

AGENDA
Avery County Fire Commission
Regular Meeting
August 9, 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. Jim Brooks/Bob Garland update on Ladder & Squirt
 C. Bid Award for Linville Central QRV
 D. Johnny Mathes Update on Franks Service Truck
- 7:50 p.m. FDC Report
 1. Jeffery Thompson Request to take Training 8/14/18
- 7:52 p.m. IV. Approval of minutes from July 12,18, 2018
 Meetings
- 7:53 p.m. V. Upcoming Meetings & Other Issues of Concern
 Next Fire Commission will be September 13, 2018 at
 7:00pm. In Commissioners board room. Avery
 County Firemen’s Association meeting September 6,
 2018 at Banner Elk Vol. Fire & Rescue Station
 2 at 7:00pm.
- 8:00 p.m. VI. Closed Session
 Personnel G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (6)
- 8:30 p.m. VII. Adjourn

**AVERY COUNTY FIRE COMMISSION
MINUTES**

The Avery County Fire Commission met in a Regular meeting on June 14, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Boardroom, Newland N.C.

I. CONVENE MEETING - Bob Garland led prayer.

II. 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 for Corey Hughes. Charlie Franklin and Beth Reath were also present. Special guest: County Manager, Phillip Barrier.

A. ADDITIONS / DELETIONS: None

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

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

A. FIREMAN'S ASSOCIATION MEETING REPORT: Jim Brooks read aloud from a Fireman's Association letter written to Phillip Barrier, County Manager. They propose a change to the physical makeup to the Fire Commission as follows:

June 8, 2018

Phillip Barrier
Avery County Manager
Newland, NC 28657

Dear Phillip:

The Avery County Fire Association met last night and voted to request that the Avery County Board of Commissioners change the physical makeup of the Avery County Fire Commission - either by statute change or memorandum as follows:

"Commission membership shall consist of five (5) persons who are members in good standing of a Avery County Fire department or citizens of Avery County , one appointed by the Avery County Board of Commissioners and three elected by the Avery County Fire Association and appointed by The Avery County Board of Commissioners. The remaining member shall be chosen by the other four (4) sitting members of the Commission."

Please submit this request to the Avery County Board of Commissioners

Chief Bobby Powell
President
Avery County Fire Association

This request to be presented at the June 28, 2018 County Commissioners meeting for their vote.

Other items discussed in the meeting:

- * A request that Fire Departments receive a \$5,000 budget for Medical Supplies (2018-2019). *[This line item had been capped at \$500, as Fire Departments were to get their medical supplies from EMS. However, EMS does not have the necessary medical supplies required].*
- * A suggestion that Fire Departments receive the assistance of an independent person or company when applying for Federal grants. Consultant would be paid for by the Fire Commission.
- * Whereas Linville Vol. Fire Department's had requested a mechanical CPR machine, it was suggested that research should be done on 3 brands, with a goal to eventually provide each individual fire department with same.
- * Discussion about the Fire Commission having \$165,000 in Medical Supply funds. This misunderstanding was the result of a single budget entry placed in the Commission's medical supply line item (for holding) until it would be later distributed to the Fire Departments. (the number was the total requested by fire departments for 2018-2019). This occurred during preliminary stages of the budget process.
- * A suggestion that the consultant who initially provided the 54-page vehicle replacement study, work together with each fire department to determine vehicle replacement needs.

Chairman Beuttell requested Comments: None made.

B. LINVILLE CENTRAL REQUEST FOR PAYMENT OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES:

Charlie Franklin explained that \$1,300 was an overage in the medical supply line item. It is requested the Fire Commission pay this.

Motion made by Matt McClellan, second by Johnny Mathes to approve Linville Central's request that the Fire Commission pay \$1,300 cost of medical supplies. Chairman Beuttell asked for further discussion or comment. Motion approved by those in attendance.

Other Linville Central Issues:

1. Bob Garland requested that Linville Central be allowed to move line item funds in several line items in order to cover expenses for other line items. Charlie confirmed that this is to zero out certain line items. Chairman Beuttell asked Charlie if a motion was needed to allow for transfer of funds and it was determined that this could be approved without Motion. The Board agreed that balances could be transferred and therefore **Linville Central is granted permission to do so**. Charlie Franklin will provide line item transfer sheets.

Johnny Mathes suggested further discussion be held on allowing all departments to move balances at yearend to better align budgets. It was noted that this is generally allowed at year-end.

2. Bob requested information on the new QRV to be provided Linville Central, as they need this vehicle soon.

3. Jim Brooks asked Bob about the status of entering information on call reports in the Fire House software. Due to lack of staffing, Linville Central has gotten behind in this task. Jeff "Chicken" has done some of the entries. Bob requests the Fire Commission hire someone to assist with this. Chairman Beuttell asked Beth if she could assist on an hourly basis and she agreed to contact Shane Garland (828-387-1603) at Linville Central to discuss. This cost will be borne by the Fire Commission.

