

AVERY COUNTY FIRE COMMISSION MINUTES

The Avery County Fire Commission met in a Regular meeting on February 14, 2019, 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. Present: Bill Beuttell, Jim Brooks, Matt McClellan and Rob Hancock. Shane Garland called and is running late. Charlie Franklin and Beth Reath were also present.

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chairman Beuttell, as a member of the Blue Ridge Conservation and Development Commission (BRC&D), spoke about their organization's effort to promote the Fire Wise program. BRC&D staffer, Jonathan Hartsell, is working to get resort communities to participate. The Gatlinburg fires brought to the forefront the need for preventative measures. Beuttell is seeking contacts. Through a collaborative effort with BRC&D, local fire departments, the Fire Commission, and other County agencies they hope to bring awareness that grants are available for items such as cleanup and home insulation, free of cost. Paul Buchannan noted he had spoken with Jonathan about Fire Wise. Generally, resorts aren't receptive to participation. Linville Ridge and Land Harbor were noted as vulnerable areas. Chief Mark Taylor, Linville VFD, added that Joe Shoupe had said communities within one mile of national forest lands were eligible. Mark said that in reviewing the videos of the Gatlinburg fires, those areas looked much like Land Harbor. Chief Jeremy Hayes of Fall Creek suggested he will contact Steven Sheets of Linville Ridge construction operations. Jeremy would like to attend any meetings with Sheets. Paul noted there are many other communities such as Cranberry Cove that are at risk.

B. ADDITIONS / DELETIONS: Charlie Franklin noted that tonight's Agenda (cover sheet) was missing "Additions/Deletions" category. He requested an addition to the Agenda which will Amend Agenda Item "F" to add Kacey Hughes' request for training at McDowell Fire School.

Motion made by Jim Brooks, second by Rob Hancock to Amend Agenda Item F to include a request for Kacey Hughes to take training for Fire Prevention 1 class at McDowell Fire School, March 11-15, 2019). Chairman Beuttell asked for further discussion or comment. Motion approved by those in attendance.

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

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

1. Bob Pudney was appointed as representative of the Chief's Committee.
2. Jamie Johnson spoke on Auto Aid Response. Chiefs to supply Jamie with a list of addresses for auto aid on alarm calls.
3. VFIS agreed to \$10,000 rent amount for 9943 - copy cancelled check is needed.
4. Paid employee schedule: to be discussed at Employees/Chiefs/Fire Comm. meeting.
5. Seven Devils is in process of re-rating.

6. Reminder: AED lists needed from departments (so EMS can supply adapters).

B. UPDATE ON LADDER 9900: There is a parts issue. Looking at mid-March now to get the truck back.

C. LINVILLE REQUEST TO RE-DO BAY FLOORS: Beuttell noted that he and Charlie had been to inspect repair issues at Linville. Mark Taylor stated there are more problems (than just re-doing bay floor). Beuttell noted that the concrete is beginning to buckle and crack. Mark explained that the problem areas were in first building, bays 3 & 4. The Board grants Mark and Charlie permission to hire someone to open up the concrete to see what problem is beneath it. It was noted that a department can act within a \$5,000 limit without coming to Fire Commission for cost approval. [Repairs would be made in warmer weather when trucks can be moved outdoors].

D. BID OPENING - NEWLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT ROOF: The bids were opened and read aloud by Chairman Beuttell as follows:

1.	Randy Burleson Construction	\$78,800
2.	Jason Parker Construction	\$82,550
3.	Bar Roofing & Maintenance	\$109,995
4.	Garanco Construction	\$62,000

The Board reviewed the bids. Charlie noted all bidders made their bid from engineer's specification. Beuttell noted that no bidder had provided surety bond with their bid. [not specified in Request for Bids advertisement]. Chief Brian Bodford noted Garanco had problems at Extension building and Pool projects. Jason Parker noted that his company retains \$1,000,000 in General Liability insurance and provides warranty. Charlie added that in prior conversations he had with Cindy Turbyfill, proof of general liability insurance was sufficient (for project construction costs under a certain amount).

[At this time Charlie called Cindy Turbyfill to discuss (1) if surety bonds were required and (2) to ask about any negative issues with Garanco. This item was TABLED BY CONSENSUS of the Board and is further addressed on Page 3].

E. NEWLAND'S 1986 FORD CAB OVER ENGINE: Brian Bodford, Newland Chief, explained that this truck had a new engine and a pump (it's a 10 speed). He noted that a tank could be added to provide an extra truck to benefit Newland VFD (and the County). Newland only has one other tanker. This could be a "2nd out" engine in bad weather. Beuttell asked Brian to further study the cost.

F. REQUESTS FOR TRAINING AT McDOWELL FIRE SCHOOL: Jeffrey Thompson and Kacey Hughes are requesting to take Fire Prevention 1 training classes at McDowell Fire School, Monday March 11 - Friday March 15.

