

AGENDA
Avery County Fire Commission
Regular Meeting
January 11, 2017

- 7:00 p.m. I. Convene Meeting/Invocation
- 7:02 p.m. II. Call to Order
Additions/deletions to agenda
Public Comments
- Agenda Items
- 7:05 p.m. A. Linville Fire Department wanting to know who will pay their insurance
Deductible on the claims from live burn on 11/18/17
- 7:10 p.m. FDC Report
1. Update on NC Fireman's Association dues.
- 7:12 p.m. IV. Approval of minutes from December 14th 2017
- 7:15 p.m. V. Upcoming Meetings & Other Issues of Concern
- Next Fire Commission regular meeting will be February 8th 2017
at 7pm in Avery County Commissioner's board room
Avery County Firemen's Association meeting, February 8th
2018 at Green Valley Vol. Fire Dept. at 7:00pm.
- 7:18 p.m. VI. Closed Session Personnel
- 7:20 p.m. VII. Adjourn

**AVERY COUNTY FIRE COMMISSION
MINUTES**

The Avery County Fire Commission met in a Regular meeting on Thursday, December 14, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Boardroom, Newland N.C.

Bob Garland led prayer.

I. CALL TO ORDER (7:00 p.m.)

Chairman Mathes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All Board members were present. Charlie Franklin and Beth Reath also present.

II. ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO AGENDA: None

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS (7:01 p.m.): None

IV. AGENDA ITEMS (7:02 p.m.)

A. and B.

TRUCK COMMITTEE REPORT AND AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR FALL CREEK TRUCK: Truck Committee Chairman, Matt McClellan, stated that the Truck Committee had met with Fall Creek and had approved Anchor Ritchie's specifications for the new pumper tanker. He noted that originally, the Fire Commission had agreed to pay \$250,000 above the \$125,000 paid by the insurance claim. He reviewed the final cost for awarding the Bid to Anchor Ritchie as follows:

Total Cost of new Truck per Anchor Ritchie	\$394,593.00
Total Paid by Insurance - Damaged Truck Claim	<u>- 121,480.16</u>
Total to be paid by Fire Commission:	\$273,112.84

Note: previous estimate of insurance payout was \$125,000; previous estimate by Anchor Ritchie for new pumper tanker was \$400,000.

Motion made by Bill Beuttell, second by Jim Brooks to approve purchase of new truck and Award of Bid to Anchor Ritchie in the amount of \$273,112.84. Chairman Mathes asked for further discussion. Motion approved by those in attendance.

C. LINVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT REQUEST FOR FUNDS TO REPLACE HEATING FURNACE: Charlie Franklin noted that Mark Taylor, Linville Fire Chief, was unable to attend the meeting. Mark requests that the Board review and approve the quote by Complete Comfort Heating & Air Conditioning in the amount of \$2,350.00. The new gas fired heating system will replace the current gas fired system. Note: Charlie further explained that (1.) to fix the existing furnace would cost as much as replacing with a new one and (2) to replace system with waste oil heater would cost more than replacing current heater and would not be practical. Matt noted that there was a lot of upkeep associated with the oil heater system.

Motion made by Bill Beuttell, second by Matt McClellan to approve Linville's request for funds to have installed new gas heating unit in the amount of \$2,350.00. Chairman Mathes asked for further discussion. Motion approved by those in attendance.

D. LINVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION - PAYMENT OF INSURANCE DEDUCTIBLE FOR 11/18/17 "LIVE" BURN: This item is tabled until next month's Fire Commission meeting on January 11, 2018.

E. PAYMENT TO N.C FIREMAN'S ASSOCIATION FOR MEMBERSHIPS FOR PAID EMPLOYEES: Charlie explained the issue of paid employees (Fire Commission staff) not meeting the State's definition of fire fighters in North Carolina because they are not under a roster of a certified fire department. The same issue exists for the Ladder Company. Charlie noted that he, Paul Buchanan and Bobby Powell had a phone conference with Deputy Director Benson to find a solution. The solution they came up with was to put all the paid employees (and Ladder Co. members) under the Fire Marshal's roster. The annual cost is \$1,520 for 38 employees @ \$40 each. Regarding the death benefit: Johnny Mathes noted that this was coverage anytime employee was at work. Bill Beuttell asked if this coverage was in effect even if employee was not at their primary station. Charlie stated this is correct.

