

AVERY COUNTY FIRE COMMISSION MINUTES

The Avery County Fire Commission met in a Regular meeting on March 14, 2019, at 7:36 p.m. in the Commissioners' Boardroom, Newland N.C.

I. CONVENE MEETING

II. CALL TO ORDER (7:36 p.m.)

Chairman Beuttell called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. All Board members present. Charlie Franklin and Beth Reath were also present.

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

B. ADDITIONS / DELETIONS: None.

III. AGENDA ITEMS (7:37 p.m.)

A. FIREMAN'S ASSOCIATION MEETING REPORT: Jim Brooks noted that a copy of the minutes was provided to each Board member. Rob Hancock briefly noted the following:

1. Since this meeting, the Ladder Co. lease had been signed (1 year).
2. Tyler Burr is new chief at Banner Elk.
3. Ladder 9 should be ready in 2 weeks.

FDC REPORT (7:40 p.m.): Ladder truck should be ready within next few weeks.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

HOUSE BILL 278

Shane Garland explained House Bill 278. He noted that the Bill provides early retirement income to paid employees who retire earlier than age 62. It is approximately \$17,000/yr. The Bill was never successful in being passed.

Chairman Beuttell will prepare a draft of a letter to Rep. Dobson requesting that the Bill be re-introduced. This letter will be reviewed by County Commissions prior to being sent out.

Motion made by Jim Brooks, second by Rob Hancock to approve Chairman Beuttell sending a letter to Representative Dobson in favor of House Bill 278. This action to have support of County Commissions. Chairman Beuttell asked for further discussion or comment. Motion approved by those in attendance.

AVERY FIRE DEPARTMENT ASSETS

Jim Brooks noted that Charlie had provided a list of the Fire Commission assets and Employee benefits to the Board.

Chairman Beuttell explained that he and Charlie are trying to place Fire department savings where they will make better interest than is currently being made. The funds must be federally insured (placed in an FDIC covered bank). Shane noted that these are funds which can't be spent and are funds required by the State to be kept in reserve by the Fire Commission.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 14, 2019 (7:55 p.m.):

Motion made by Jim Brooks, second by Matt McClellan to approve the February 14, 2019 minutes. Chairman Beuttell asked for further discussion or comment. Motion approved by those in attendance.

V. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND OTHER ISSUES OF CONCERN (8:00 p.m.):

-Next Firemen's Association meeting will be April 4, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at Crossnore Volunteer Fire Dept.

-Next Fire Commission Regular meeting will be April 11, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Commissioner's Board Room, Newland.

VI. CLOSED SESSION: Personnel G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (6) (8:05 p.m.):

Motion made by Shane Garland, 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 (8:30 p.m.) ----

VII. ADJOURN (8:35 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:  _____