

**AGENDA**  
**Avery County Fire Commission**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**September 13, 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
- C. Crossnore Request for funds to purchase Equipment from Grant funds that is held in Fire Commission contingents from the 17/18 grant.
- D. Crossnore request to use funds receive From the sale of their old tanker to Newland VFD to purchase a steam and pressure washer.
- E. Crossnore Request to be reimbursed for paying for Drone licensing.
- F. Crossnore
- G. Fall Creek request to be reimbursed for repairs on old brush truck To convert it to a service truck.
- H. Linville Fire Dept. request funds to refinish their bay floors.
- I. Newland Roof
- J. Newland request to sale old tanker and use funds toward truck maintenance.
- K. Jeffery Thompson request to take drone training on October 22, 2018.

7:55 p.m. FDC Report  
1. Seven Devils received approximately \$55,000.00 from a Federal Grant  
2. Information obtained on a Grant writer

7:58 p.m. IV. Approval of minutes from August 9, 2018 Meetings

8:00 p.m. V. Upcoming Meetings & Other Issues of Concern  
Next Fire Commission will be October 11, 2018 at 7:00pm. In Commissioners board room. Avery County Firemen's Association meeting October 4, 2018 at Avery Co. Ladder (Gwaltney Station) 2 at 7:00pm. Joint meeting Fire Assoc., Fire Commission & County Commissioners September 17, 2018 at 5:00 pm

In County Commissioners board room

8:15 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 July 12, 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 Matt McClellan and Jim Brooks. Charlie Franklin and Beth Reath were also present.

**A. ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:** Charlie provided the Board with a printed copy of the cost breakdown for Linville's truck repair. [Beuttell explained he had received a call from Charlie earlier in the week reporting the breakdown of one of Linville's trucks]. Initially, the repair cost was thought to be minimal, but repair cost of "turbo" turned out to be costly. The repair cost exceeds the \$5,000 limit that fire departments can negotiate without approval by the Fire Commission Chairman. Charlie requested that the item be added as Agenda Item "C" - Triad Freightliner of Tennessee Cost Breakdown in the amount of \$6,696.43 for Linville Volunteer Fire Department's Spartan fire truck repair.

**Motion made by Corey Hughes, second by Johnny Mathes to Add Discussion of Item "C", Triad Freightliner of Tennessee cost breakdown, to the Agenda. Chairman Beuttell asked for further discussion or comment. Motion approved by those in attendance.**

**B. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Brian Bodford brought to the attention of the Board, the fact that the State grant website stipulates that all fire department receipts and proof of payment must be provided to the State before they will send \$30,000 grant money to reimburse fire departments. Johnny noted that this information should've been printed on the application and that what this means, is that each fire department will have to spend \$60,000 to get back \$30,000. Chairman Beuttell noted that this will be a drain on Fire Commission reserves and Charlie commented that they may need to go to the County for the capital to buy Frank's truck (funds to purchase trucks are usually held until late in the year by County). Chairman Beuttell asked how long it takes to get paid by the State and it was noted it may take 60-90 days to receive payment.

**III AGENDA ITEMS (7:08 p.m.)**

**A. FIREMAN'S ASSOCIATION MEETING REPORT:** In Jim Brooks absence, Charlie provided the Board with an e-mail addressed to Chairman Beuttell from Jim. Beuttell then read aloud the email which stated that Jim recommends purchase of the truck located in Pennsylvania and that two people should be sent to purchase of the truck located in Pennsylvania and that two people should be sent to purchase the inspected engine and bring it back soon as possible.

**B. FRANK FIRE DEPT. SERVICE TRUCK:** Charlie reported that the Truck Committee didn't have a quorum at its last meeting, however they voted by majority that

a representative from Frank VFD be sent to inspect the truck in Alabama. Johnny explained that there are two trucks for sale; one located in Colorado and the one located in Alabama. He noted that it was not feasible to purchase a truck in Colorado due to the expense of flights and difficulty of driving the truck back to Frank. Beuttell noted that two people should go look at the truck in Alabama. [This would be Johnny and Frank staff member Jerry Jones.] Jerry, who was present at the meeting, noted the asking price of the truck was \$69,000 and its location was in Union Mills, Alabama.

**Motion made by Corey Hughes, second by Bill Beuttell to authorize Frank VFD Chief, Johnny Mathes (and one other), travel to Alabama to inspect the truck to make a recommendation for purchase. Chairman Beuttell asked for further discussion or comment. Motion approved by those in attendance.**

Johnny noted that he and Jerry will go to Alabama on Monday. Chairman Beuttell directed Charlie to place an advertisement in the paper Friday, July 13th and to notify all parties by e-mail of the date and time for a long-distance telephone call to get Johnny's recommendation for or against purchase of the truck. The call meeting date will be Tuesday, July 17, 2018 at 12:00 PM. At that time, the Board will make its decision.

