

AVERY FIRE ASSOCIATION

August 3rd, 2017 - Seven Devils Town Hall

The annual meeting of the Avery Fire Association was called to order by President Bobby Powell. There was no Chief's Committee meeting. Bob Garland gave the blessing and members ate a dinner prepared by the Seven Devils Fire Department. Roll was called and all departments were represented. The minutes of the July meeting were approved as posted on the Association website. There was no treasurer's report as the treasurer was on vacation.

Mayland Tech class schedules were passed out.

It was announced that there would be an Honor Guard meeting on August 21st and that Honor Guard classes would be held October 5th & 6th. Mayland Tech would not pay for the classes. Mitchell County agreed to help with the cost. Uniforms would be ordered after class completion. Members agreed to vote on expenditures at the next meeting.

Bob Garland brought a request form the Avery Fair Board asking for the Association to organize a Tug of War. Members agreed to discuss the event and act on the request at the next meeting.

Bob also asked members to help the new Rescue Squad employee - noting that she had a great deal of medical experience - but was not familiar with the eastern side of Avery County.

Matt Devin with the Avery Journal asked to speak with each Chief after the meeting to help with an article that he was writing about recruitment and retention of fire service members.

Bobby passed around two thank you notes from: Libby Gragg and Regan Dellinger, scholarship recipients.

Members reminded that the 911 committee needed a list of missing and incorrect street signs.

Ranger Joe Shoupe announced that he had a job opening for a smoke chaser.

Members discussed the Fire Commission plan to rotate the new employees around the entire county. Jeremy Hayes thought it would be great to have employees with a knowledge of the entire county. Gary Miller thought that the extra travel would be an issue. Kenny McFee thought that sharing between two departments would be enough. Charlie Franklin noted that the Commission would be able to guarantee coverage for every department. Gary Miller said that Banner Elk should not have to pay for a part time employee.

Members came up with concerns to bring to the Fire Commission: They wanted to share the new employees amongst two departments instead of the whole county. They wanted at least two Chiefs on the hiring committee. They wanted more information in the future when large decisions were being made by the Fire Commission.

Brian Bodford noted that he thought the Fire Association would be paying for the 1403 stickers. Bobby Powell agreed to review what was agreed to in the minutes for the next meeting.

Members thought that the stickers were temporary until the different helmet colors could be phased out. Brian Bodford was appointed to a committee with Levin & Jeremy to research standardized helmet colors.

Levin Sudderth reminded members that they could purchase Wings Med flight insurance for \$ 55 per member family.

Bobby Powell asked for a report of the Nominating Committee: Remington Austin reported that committee nominated Bobby Powell for President. The floor was held open for one minute and with no further nominations - Bobby Powell was elected by acclamation. Mike Laws was nominated for Vice president, Jim Brooks for Secretary and David Charles Vance for Treasurer. In all three cases, the floor was left open for one minute, there were no other nominations and all three were elected by acclamation.

Rem Austin resigned for the nominating committee and the committee nominated him for the Fire Commission. Rob Handcock and Jim Brooks were nominated from the floor. Ballots were passed out and counted. Jim Brooks & Rem Austin tied. Another ballot was taken for Rem & Jim. Rem & Jim tied again. A third vote was taken and Jim Brooks won. Brian Bodford was nominated for the Truck Committee. The floor was held open for one minute and with no further nominations - Brian was elected by acclamation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.