprogrammed in the next month.

Charlie Franklin asked the Association to set up an 800 frequency template. Bob Garland said that the committee to do this was set up last year: Bobby Powell, Bob Pudney, Joe Shoupe and Charlie Franklin. Members agreed to let the committee create a template. Departments buying 800 radios were asked to take an 800 class.

Bobby Powell discussed holding a countywide water hauling class and being able to use the times towards future ratings.

Joe Shoupe reminded members that the Forestry grant deadline had been extended to September 8th.

Members discussed Fire Commission contract timing - noting that the dollar amount could be added later or left out completely like Watauga County's contract. They also discussed the \$468 monthly payment after a contract expires. Truck titles to departments to save the \$2,000 tax was discussed. It was announced that Matt McClellan had volunteered to replace Joe Perry on the fire commission. Members discussed thanking Joe for his lengthy service at the awards meeting noting that he helped get the paid positions.

Dean Gibbs reported that his department was still getting calls for trees & trash in the road. His department waited 58 minutes for DOT to arrive. Members noted that Highway Patrol can get DOT moving faster thru Raleigh. The problem was thought to be caused by the current manager retiring. Bobby Powell was still trying to meet with the District Manager.

Bobby Powell asked for nominations for the awards dinner and asked Levin to make sure Loretta with handle the dinner. Levin Sudderth, Bob Pudney and Rob Hancock were appointed to the awards committee. members were asked to have their nominations into the awards committee by the next meeting.

Paul Buchanan said he had materials for a booth at the Avery County Fair and asked for volunteers for Sept 6th thru Sept 10th

Charlie reminded members that October is Fire Prevention month. He asked members to call and schedule their schools and he would bring around the materials.

Frank Fire Department announced their open house on October 15th at 4:00 pm

Levin Sudderth reported that the Burn Children Foundation picnic at Grandfather Mountain hosted 85 people. He said that the Chapter is still operative and that Solid Waste was considering giving a site for a trailer.

Charlie Franklin reminded members to make sure their NIFR's numbers match the number of calls and to turn in their discs every six months to David Charles. He also announced that the Prison had a water problem and now has excess bottled water. Each county department would be given 10 cases.

There being no further business, the next meeting was set for October 6th at the Gwaltney station of the Avery ladder company. Chiefs meeting: 6:30 pm.