

AVERY FIRE ASSOCIATION

November 2, 2023 - Green Valley Fire Station

The meeting was called to order by secretary Jim Brooks. Minutes of the October meeting were not available, but would be emailed to all members. Banner Elk, Elk Park, Frank & Newland were absent.

Melissa Phillips asked that members wanting to take the Drone Class sign up by mid November so she can order the books. Opts 7 will be offered at Fall Creek & Banner Elk. This class does not have to be taken in sequence. Fire Officer and Aerial training are being discussed. They will require Fire Fighter I & II.

The 911 Committee will be working on the need to get the dispatch center ISO points from 6.5 back to the previously held 10 points.

Ladder Company reported that they are waiting on parts for 9900. The fire commission was presented with a proposal for next year's budget to fully equip 9943. In the meantime, equipment will be borrowed from 6202.

Mark Taylor reported that the State gave Avery County a 3.6 million dollar grant to pay for the Elk Park Fire station. Mark also noted that the county budget for new trucks will not cover current costs. The Elk Park Tanker with a PTO pump came in at \$ 489,000. Linville was unable to find a pumper under \$ 500,000.

New Business:

Linville Central was having problems with the way dispatch was calling them. They were meeting with dispatch over the problem.

Members reported that the previous night's 15 minute meeting with Paul Buchanan could have been handled via email or at our meeting. Repairs to the system will take one to two weeks. Members wondered if the mobile common trailer had a repeater and could be used in dead areas.

Several departments reminded members that the quarterly meetings with the County Commissioners was not happening. They also wanted to meet on the same night as the fire commission at 6:00 pm. Matt moved: "That we meet on the same night as the fire Commission in the Commissioner's meeting room one hour before the Fire Commission meeting" Levin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. It was thought that food monies could be added to the Fire Association Budget.

Linville Central Rescue offered use of their SARTOPO & CALTOPO account to member departments. This software costs \$ 10 per person per year and allows a text message to be sent to a lost person's cell. When opened it will show the person's location and

movement. It would also show the search team's location and movements. SARTOPO is for computers and CALTOPO is for cell phones. It was asked that each chief send the number of members that would like to be on the system so they could check and see what it will cost to increase the number of accounts - send to: Linvillerescue@gamil.com.

Mike Richardson noted that he had talked with : Frank, Newland and Banner Elk. He explained that there was power in numbers and working together. Johnny Mathis walked away, Tyler Burr laughed and Newland was invited to our meeting.

Green Valley was thanked for the supper and the meeting was adjourned