

Avery Fire Association - Chiefs Committee

December 5, 2013 - Newland Fire Station

The regular monthly meeting of the Chiefs Committee was called to order by Chief Bob Garland. All departments were represented except Elk Park, Linville & Newland.

Paul Buchanan reported that the Committee of: County Commissioners, Fire Commissioners and Association representatives had resolved a great number of problems. He said that member departments may have to sign another temporary contract - while the committee continues their efforts to iron out our differences. The signing of a contract would free up capital project funds. Contracts should be available at the Thursday Fire Commission meeting.

Paul noted that 2 Commissioners were against the county hiring the paid fire commission employees and that he had not heard any reason as to why they could not be hired by the county to cover retirement. Bob Pudney recommended that the Fire Commission give the paid employees raises and benefits better than the county employees to get the Commissioner's attention. The cost to the Fire Commission for benefits for their employees would be over \$ 300,000 versus \$ 75,000 if they were hired by the county.

Members thought that our representatives should keep trying to get the employees hired by the county to save our taxpayers \$ 225,000. The budget process was discussed, noting that the county manager went back and forth on the issue, but it was thought that departments would get the budget by the last week of May or the 1st week of June.

It was noted that there would be limits on internet costs. Bob Garland discussed the problems with cash flow and recommended that each department have a cash flow cushion so bills could be paid on time. He also reported that Charlie had moved and that the fire commission would get 3 bids so his office could be built.

Members discussed putting the Fire Safety house out of the weather at Elk Park, Meat Camp or Blowing Rock.

Charlie Franklin handed out a member I.D. form reminding members that David Charles Vance still had to get the card machine. Charlie asked members to get their member pictures in to him. Departments agreed to do so by January 15th. All "Interior" members must be 1403 certified.

Charlie agreed to re-do cards once a year to cover changes. Kennie McFee motioned to accept the form and Gary Miller seconded the motion and it passed.

Charlie gave out a want list for the reserve pumper to bring it up to full ISO points - noting that any loaned equipment could be quickly returned if the department needed it back.

Charlie handed out the Crossnore frequency for the on-board truck repeaters. Members reported that radio vendors had been arguing over the frequency situation. Per Bob Pudney - the way Charlie presented frequencies would work fine and keep the county from having to have upwards of 50 frequencies. Using the Crossnore frequency - our system would only need one frequency.

On a fire scene - the strongest repeater would shut the others down. Portables could be any brand but all repeaters must be the same brand or the off-brands would have to be turned off manually on scene.

Bob Garland reminded members that they should put their repeaters on a county wide grant. The Crossnore repeater was \$ 1,800 and the Green Valley repeater was \$ 3,000. Those two departments agreed to get together and determine which system worked best.

Junior Sluder gave a outline of the plan for the Western NC Fire Association meeting on October 15th, 2014.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.