

Avery Fire Association

December 14, 2023 - Avery County Commissioner's meeting room 6:00 pm

President Scott Stansbury called the meeting to order. Kennie McFee gave prayer. Bob Pudney moved that the minutes of the November meeting be approved as presented. Kennie McFee seconded the motion and the minutes were approved as presented. Scott reported that the association checking balance from David Charles was : \$ 2,731.34. Seven members and the Fire Department Coordinator were in attendance. Banner Elk, Frank, Newland & Seven Devils were absent.

There was no report from the Fire Marshal

Brian Ledford noted that there are no prerequisite classes to take the Fire Officer classes. He also explained that anyone completing the class would receive a certificate and their department would receive much needed ISO points.

911 Committee: It was noted that the last inspection of the dispatch center yielded a satisfactory report from the state. Brian Ledford reported that he was working with dispatch to improve the ISO rating points that have fallen down using the recommendations from Linville's rating. Members reported problems with their pagers not going off, addresses for I Am Responding not being typed correctly and problems hearing Banner Elk & Elk Park. It was noted that the new dish on Beech Mountain was moving quite a bit in the wind. Kennie McFee reported that his assistant chief saw a Mitchell county fire and asked Avery Dispatch to page the Green Valley department. He was told that they would need a request from Mitchell County. There Was a discussion regarding dispatcher's making decisions for the fire departments.

Ladder Company: Ladder 9900 has been repaired and pump tested. The primer is not working. Levin said that even though the truck is not fully operational, it can be requested if it is not needed at draft. He also explained that 9943 is fully equipped and 9900 is not. He wants to start back with training. It was suggested that he start back with Banner Elk in January, Crossnore in February and so on. He asked for members to join.

Fire commission: The architect for the Elk Park station met with the Fire Commission. The bids are out and construction should start in March with a completion timeframe of 10 to 14 months. Extra monies from the 3.6 million dollar grant would be used to speed up the construction of the next station. Brian Ledford recognized Mike laws for 15 years of service and Tex Hughes received a Community Service award. Scott Heath met with the county commissioners and they asked that he and Brian meet with them quarterly. This was considered important in an effort to keep the fire tax at the current level.

New Business:

Kennie McFee reminded members that there was a drill at Riverside School several years ago. His department wants to continue drills like that. Brian Ledford noted that a class was being planned for February 19th & 20th. It would be paid for by the hospital and taught by Shane Garland. Members discussed a training class in the Elk Park Fire station before it is torn down - using Eric Wiseman.

Mike Richardson offered to put together a class that would show the capabilities of the County drone. He proposed that the class be taken to each department. Mike is on the State Drone Team. The county drone class is almost finished. He has worked with the county drone and asked for the Association to budget for several more batteries & chargers to increase service time. He explained that 2 and preferably 3 people need to be required when the drone is operated. He requested that it be locked up because some unauthorized person changed the settings.

Robbie Calloway reported that he has not had any response to his offer to add members to Linville Central's SAR Topo account. He asked that members email or call the station.

Mark Taylor reported that Virginia Foxx was applying for a grant and that the current dry hydrant numbers were not working.

Kennie McFee moved that the meeting be adjourned at 6:50 pm.