

AVERY COUNTY FIRE COMMISSION MINUTES

The Avery County Fire Commission met in a Regular meeting on December 13, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Boardroom, Newland N.C.

I. **CONVENE MEETING** - Phillip Barrier 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. Charlie Franklin and Beth Reath were also present.

A. **ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:** None.

B. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

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

A. **FIREMAN'S ASSOCIATION MEETING REPORT:** Jim Brooks reported on the following topics:

1. Discussion regarding poor response of D.O.T. to recent weather issues, as compared to other counties.
2. Melissa received a quote from an engineer. The Three Mile project will start in the Spring. She is working on a recruitment and retention class for the Spring.
3. Linville request for Newland to automatically respond to Linville's alarm calls. The letter that Levin read will be sent back to Jamie Johnson. A committee is being set up to see how Watauga County does this and what Southern Software can do to make it automatic.
4. Scott Stansberry continues to work on the Fire Safety House grant.

B. **UPDATE ON LADDER 9900:** Jim Brooks noted that he had received an e-mail from the plant manager where the 9900 is being repaired/updated. He believes that the work will be completed in mid-January.

C. **USE OF GREEN VALLEY'S TRUCK AS RESERVE FOR THE COUNTY:** Charlie noted a conversation he had with Mike Laws of Green Valley. Mike asked about the possibility of the engine/tanker they have just replaced being turned over to the Fire Commission as a reserve for the County (the Fire Commission would take title). Green Valley requests of the Fire Commission, that if and when there is a building available at the Avery County Airport, they be allowed to move the apparatus there for Green Valley's use.

Mike also asked if the Fire Commission would consider purchasing a new "used" Service Truck for Green Valley like the ones purchased for Frank and Newland. This item would be a part of the upcoming budget. Charlie told Mike that he felt the Fire Commission would consider this. Chief McFee confirmed the conversation Charlie had with Mike.

Charlie noted that Fall Creek is currently using the reserve truck in place of the truck that was wrecked. However, the new truck to replace the wrecked truck would be delivered any day.

Motion made by Jim Brooks, second by Matt McClellan to (1) have Green Valley release their engine/tanker truck to the County for use as a reserve truck with the understanding that when or if a building is constructed at the Avery County Airport the truck would be stationed at that location, Also, (2) authorize Green Valley to begin looking for a new 'used' service truck. Chairman Beuttell asked for further discussion or comment. Motion approved by those in attendance.

FDC REPORT (7:06 p.m.):

A. Newland's Roof. Charlie reported that the holdup on the engineer's 'prescription' report was due to non-payment of his invoice. The confusion was that Charlie thought Newland had paid the engineer when they hadn't. Charlie had cut the check to reimburse Newland. The invoice has now been paid, but we are still waiting on the engineer's letter. Chief Brian Bodford confirmed this information. Beuttell directed Charlie to continue his efforts to obtain the letter by phone calls and e-mail. This item is tabled until letter is received.

B. Employee Request to Take Training: Charlie stated that there had been discussion about changing the way in which ~~EMS~~ ^{EMS} service is used. Since then, the employees have put together a list of items they wish to meet and discuss. Charlie feels the training issue should be tabled until the Board and employees can meet to discuss other issues such as Shane's report on salary standards and Chiefs' input on rover's schedules. Beuttell confirmed that Board agrees to tabling.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 8, 2018 (7:09 p.m.):

Motion made by Jim Brooks, second by Matt McClellan to approve the November 8, 2018 minutes. Chairman Beuttell asked for further discussion or comment. Motion approved by those in attendance.

V. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND OTHER ISSUES OF CONCERN (7:10 p.m.):

-Next Firemen's Association meeting will be January 3, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Newland (Chief's meet at 6:30).

-Next Fire Commission Regular meeting will be January 10, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in Avery County Commissioner's Board Room, Newland.

VI. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS / DISCUSSIONS: Brian Bodford noted that his station has a new truck, 7202, which could be offered for the County reserve truck. It has a pump, but it needs a tank. Chairman Beuttell told Brian to get with Charlie about what needed to be done to the truck and this item will be put on the Agenda for next month.

VII. CLOSED SESSION - Personnel G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (6) (7:13 p.m.):

Motion made by Jim Brooks, second by Matt McClellan to go into Closed Session. Chairman Beuttell asked for further discussion or comment. Motion approved by those in attendance.

---- return to open session (7:30 p.m.) ----

Beuttell noted that no decisions had been made.

VIII. ADJOURN (7:31 p.m.):

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

Bill Beuttell

Bill Beuttell, Chairman
Avery County Fire Commission

Attest: *Charlie K.*