Motion made by Matt McClellan, second by Jim Brooks to approve payment of \$1,520 to the Fireman's Association for membership dues for paid employees. Chairman Mathes asked for further discussion. Motion approved by those in attendance.

Further Discussion - Coverage for Volunteers: Bill asked should there be a limit of how many departments a person would be a member of? Chairman Mathes stated that the cost is not just a single cost per employee. This is a per person, per Fire Department cost. Charlie noted this would have to be addressed at budget time and he asked if Fireman's Association should review this? Paul Buchanan expressed concerns about the January 15, 2018 deadline and there being employees with no coverage. The next Fireman's Association meeting isn't until January 4th. The concern is for a death to occur before any decisions could be made. Bill suggested paying for everyone in their primary department to expedite. It was suggested that each Fire Chief create a list of his members to cover, and then pay for them out of station fund balance. This cost would then be reimbursed by the Fire Commission. Bryan Bodford said he has several members that are at two different fire departments. Volunteers are hard to come by and even if they have to be paid for by several different departments, this needs to be done. If they make their hours, we should pay this. Matt McClellan suggested a memo be sent out to the Chiefs to come up with a list of employees - to have them pay the cost (up to \$3,000) and then the department would be reimbursed by the Fire Commission.

Motion made by Matt McClellan, second by Corey Hughes to approve reimbursement to each Fire Department up to \$3,000 for their cost to insure their Volunteer firemen. Chairman Mathes asked for further discussion. Motion approved by those in attendance.

F. EMPLOYEE REQUESTS FOR TRAINING ON JANUARY 8-12, 2018: Ben Issacs and Kacey Hughes have requested to take rescue training at Mayland Community College January 8-12 from 8 AM to 5 PM. Training will be during work hours (comp time used) and rovers will cover for them at Fall Creek.

Motion made by Corey Hughes, second by Matt McClellan to approve cost and time required for training classes for employees Ben Issac and Kacey Hughes. Chairman Mathes asked for further discussion. Motion approved by Jim Brooks and Bill Beuttell.

FDC REPORT (7:21 p.m.) - Charlie Franklin stated that inspection at Newland had gone well. There are no issues to report at this time.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 9, 2017 (7:22 p.m.): Charlie stated that Assistant County Manager, Cindy Turbyfill, had expressed concern over the votes not taken by Corey Hughes and Matt McClellan at the November 9, 2017 meeting regarding the approval of additional funds requested by Green Valley for their new truck. Charlie asked for confirmation by Corey Hughes and Matt McClellan on how they voted on Green Valley's request for additional funds as outlined in the November 9, 2017 meeting. They informed him that they approved the request.

VI. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND OTHER ISSUES OF CONCERN (7:23 p.m.):

-Next Firemen's Association meeting will be January 4, 2018 - Mayland Community College Avery Campus at 7:00 p.m. (Chief's meet at 6:30)

-Next Fire Commission Regular meeting will be January 11, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in Avery County Commissioner's Board Room, Newland.

VII. CLOSED SESSION (7:24 p.m.):

Motion made by Johnny Mathes that the Board go into Closed Session with Statute G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (6). Second by Jim Brooks. Motion approved by those in attendance.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION (8:36 p.m.):

Motion made by Bill Beuttell, second by Jim Brooks to Return to Open Session. Motion approved by those in attendance.

Item of Discussion:

EQUIPMENT PURCHASE FOR BANNER ELK AND LADDER COMPANY: Charlie explained the need for equipment by employees. Chairman Mathes put forth the issue of equipment required for paid employees use at the Banner Elk and Ladder Company Fire stations as follows:

1. Laptop Computer (for remote entries)
2. Cable / Internet (for the above)
3. Camera (security) (remote staff management by Chief)

Motion made by Matt McClellan, second by Jim Brooks to approve paying for the cost of Laptop Computer, Internet/Cable and Security Camera in the approximate amount of \$3,000. Chairman Mathes asked for further discussion. Motion approved by those in attendance.

VIII. ADJOURN (8:45 p.m.):

Motion made by Matt McClellan, second by Corey Hughes to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved by those in attendance.

**Johnny Mathes, Chairman
Avery County Fire Commission**

Attest: _____