Motion made by Matt McClellan, second by Jim Brooks to authorize Jeffrey Thompson and Kacey Hughes to take training classes in Fire Prevention 1 at McDowell Fire School, March 11-March 15, 2019. Chairman Beuttell asked for further discussion or comment. Motion approved by those in attendance.

G. REQUESTS TO TAKE INCIDENT RESPONSE TO TERRORIST BOMBINGS (IRTB) TRAINING COURSE AT NEW MEXICO TECH (SOCORRO, NM): Jeffrey Thompson, Kacey Hughes, Brian Ledford and Ben Isaacs are requesting to take the Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings course. This is an all expense paid course

offered by the US Dept. of Homeland Security. Cost to County is employee salary only. This is a "Train the Trainer" Certification. Dates are 4/28/19 to 5/2/2019.

NOTE: Attendance is dependent on Charlie's being able to schedule enough people to cover absences.

Motion made by Matt McClellan, second by Jim Brooks to authorize Jeffrey Thompson, Kacey Hughes, Brian Ledford and Ben Isaacs to attend IRTB training course held at New Mexico Tech held on 4/28/19 to 5/2/2019. Chairman Beuttell asked for further discussion or comment. Motion approved by those in attendance.

---- 10-minute delay - phone conversation Cindy Turbyfill and Chairman Beuttell ----

AGENDA ITEM "D" - continued from Page 2:

D. BID OPENING - NEWLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT ROOF: Discussion resumed following phone conversation between Cindy Turbyfill and Charlie and Cindy and Chairman Beuttell. Discussed were various bidding/award requirements [such as: Award of contract does not have to go to lowest bidder. Fire Commission can table the bid award process if more info (surety bond) required from bidders. This would require a special session to award the bid]. She indicated she is unaware of issues with Garanco and working relationship with them is good.

The issue of contractors supplying surety bonds and warranty was further discussed. Jason Parker noted that small companies could not afford security bonds and that requiring this would only allow larger companies to get jobs. Paul and Mark further explained the way in which a surety bond works (as a performance bond). After further discussions, it was noted that proof of general liability insurance is sufficient for projects costing less than \$500,000. Chairman Beuttell called for a motion. Jim Brooks reviewed the bid amounts and noted that all bids were per the engineer's specifications. He pointed out the cost savings of going with lowest bid and the good recommendations from Cindy. Therefore, he makes the motion to award the lowest bidder.

Motion made by Jim Brooks, second by Rob Hancock to Award the contract for repair of Newland Volunteer Fire Dept. roof to Garanco Construction for their bid in the amount of \$62,000.00. Chairman Beuttell asked for further discussion or comment. Motion approved by those in attendance.

Jason Parker again expressed his concern over the Board's decision. He reiterated that Garanco is currently doing 2 jobs for the County. The pool does have leaks and he noted that the Fire Commission will be responsible when problems arise. [at this time Jason Parker and Brian Bodford exited the meeting]

FDC REPORT (8:05 p.m.):

1. Date set for Employee/Chief/Fire Commission Meeting: The meeting is set for March 14, 2018 (Thursday) from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the County Commissioner's Board Room. Light refreshments will be provided.

Note: The meeting is being held prior to the regular Fire Commission meeting which will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Motion made by Jim Brooks, second by Matt McClellan to set the date and time for the Employee/Chief/Fire Commission meeting to March 14, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Chairman Beuttell asked for further discussion or comment. Motion approved by those in attendance.

Charlie informed the Board that Beth (secretary), will be unavailable March 22-28.

2. Date set for first 2019/2020 BUDGET Meeting: The meeting is set for March 4, 2019 (Monday) at 6:00 p.m. at the County Commissioner's Board Room.

Chairman Beuttell expressed importance of discussing employee raises. Shane Garland has researched what Boone (and other towns/counties) pay and has information to share with the Board. He further noted that money will be tight this year - may possibly have to cut back on grants funds.

3. Newspaper Articles on County Audit: Beuttell stated that there have never been funds missing or misappropriated from Fire Commission budget. Money is spent ethically and protocols are followed and decisions made according to law.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JANUARY 10, 2019 (8:12 p.m.):

Motion made by Jim Brooks, second by Shane Garland to approve the January 10, 2019 minutes. Chairman Beuttell asked for further discussion or comment. Motion approved by those in attendance.

V. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND OTHER ISSUES OF CONCERN (8:13 p.m.):

-Next Firemen's Association meeting will be March 7, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at Elk Park Volunteer Fire Dept.

-Employee/Chiefs/Fire Commission meeting will be March 14, 2019, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the County Commissioner's Board Room, Newland.

-Next Fire Commission Regular meeting will be March 14, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in the County Commissioner's Board Room, Newland.

VI. CLOSED SESSION: Personnel G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (6) (8:15 p.m.):

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

---- return to open session (8:42 p.m.) ----

Issue of Concern: Jim Brooks noted that he sensed pressure from Newland to hire Jason Parker Construction for Newland Roof repair. Stansberry and Sudderth disagreed.

VII. ADJOURN (8:45 p.m.):

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



Bill Beuttell, Chairman
Avery County Fire Commission

Attest:

