

AVERY FIRE ASSOCIATION

December 12, 2018 - Mayland Tech - Newland Branch

The regular monthly meeting of the Avery Fire Association was called to order by President Scott Stansberry. Scott thanked the Mayland staff for hosting the meeting and providing the meal. The minutes of the November meeting were approved as posted on the website. The treasurer reported that association bank balance was \$ 47,295.98. Several bills were outstanding.

Paul Buchanan gave the Emergency management/Fire Marshal's report: he noted that there were several back to back fire calls recently (with good stops on both) and an extremely difficult underwater rescue on Beech. He announced that he was getting a new message board and that he was working on a list of county special resources. He reminded members that we would probably see a large dump of snow in the county over the weekend.

Scott asked departments what their policies were regarding chaining - reminding members that it was easier to drop chains than put them on. Paul Buchanan noted that Watauga & Mitchell counties and Tennessee get better response from DOT than Avery.

Melissa Phillips was absent, but her staff reported that the Three Mile project would start in the Spring and that they had received the engineer's quote. They announced that they would be happy to set up Mechanical CPR training classes now that EMS is carrying them. It was mentioned that Davie Summey was trying to set up a rating class. Firefighter one & two classes would start again soon. Melissa is working on a Recruitment and Retention class for the spring.

Bob Garland gave a report from the Chief's Committee meeting: Members discussed changing the dispatch protocol so Newland would respond automatically on all of Linville's alarm calls so Linville would get more rating points for the Newland members. Bob Garland moved that we page the primary department and page the 2 auto aid departments to be on standby. Dean Gibbs seconded the motion. Bob Pudney warned that a large number of firemen would begin waiting to see if anything materializes and other would begin turning off pagers. Members discussed rating points for 2nd call departments. Paul wanted to double check the state's policy. Scott did not understand why the CAD could not be programmed individually. It was noted that Watauga County's dispatch system can automatically page 4 departments on large events. Levin Sudderth read his letter from Jamie Johnson. Bob Garland table his motion and asked the group to research what Watauga does and what Southern Software can do to see if large homes and buildings can be setup to respond more departments. Bob Pudney moved that the association approve what was in Levin's letter and send back to Jamie Johnson noting that the Fire Commission does not need to approve an operational request. The vote was unanimous. Scott set up a committee to research the issue: Paul Buchanan, Jeremy Hayes and chairman Brian Bodford. Scott noted that he would be meeting shortly with the county manager and assistant soon.

Joe Shoupe announced that things looked good on his front and that he could do forestry classes this winter.

Charlie Franklin passed out proposed hiring policy changes.

New Business:

Paul reported that he is still working on an Explorer program at the high school and that the middle school wants one too.

Scott reported that Bob Pudney had been unable to get the Bylaws Committee together. The Training Committee had not met. Scott announced that he was writing a Fire Prevention Trailer Grant with Vickers Grant Writing company at a cost of \$ 750.00. The host department would be Green Valley.

The Next meeting was set for Newland Fire station with the Chief's meeting [at 6:30](#) and the Association [at 7:00 pm](#)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.