

AGENDA
Avery County Fire Commission
Regular Meeting
OCTOBER 11, 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 on Federal Grants
- C. Crossnore Request for funds to purchase Equipment from Grant funds that is held in Fire Commission Fund Balance
- D. Fall Creek request to be reimbursed for repairs on old brush truck To convert it to a service truck.
- E. Newland Roof
- F. Election of Fire Commissions 5th board member.

7:55 p.m. FDC Report
1. Uniform Shirts

7:58 p.m. IV. Approval of minutes from September 13, 2018 Meetings

8:00 p.m. V. Upcoming Meetings & Other Issues of Concern
Next Fire Commission will be November 8th, 2018 at 7:00pm. In Commissioners board room. Avery County Firemen's Association meeting November 1, 2018 at Linville Fire Dept. (note this is the Assoc. award night)

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 August 9, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Boardroom, Newland N.C. Prior to beginning of the meeting, Charlie Franklin provided the Board with printed copies of a Year End Fund Balance Summary showing fund balances of all fire departments for the fiscal year ending June 2018.

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 Corey Hughes. Charlie Franklin and Beth Reath were also present.

A. ADDITIONS / DELETIONS: None.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None. (See Page 4, VII. Additional Comments/Discussions). However, Johnny Mathes announced that tonight's meeting was his last as a member of the Fire Commission. He thanked the Board for his time serving and noted that the Fire Commission does an important job. Johnny said he would be available should his assistance be needed in the future. Chairman Beuttell thanked Johnny for his dedication and service.

III. AGENDA ITEMS (7:03 p.m.)

A. FIREMAN'S ASSOCIATION MEETING REPORT: Jim Brooks noted that there had been two meetings.

Emergency meeting was held on July 19th at Linville VFD. Important issues included:

1. The need for additional medical supply funding for fire departments. He noted that the Fire Commission's budget for this line item had been split between all the departments. Phillip Barrier, County Manager, wants a meeting to review what the EMS provides the fire departments in medical supplies. Jim noted that a list was provided by the Association members outlining their needs with items ranging from \$200 to \$4,500. It is Jim's feeling that the Epi pens and AED pads should be in the EMS budget and not in our budget.

2. Extra money needed for items such as fuel that will be going up in the coming year. [Bill Beuttell had reminded that each year the fire departments request \$3.6 million and that the County provides \$2.6 million. He noted that approximately \$200,000 was provided to the fire departments for non-budgeted breakdowns. Also, the Fire Commission had maintained \$500,000 for State grant purchases].

Regular meeting held on August 2nd at Seven Devils: Items discussed included:

1. Phillip Barrier's letter suggesting a joint meeting with EMS to discuss what medical supplies they provide to fire departments.

2. Phillip Barrier's request for a joint meeting in September between County Commissioners, Fire Departments and Fire Commission to discuss the correct wording for the statute governing the Fire Commission which will go to the Legislature.

3. Mike Laws brought up that he had spoken with a County Commissioner. The Commissioner said he had heard that things were going well, but Mike disagreed.

4. Jim reported that a motion had been made to continue with I Am Responding, as it was very useful.

5. Jim reported that elections were held, and the following officers were elected:

President	Scott Stansberry
Vice-President	Ken Sherrod
Secretary	Rob Hancock (also elected to Fire Commission)
David Charles	Treasurer (retained)
Charles Ballard	Truck Committee.

6. Mike Laws asked why the Fire Commission didn't take the Truck Committee's recommendation against purchase of the new ladder truck. Brian Bodford also questioned.

B. LADDER TRUCK UPDATE BY JIM BROOKS (& BOB GARLAND): Jim noted that the shop manager where the wrecked truck was being repaired had provided him a list of possible upgrades (up to \$65,000) for the truck. He sent the list to the insurance adjuster to determine what the insurance company would pay for. Bob did not have anything to add. Jim noted he will try to get a more accurate repair time frame and will keep everyone updated.

New Ladder Truck: Chairman Beuttell asked for comments regarding the newly purchased ladder 'Squirt' truck. JC Calvert asked to be updated on the truck and raised questions such as: What does it do? Can it support 1-2 fire fighters on its rails? What is its age? What is the ladder's lifting - weight capacity? What is its rating? Chairman Beuttell asked Bob Garland to answer the questions. Bob reviewed the truck's capabilities and specifications, and its benefits. The truck is a 1999 and the ladder is a 1973 brought up to 1999 standards by Pierce. Bob explained the decision process for purchasing the truck and the additional information (accessibility of parts and serviceability) received that led to the Fire Commission's decision to purchase (although the Truck Committee had not recommended purchase prior to full information being available). Bob noted that the ladder will be tested and rated on August 17th. Bob explained that a great price was negotiated and with the lease money received, it will be an even better deal. The "lease" money was explained. This is a \$10,000 allowance from the insurance policy on the wrecked truck. The Fire Commission owns the truck and leases it to the Ladder Company. Jim said when lease is up, it will possibly be titled over to Crossnore. The lease was drawn up by the County's Attorney.

