

AVERY FIRE ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 4TH, 2018 - NEWLAND FIRE STATION

The regular monthly meeting of the Avery Fire Association was called to order by President Bobby Powell. The Chief's Committee was cancelled. Roll was called and Banner Elk, Elk Park and Crossnore were not represented. Bobby thanked Chief Brian Bodford and the Newland Department for allowing the meeting to be switched from Mayland Tech on short notice. The minutes were approved unanimously as posted on the association website. Scott Stansbury was introduced as the new Association Vice President.

Melissa Phillips announced a portable extinguisher class at the Newland department January 22nd & 24th. She also noted that she is putting together a committee to position the buildings together for a smokehouse.

Members were reminded that the Federal Forestry grant deadline was the following Tuesday.

Charlie Franklin asked departments with members who have joined more than one department to get him a list since they now must be paid by both departments for State Fire Association coverage. They also must be certified by January 15th. Ladder Company members and paid employees will be listed under the Fire marshal's office.

Paul Buchanan brought up the need for Association rules determining how many departments a person can join. He also reminded members that the Bylaws of the Association relating to the ladder Company needed to be updated as they currently require Ladder Company members to be members of an Avery County department. Paul made a motion to: "change the Association Bylaws accordingly". Bob Pudney seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Members were notified of a power outage covering half the county. The Newland Rock Gym was considered if a warming shelter was needed. Several members left to deal with the situation.

Air Med Care representatives explained their program and passed out brochures. Levin Sudderth explained that one of the Linville members was flown twice. The first flight cost \$ 41,300.

It was reported that County flag became greased up at Hardrock's funeral and could not be cleaned. Kennie McFee made a motion that: "the Association purchase a new flag and weights for it if available". Brian Bodford seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Bobby Powell announced that he was still trying to arrange a Rating Class in the spring - noting that the state is moving towards re-rating every 5 years.

Brian Bodford asked if the Equipment truck could be rolled only after a structure fire call is confirmed. Members discussed and agreed that it would be OK. He also brought up several dispatch problems: an alarm system call at Mayland Tech was not paged - dispatch instead called the town police to reset the system instead of their department. Dispatch was sending Elk Park as the primary department to calls in the Newland district. Dispatchers are questioning requests and cancellations. Members thought new dispatchers were causing the problem and asked the 911 committee to deal with the problems.

There being no further business, the next meeting was set for the Green Valley fire station on February 1st - Chief's meeting at 6:30pm and Association at 7:00pm.