

**AGENDA**  
**Avery County Fire Commission**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**July 12, 2018**

- 7:00 p.m.            I. Convene Meeting/Invocation
- 7:05 p.m.            II. Call to Order  
                          A. Additions/deletions to agenda  
                          B. Public comments
- 7:10 p.m.            III. Agenda Items
- A. Jim Brooks Report from Association meeting  
                          B. Truck Committee report
- 7:40 p.m.            FDC Report  
                          1. Up Date on ladder truck.
- 7:42 p.m.            IV. Approval of minutes from June 8<sup>th</sup> 2018 and July 2  
                          2018 Meetings
- 7:45 p.m.            V. Upcoming Meetings & Other Issues of Concern  
                          Next Fire Commission will be August 9, 2018 at  
                          7:00pm. In Commissioners board room. Avery  
                          County Firemen's Association meeting August 2,  
                          2018 at Seven Devils Vol. Fire Department at 7:00pm.
- 7:47 p.m.            VI. Closed Session  
                          Personnel G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (6)
- 8:00 p.m.            VII. Adjourn

**AVERY COUNTY FIRE COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

The Avery County Fire Commission met in a Regular meeting on May 10, 2018, 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 Beuttell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All Board members were present except Corey Hughes and Matt McClellan. Charlie Franklin also present. A reporter from the Avery Journal was present. Absent: Beth Reath.

**II. ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:**

Charlie Franklin put forth an addition to the Agenda: Item C. Linville Central's Paid Position

**Motion made by Jim Brooks, second by Johnny Mathes to amend the Agenda to add "C" Linville Central's Paid Position. Chairman Beuttell asked for further discussion or comment. Motion approved by those in attendance.**

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS (7:01 p.m.): none**

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

**A. DISCUSSION ON WINGS MEMBERSHIP:** Charlie noted that cost of the Wings Insurance, discussed at previous meetings, will increase from \$65 per household to \$85 per household on June 1st. He noted that obtaining the policy before that date would save money. Chairman Beuttell asked for an explanation of what this policy covered. Steve (representative for Wings) explained that this was actually a membership (not insurance), which covers an individual's entire household for helicopter flights to hospitals in such locations as Charlotte, Asheville and Johnson City. This is for unlimited flights and does not require that household members be related. There will be one primary member in each household. Paper forms must be turned in for members and Charlie will assist in coordination of getting the paperwork to him. Chairman Beuttell asked about its cost and Charlie stated it would be approximately \$24,000 for one year for 350 households. The 3-year would be \$68,250. Steve noted there is no 2-year plan. Beuttell asked what the flight cost would be without the membership and Steve stated that flights averaged an out-of-pocket expense of \$18,000 per flight. Beuttell noted this is a great benefit for the volunteers. Charlie stated that many Fire Department members already have this membership. Steve said with the adoption of this "group" membership coverage, for those who already have it, their coverage time will be extended.

**Motion made by Jim Brooks, second by Johnny Mathes to approve adoption of membership plan in Wings for 300+ households for one year at a cost of approximately \$24,000. This approval will enable Chairman Beuttell to sign the contract as representative for the Fire Commission. This will be paid out of the 2017-2018 Fire Commission fund balance. Chairman Beuttell asked for further discussion or comment. Motion approved by those in attendance.**

Steve brought forth the contract and Chairman Beuttell executed the document.

Jim Brooks questioned if the Board needed to discuss the adoption of additional death benefit insurance for staff. It was noted that this item would be discussed after the final budget was approved. Chairman Beuttell noted that the policy would emulate what Linville currently has with their policy of \$100,000 on the job coverage and \$50,000 off the job.

**B. JIM BROOKS - FIREMAN'S ASSOCIATION MEETING REPORT:** Jim noted that those attending tonight's Fire Commission meeting were present at the Fireman's Association meeting, so no report necessary.

**C. LINVILLE CENTRAL - PAID POSITION:** Charlie noted that Linville Central and others had met with the potential new employee. The ad for this position had been run numerous times. The consensus was to ask the Fire Commission to hire Nathaniel Johnson who had met the deadline for applying and had the qualifications for the position.

**Motion made by Jim Brooks, second by Johnny Mathes to approve the hiring of Nathaniel Johnson for the paid position at Linville Central Rescue. Chairman Beuttell asked for further discussion or comment. Motion approved by those in attendance.**

#### **FDC REPORT (7:16 p.m.)**

Charlie noted that the 9S inspection of Frank Fire Department was complete. Frank met all required certifications.

#### **V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - FEBRUARY 26, 2018 AND APRIL 19, 2018 (7:18 p.m.):**

Chairman Beuttell noted a needed correction to the 2/26/18 minutes where the Fire Commission Certificate of Deposit (CD) amount was shown as \$1,000,000. This was a typographic error where an extra "0" was inserted and actual CD amount is \$100,000. The minutes were not approved previously (until tonight) and he apologized for this unintentional error. Charlie noted he had sent the bank record for the CD (a statement dated back to its original purchase) to Joe Hawkins (Linville) and he would supply it to anyone who requested to see it.

**Motion made by Johnny Mathes, second by Jim Brooks to approve the corrected February 26, 2018 minutes where CD amount of \$1,000,000 changed to \$100,000 and to approve the April 19, 2018 minutes (as-is). Chairman Beuttell asked for further comment. Motion approved by those in attendance.**

**COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN:** Beuttell stated that if any of the Fire Chiefs have an issue with the current Fire Commission funding mechanism, to please call him. He has not spoken to any of them who has told him directly that it doesn't work and why. He noted that the Board tries to make responsible decisions for all the fire departments. Perceptions can be wrong. Wrongs are unintended. The Chiefs need to come to us and tell us why the 7-cent tax is inadequate. We want to make things better. The Fire Commission will meet with the County Commissioners, Senator Deanna Ballard, Representative Josh Dobson and the Fire Chiefs to air all concerns and make things better.

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

-Next **Fire Commission Budget** meeting is Thursday, May 17, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. Meeting with County Commissioners to review the proposed 2018-2019 budget. To be held in the County Commissioner's Board room, Newland.

Upcoming Meetings and Other Issues continued...

-Next **Firemen's Association** meeting will be June 7, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Fall Creek, Station 2. (Chief's meet at 6:30).

-Next **Fire Commission Regular** meeting will be June 14, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in County Commissioner's Board Room, Newland.

VII. **CLOSED SESSION**: none

VIII. **ADJOURN (7:26 p.m.)**:

Motion made by Jim Brooks, second by Johnny Mathes to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Beuttell asked for further comments. Motion approved by those in attendance.



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Bill Beuttell, Chairman  
Avery County Fire Commission

Attest:  \_\_\_\_\_