

## **AVERY FIRE ASSOCIATION**

### **December 1, 2016 - Newland Fire Station**

The regular monthly meeting of the Avery Fire Association was called to order by Chief Bobby Powell. Roll was called by Paul Buchanan. All departments were represented except Elk Park and Banner Elk. The Newland Department was thanked for the food served.

Bob Graves and his associates from N.C. Air Quality gave a presentation on open burning and answered questions about the changes in the state statutes.

Jim Brooks reported that the last fire commission meeting covered the approval of a new truck for Linville Central Rescue, considered a county contract that automatically renewed, using truck leins instead of titling trucks to the Fire Commission, and reviewed the Innovapad Ordinance. The Fire Commission also agreed to advertise for a secretary to take the minutes.

Treasurer David Charles Vance reported an Association bank balance of \$ 42,125.42 with all bills paid. He also reported that Avery County sent manpower and equipment to help with the Horton fire.

Bob Garland noted that the Chief's Committee did not meet. He also announced that the committee to consider four alarm response had decided that it would be better to let each chief request additional equipment or departments than rewriting SOP's and reprogramming the radio console.

Mike Laws asked if there was any interest in starting an Honor Guard. He agreed to contact John Hall and report back to the Association.

Paul Buchanan announced that he had priced Class A and B uniforms. He said that Class A uniforms would run \$ 650 each and that Class B uniforms would run \$ 200 to \$ 250 depending on bulk purchase discounts. Members discussed buying a certain amount each year noting that state grant monies would not apply to uniform purchases. Paul agreed to email each department vendor information and a price for 5 sets per department.

Bobby Powell led a discussion of the Innovapad Ordinance. It was explained that Paul, David Charles, Bill Beuttell and Charlie called 5 departments that were using the system and liked it. Bill called his insurance agent and confirmed that use of the system does not increase insurance rates just like tow truck bills. Members were polled: Crossnore, Green Valley, Frank, Linville and Newland agreed that they would use the system. Members agreed and voted to charge everyone. Members discussed the monies received and voted that the monies would go to the private accounts of each department and that each department would pay the Fire Commission for supplies used on billed calls. Members voted to bill all calls - no matter how small. Mark Taylor explained the system's operation. Bobby Powell appointed Roy Dellinger, Bob Garland and Jim Brooks to a committee to create a presentation for the Fire Commission explaining why we need the system and how it would operate.

Bobby Powell asked for help getting pagers reprogramed. Paul Buchanan agreed to help.

Bobby Powell also announced that he had applied for a \$ 980,000 federal grant to equip all departments with new communications equipment.

Joe Shoupe reminded members that the burn ban was still in effect. He thanked everyone for their help during the fall fire season.

The next meeting was set for Mayland Community College - Newland Branch with the Chief's meeting beginning at 6:30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.