4. Bob brought up the issue of the wrecked Ladder Truck repairs and noted that additional (already needed) repairs should be made while it is in the shop.

Charlie had located a good used truck (see FDC Report) in Pennsylvania (more info provided below). He explained the advantages of purchasing this truck. Paul Buchannan noted replacement with the "blue" truck could possibly be purchased through Federal grant. He feels it would be a good backup truck when repaired truck is returned. Jeremy Hayes (Fall Creek) expressed concern over where the truck could be housed.

Brian Bodford (Newland) noted that it had been decided previously (2016) to not purchase used vehicles. Charlie said the Newland (used) equipment truck had been a good purchase. Mark (Linville) expressed that Spartan was not a good choice. Charlie noted that the truck could be housed at Crossnore and Mark noted that they would receive ISO credits. Jim noted that insurance money would help buy time for this decision.

Chairman Beuttell laid out the following steps: (1) Insurance will allow truck to be rented. (2) Truck Committee to locate and study purchase of additional truck. He instructed Charlie to arrange meeting with Committee members. Charlie suggested a possible field trip to Brindle to see what they have.

- IV. FDC REPORT (7:20 p.m.)** - As a part of the Agenda, Charlie provided a printed detailed update on the status of the damaged 9900 Ladder Truck. The truck is now on route to Ohio for repairs at the Sutphen factory. The extent of the damage could require it to be gone 4-6 months. Insurance will pay \$240 per day for approximately 40 days only or \$10,000.

He suggested working with Brindle Mountain to purchase a truck to suit current needs and he has located a 50' Telesquirt for \$90,000 (see full description and recommendation on FDC / Item 1. report. Emergency coverage (help) from adjoining districts was discussed.

Charlie stated that he would have a more definite repair schedule for the truck by next week.

- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MAY 10, 2018 (7:36 p.m.):**

Motion made by Jim Brooks, second by Matt McClellan to approve May 10, 2018 minutes. Motion approved by those in attendance.

- VI. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND OTHER ISSUES OF CONCERN (7:38 p.m.):**

-Next **Firemen's Association** meeting will be July 5, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Beech Mountain Vol. Fire Dept. Station 2 (Chief's meet at 6:30).

-Next **Fire Commission Regular** meeting will be July 12, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in Avery County Commissioner's Board Room, Newland.

- VII. CLOSED SESSION (7:40 p.m. to 8:05 p.m.)** The Board then went into closed session per Statute G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (6). See closed session minutes dated June 14, 2018.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION (8:05 p.m.)

Clarification made by Matt McClellan: Matt corrected that it was the Truck Committee's and Fire Commission's joint consensus (and not his alone) that it was not desirable to purchase used trucks. [note: this idea has been reconsidered due to lack of funds for buying new trucks].

VIII. ADJOURN (8:08 p.m.):

**Motion made by Jim Brooks, second by Matt McClellan to adjourn the meeting.
Motion approved by those in attendance.**

Bill Beuttell

**Bill Beuttell, Chairman
Avery County Fire Commission**

Attest: *Chris [unclear]*

**AVERY COUNTY FIRE COMMISSION
CONFERENCE CALL
MEETING MINUTES**

The Avery County Fire Commission met in a **Special Meeting** on Monday, July 2, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. via Telephone Conference Call. The purpose of the meeting was to receive a recommendation for or against the purchase of a used Ladder Truck located in Pennsylvania. Charlie Franklin (representing Ladder Company) and Truck Committee members, Brian Bodford and Charles Ballard were calling from Pennsylvania and had inspected the truck on behalf of the Fire Commission.

I. CALL TO ORDER (12:00): Chairman Bill Beuttell called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Present on Call from Avery County: Bill Beuttell, Johnny Mathes, Jim Brooks, Corey Hughes, Matt McClellan. Also present: Beth Reath. Present on Call from Pennsylvania: Charlie Franklin (for himself, Brian Bodford and Charles Ballard).

II. AGENDA (12:02 p.m.)

REVIEW & RECOMMENDATION REGARDING PURCHASE OF USED LADDER TRUCK

Charlie Franklin explained that he, Brian Bodford and Charles Ballard had put together a list of pros and cons after a thorough inspection of the truck. Such items considered were a rust issue, age, availability of parts, wear and tear, and its suitability for Avery County's needs.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the used truck NOT be purchased.

Chairman Beuttell verified who the participants were in providing the inspection and then verified with Charlie that no action was to be taken at this time. He noted that the search for a ladder truck will continue. On behalf of the Fire Commission, he thanked Charlie, Brian and Charles for their efforts.

MEETING ADJOURNED (12:05 p.m.)

Motion made by Matt McClellan to Adjourn, second by Jim Brooks to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Beuttell asked for further comments. Motion to adjourn unanimous by those in attendance.



Bill Beuttell, Chairman
Avery County Fire Commission

Attest:  _____