**C. LINVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT. - TRIAD FREIGHTLINER OF TENNESSEE - TRUCK REPAIR BREAKDOWN & APPROVAL:** Linville VFD requests that the Fire Commission approve truck repair cost provided by Freightliner in the amount of \$6,696.43 (parts & labor) for its Spartan fire truck repair. Charlie noted there will be an additional cost for towing in the approximate amount of \$600 from C.W. Williams.

**Motion made by Johnny Mathes, second by Corey Hughes to approve the cost of the repair to Linville's truck by Freightliner in the amount of \$6,696.43. In addition, approximately \$600 is approved for towing of the truck to Kingsport, TN. These costs will be paid by the Fire Commission. Chairman Beuttell asked for further discussion or comment. Motion approved by those in attendance.**

#### **FDC REPORT (7:20 p.m.):**

**Update on repairs / upgrades to Avery County's Ladder Truck.** Bob Garland briefly outlined improvements such as LED lights, alarms, and ladder refurbishing. Repairs and upgrades will hopefully extend the life of the truck. It was noted that the truck repair schedule has been extended by another month from 2 months to 3 months.

**Discussion on Purchase of Additional Ladder Truck (located in Pennsylvania).** Chairman Beuttell noted Jim Brooks' recommendation to purchase the truck. He noted Charles Ballard's hesitancy to purchase the truck and noted that Charles wanted to speak with Dean Gibbs, Crossnore Chief, as it would be housed at Crossnore. Beuttell feels that if purchasing the truck saves one life, it will be worth it. Pros to consider include its size, its flexibility for other uses, that it can handle the addition of a ladder, and that the truck has passed all necessary inspections. Additionally, the \$10,000 from insurance can be used toward purchase. He noted that the list of pros and cons was almost equal. Bob Garland said he had spoken with the Chief of the Pennsylvania station and discussed the truck in detail. He had also spoken with Pierce and all service records are available. He believes it is a "first out" truck and he recommends its purchase. Brian Bodford, Newland Chief, stated he is not comfortable with the purchase due to its age and other considerations. He stated that Blowing Rock is on standby with their truck. Corey stated

VIII. ADJOURN (7:57 p.m.):

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



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Bill Beuttell, Chairman  
Avery County Fire Commission

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

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

The Avery County Fire Commission met in a **Special Meeting** on Tuesday, July 17, 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 2001 Freightliner truck located in Alabama. Johnny Mathes, Frank Volunteer Fire Department Chief, called from Alabama. He had inspected the truck on behalf of the Fire Commission.

**I. CONVENE MEETING - CALL TO ORDER (12:00 p.m.):** Chairman Bill Beuttell called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Present on Call from Avery County: Bill Beuttell, Jim Brooks, Corey Hughes, and Matt McClellan. Also present on call: Beth Reath and Charlie Franklin. Present on Call from Alabama: Johnny Mathes.

**II. AGENDA (12:03 p.m.)**

**REVIEW & RECOMMENDATION REGARDING PURCHASE OF USED TRUCK FOR FRANK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.**

Chairman Beuttell asked Johnny Mathes to review his findings. Johnny explained that he and Jerry Jones had thoroughly inspected the 2001 Freightliner Commercial Walk-In Rescue truck. Johnny noted the following:

1. The asking price of \$69,000 was negotiated down to \$55,000.
2. Minor repairs need to be made and the seller will make these repairs before final sale. A list of needed repairs had been provided. The truck will be ready for pickup in 60-90 days.
3. Truck will come with a one (1) year warranty. Seller will pay for any repairs costing over \$3,000, limited to \$12,000.
4. Truck has 300 horse power Cummins engine.
5. They had driven the truck and it handled well.
6. There is no issue with rust.
7. Mileage is 18,000.
8. The truck originated out of Mississippi.

**RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended that the truck be purchased.

Motion made by Matt McClellan, second by Jim Brooks to approve the purchase the 2001 Freightliner truck for Frank VFD in the amount of \$55,000. Johnny Mathes is authorized to make a down payment (deposit) in the amount of \$5,500 (10%). The remaining balance of \$49,500 will be paid upon the truck being delivered over to Mathes when he returns to Alabama for pick-up. The return trip is authorized. Chairman Beuttell asked for further comments. Motion to approve this purchase is unanimous by those in attendance.

On behalf of the Fire Commission, Beuttell thanked Johnny and Jerry for their efforts.

**MEETING ADJOURNED (12:05 p.m.)**

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



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Bill Beuttell, Chairman  
Avery County Fire Commission

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