

# **Avery Fire Association**

**March 14m 2024 - Avery County Commissioner's Room**

Vice President Mike Richardson called the meeting to order. Bob Pudney moved that the minutes of the February meeting be approved as presented. Kennie McFee seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Beech Mtn, Avery ladder company, Linville, Green Valley, Fall Creek, Forest Service & Brian Ledford were present.

911 Committee - Fall Creek reported that the Beech Tower is being shut down regularly. Linville noted that they are still having problems receiving pages and transmitting from their station. Brian Ledford announced that he had received radios and the list of where they go.

The Ladder company reported that the primer on 9900 had been repaired and that the truck was operational - but not fully equipped. Levin wanted to start training at area departments. He noted that he had a request to join from a member of a non-member department.

Mark Taylor reported that the Fire Commission had accepted a bid for the Elk Park Station and that work would start at the end of March or the 1st of April. The Commission is currently working with Crossnore to develop a station plan.

Rich Carpenter the new county Forest Service Ranger was introduced. He announced that he was trying to develop a new strike team. He is based on Prison Camp Road and his ID is : 245.

Members were reminded that the county staffing would be thin during the McDowell School.

It was noted that the State would finally be picking up AFF foam this summer.

Melissa Patton & Lenette Ramsey addressed the group. They are working on a Community Wildfire Protection Plan that will lead to Mitigation Grants to improve community fire protection. Extensive mapping will also help improve district lines. Seven county departments are part of the plan. Plans will be emailed and can be shared.