

AVERY FIRE ASSOCIATION

Beech Mountain VFD Station Two

July 6th, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of the Avery Fire Association was called to order by Bob Garland, Chairman of the Chief's Committee. The President and Vice President were absent and working the Highland Games. Roll was called. Banner Elk, Crossnore, Elk Park, Fall Creek, Linville and Newland were not represented.

The June minutes were approved as posted on the Association website.

Charlie Franklin reported that the Association bank balance was \$ 37,251.43 with all bills paid.

Joe Shoupe announced that he would be teaching a 130/190 class at Fall Creek beginning Monday night. He also reported that the state would not agree to pay their share to hire a new assistant county ranger - so he will be hiring a new smoke chaser.

Charlie Franklin passed out 1403 helmet stickers to each department represented. He noted that only 3 departments had returned their county contracts. He also agreed to email the new radio channel templates to each department. Members discussed needed repairs to the Children's Fire Safety House. Kennie McFee moved "that we authorize Charlie to make the repairs to stop the leaks". Members voted to do so. Charlie agreed to bring cost estimates to the next meeting. Members decided to ask Crossnore or Frank to house the trailer to eliminate future repairs

Lee Wittman with the American Red Cross made a presentation, noting that they gave over one million dollars in aid in western North Carolina counties, but very little in Avery County. He offered to respond to any fires where people might need help. He can help victims with immediate needs: prescriptions, eye glasses, debit cards, lodging & mental health. The Red Cross needs more shelters. The only one in Avery County is the Chapman Center. He offered a smoke detector program and a 20 minute children's class on using the 911 system.

Dick Gorham explained the FRI Conference in Charlotte beginning July 28th.

Bob Garland appointed a nominating committee for the upcoming election with Rem Austin from Frank as the Chairman, Jeremy Hayes from Fall Creek, and Mike Ellenburg from Elk Park.

The next meeting was set for August 3rd at the Seven Devils Fire station at 6:30 pm