Brian Bodford, Newland's Chief, noted that he was never against buying the truck. It does not have the same capabilities as the wrecked truck. He was under the impression that they would be comparable to one another, but they aren't.

Chairman Beuttell further explained the rationale behind the decision to purchase (additional favorable information on the truck and in general, working within the money provided by the County which is not enough to purchase NEW equipment). Initially, \$99,000 was the price. He, Jim, Bob, Charlie and Matt all felt the purchase was worth the risk. Jim noted he is glad two trucks will be available for service once old truck is repaired.

C. BID AWARD FOR LINVILLE CENTRAL QRV PURCHASE: Chairman Beuttell explained that only one bid was received. This was from Modern Ford of Boone and the

price quoted is \$39,449 (retail price of \$50,760). The cost for upgrades is \$8,278.68, with an additional \$500 for the bed cover. This brings the total cost to \$48,227.68.

Motion made by Jim Brooks, second by Johnny Mathes to approve the bid / purchase and upgrades for Linville Central's QRV in the amount of 48,227.68. Chairman Beuttell asked for further discussion or comment. Motion approved by those in attendance.

D. UPDATE ON FRANK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT'S SERVICE TRUCK - REPAIRS & IMPROVEMENTS: Johnny Mathes gave background information on truck purchase. He and one other Frank employee had traveled to Alabama to inspect the truck. It was priced at \$70,000. They went over it and listed all items that needed to be fixed. They offered \$55,000 for the truck and asked that the price include repair of the listed items to be fixed. This was accepted by the Seller. While being repaired, we asked for additional items (upgrades) such as LED lights, striping, and a new radio installed. We are to pay for these upgrades. Since money is saved on the purchase price, it is felt that the cost of upgrades in the amount of \$9,053.25 is warranted. Chairman Beuttell noted that the truck base price purchase had already been approved previously, so the motion needed was to approve the upgrades.

Motion made by Jim Brooks, second by Bill Beuttell to approve the upgrades to Frank's Service Truck in the amount of \$9,053.25. Chairman Beuttell asked for further discussion or comment. Motion approved by those in attendance.

FDC REPORT (7:25 p.m.):

Jeff (Chicken) Thompson's Request for Drone Training: Charlie explained the benefits of using drones and how it can aid the County. He gave examples of how these are used for rescues, fires, and damage assessments. This also could help to expedite declarations needed in the case of national disaster. Jeff has his own equipment (and it can be used for the County), but the State requires that drone operators must be trained and certified by North Carolina. Jeff is requesting to take the training on 8/14/18 and that it be a paid vacation day. Jim suggested that other employees might also train. Beuttell noted the drone would be an asset in remote, wooded County areas. For future reference, the cost for the training at Mayland Community College, Spruce Pine, is \$500. He believes Crossnore may have an arrangement with someone who flies a drone and Trooper Boone in Elk Park also has a drone, as does Corey Hughes. These might be available for use.

Motion made by Jim Brooks, second by Johnny Mathes to approve Jeff Thompson's request to be off on August 18, 2018 to take the State test for certification. He will be paid for this day off. Chairman Beuttell asked for further discussion or comment. Motion approved by those in attendance.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JULY 12 and 17, 2018 (7:30 p.m.):

Motion made by Johnny Mathes, second by Jim Brooks to *approve the July 12, 2018 and July 17, 2018 minutes. Motion approved by those in attendance.

* Approved with minor corrections to July 12, 2018 minutes.

V. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND OTHER ISSUES OF CONCERN (7:32 p.m.):

-Next Firemen's Association meeting will be September 6, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Banner Elk Vol. Fire & Rescue (Chief's meet at 6:30).

-Next Fire Commission Regular meeting will be September 13, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in Avery County Commissioner's Board Room, Newland.

VI. CLOSED SESSION: None.

VII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS / DISCUSSIONS:

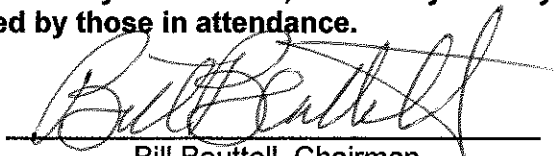
1. Jim asked if anyone had ordered 'grant' equipment from MES. He noted that the rep had quit. All departments need to be notified, as he is concerned that some may not get their equipment orders. They should call MES.

2. Ken Sherrod asked to address the Board (he signed up on Public Comments sheet). He asked when the new Association officers will go into service. Charlie responded that they must be approved first by County Commissioners and then they are sworn in. This usually occurs in October.

3. Ken brought up the driver's license issue for Daniel 'Homer' Clarke (a medic for the fire department). Daniel could not be here tonight and asked Ken to speak for him. A DMV typo caused him to lose the capability to drive trucks. He was contacted on 7-25-18 by Charlie to take an unpaid day off. Clarke would like to have back the vacation day he had to use. Chairman Beuttell said they could not vote on this tonight, but this will go on the September 13th, 2018 agenda. He told Ken he would be happy to discuss further after the meeting if he so desired.

VIII. ADJOURN (7:38 p.m.):

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



Bill Beuttell, Chairman
Avery County Fire Commission

Attest: 
