

Avery Fire Association Minutes

Newland Fire Station

December 6, 2012

The regular monthly meeting of the Avery Fire Association was called to order by President Paul Buchanan. Roll was called and all departments were represented. Paul thanked Chief Matt McClellan and the Newland members for supper. The minutes of the November meeting were read and approved with 2 spelling corrections. The treasurer reported an association balance of \$ 17,283.79 with all bills paid.

Newly elected county commissioner - Reo Griffith addressed the membership and thanked members for their votes. He also pledged his support during his upcoming term.

Dick Gorham with MES showed new equipment and gave out catalogs.

David Charles Vance announced that a multi county drill similar to last years drill was being planned for April of 2013 in the Mitchell County area.

Bob Garland gave a report from the Chief's Committee noting that a joint meeting with the Fire Commission and the County Commissioners was agreed to and being planned. The chiefs had agreed to make changes to protect the county. He asked the Association to set up a committee to organize and plan for the meeting. Bob asked members to try to use I Am Responding regularly since the narrow banding had created so many radio problems. He also reminded members that call reports could be taken off of the system. he requested that each department budget for the system next year - reminding members that this years use of the system was a gift of the Ladder Company and the fire association. It was mentioned that the Sheriff's Department and EMS were looking at using I Am Responding in their operations. David Charles Vance was thanked for finding monies to replace the transmitters that would not narrow band for the Tactical frequencies. Bob also announced that the truck committee had been asked to spec out a new equipment, air and rehab truck.

Paul appointed: Bob Garland, Kennie McFee and Bobby Powell to the committee to plan for the Fire Commission/County Commission meeting. Bob asked members for input.

Joe Shoupe thanked departments for their help during the recent drought. He announced that he would try to reschedule the controlled burn at Yellow Mountain Ranch this winter or spring. He reminded members to be careful when picking parking spots - remembering to leave a way out if things go wrong and leave keys in each vehicle. A S-130/190 class was scheduled at Foscoe fire station January 15th and a S-215 class was scheduled in February at Green Valley.

Charlie Franklin asked for names and addresses of all members so he could develop a mailing list for the county. He also reminded members that the fire commission would meet the following Thursday at 7:00 pm.

Melissa Phillips handed out a list of classes. She also announced an EMT B class at the main campus beginning January 8th and a Paramedic class at the Spruce Pine campus in the fall. Bob asked members to sign up for the RIT class noting that each student must be FFI or higher. He announced that the prison burn would probably be February 9th and that participants must be 1403 or higher. Registration could be online or by calling Melissa's office.

Sherriff Frye reminded members that Avery County is 10th in the state in meth labs and that more and more are being found in vehicles. He urged members to be careful when attending motor vehicle accidents.

Paul Buchanan announced that he had received a request from the Western NC Fire Association to host one of their meetings. Junior Sluder recounted the association hosting a Western NC Association meeting at Camp Yonanoka. Paul asked Junior to approach John Blackburn about using the facility again. Bobby Powell moved that we tell the Western Association that we would host the meeting at their April or September meeting. The motion carried.

Paul Buchanan explained that the title to the Fire Safety House which is owned jointly by Avery & Watauga Counties had been lost and that the foundation that was set up to own it had been dissolved. A motion was made to put the president and secretary on the foundation board to secure a new title, title the Fire Safety House to the Avery Fire Association and to enter into an agreement of understanding with the Watauga Fire Association splitting cost and use. The motion passed unanimously.

Retiring Fall Creek Chief Tony Hunter introduced Donavan Perry the new chief.

The next meeting was set for January 3rd, 2013 at the Newland Campus of Mayland Tech with the Chief's Committee meeting at 6:30 and the Association afterwards.