

AVERY FIRE ASSOCIATION

January 11, 2024 - Avery County Commissioner's Room

President Scott Stansbury called the meeting to order. Kennie McFee gave prayer. Eight members and the fire department coordinator were in attendance. Banner Elk, Elk Park, Frank & Newland were absent. The Association balance from David Charles Vance was \$ 40,244.34. Kennie McFee moved that the minutes from the December 2023 meeting be approved as presented. Matt Millsaps seconded the motion and it passed unanimously .

There was no Fire Marshal's / Emergency Management report.

Scott read an email from Melissa Phillips noting that Bobby Powell would be taking over the coordination of fire training for Mayland Tech and she would retire from that responsibility.

Members were reminded that the McDowell Fire College would be coming up soon.

Members discussed problems with I Am Responding not being triggered on all calls. Linville Central Rescue noted that the CAD was not programmed properly and they were not being paged properly for wrecks - 2 other counties were paged before them on a call on the Banner Elk Highway. The fire at Rouzer's store in Banner Elk was disrupted by the Beech Mtn dish swaying in the wind. Members had to switch to Viper. Pagers that went off fine in the past are not going off at the Linville Station. The next 911 meeting would be held February 6th at 2:00 pm.

The Ladder Company reported that 9943 would be moved to Linville on weekends when ski traffic warrants the move. 9900 is available if needed - It just will not draft. They asked departments to request the truck that they want. Prices were being gathered to fully equip 9943 to meet rating requirements. The drone is locked up at the Gwaltney station. Levin, Brooks, Ben Clark & Mike Richardson have the code.

The fire commission reported that the Elk Park Station was out for bids.

New Business:

Brian Ledford announced that the State Matching Grant was increased to: \$ 80,000. The Fire Commission agenda would address increasing the County match for next year's budget. He also reminded members that tires & rescue equipment are not covered and that departments should buy a little bit of PPE & pagers and communication equipment every year.

Matt announced that he had talked with Melissa about a Fire Academy and asked members to see if their department members have interest. . She only needs 6 students. Linville noted that they offer members the funds to take classes in Shelby. If they leave the department in less than 5 years - they have to pay it back.

Members discussed a plaque to honor Melissa for her years of service to Avery Fire Departments.

Matt announced: 300 & 400 classes being held in Hudson beginning February 23rd. Levin, Robbie & Mike were appointed to the awards committee for the February meeting. Nominees were to be emailed to Levin : firefighter of the year, responder of the year, lifetime achiever.

Scott agreed to send out a notice as to where the meeting would be held - hopefully the AG building.

There being no further business, Charles moved that the meeting be adjourned, Bob seconded the motion.

Members adjourned for the Fire Commission meeting.