

# **AVERY FIRE ASSOCIATION**

**November 14th - Avery Agricultural Extension Building**

President Mike Richardson called the meeting to order. Bob Pudney moved that we accept the minutes of the September 12th meeting as presented. Kennie McFee seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Banner Elk, Beech Mountain, Fall Creek, Green Valley, Ladder Company, Linville, Phillip Barrier & Fire Department Coordinator were represented.

Levin Sudderth passed out thank you notes from school kids for efforts during the storm.

The storm may have taken out our checkbook and Mike was unable to get in contact with David Charles. Mike received Mark Taylor's wife's bill for payment.

Levin reported that two sections of hard suction failed and naked if anyone had spare hard suction. The extra hose at the ladder station is being tested with the three county hose testers. He said he would be loading both trucks with the good hose and getting rid of the rest if any one needs hose. Levin also noted that a MS250 vent saw is missing and asked all to keep an eye out for it.

Theresa at Lifestore reported that a former VFIS salesman was working with another company and looking for business. There are issues and she offered to come with John Hall and visit any department.

The 911 committee meets December 10th. Members asked that the house numbering problems at Linville Ridge & Eaglesnest be brought up.

There was no Fire Commission meeting last month.

Mark Taylor said that he had no news on the training site land - but that Tom Dale, the Eseeola Manager seemed to have loosened up after Linville cut a great deal of his trees.

Cody Laws announced that he had 45 or 50 attendees at the flashover class. He would like to see us do this every other year.

It was not known if the Table Top class would still be held.

Phillip Barrier asked if every department has a generator. Several Departments said they did not have one and several said their generators failed. Phillip noted that the county is getting a maintenance contract for generators. He also asked if amateur radio operators would have helped during the storm. He was told that the only thing that would have helped was Starlink.

Phillip asked Mike to Give each member a chance to talk about the storm problems.

Bob Pudney told Phillip that he had been thru many storms and that what happened in Avery County was the biggest mess he had ever seen because there was no planning or coordination.

Tyler Burr said that Emergency Management collapsed and was no help. Private citizens stepped up and helped a bunch.

Kyle noted that Linville Central pre-positioned people at Green Valley and that more of that needed to be done in the future. He also noted that the Fire Departments did all the heavy lifting in spite of the fact that they were accused of running rogue calls and refused to stand down.

Mike Richardson said that Fall Creek only got help from Beech Mtn, Banner Elk & Elk Park. he said he came to two County meetings and that they were a waste of time and he quit coming.

Brian & Teddy said that there was not enough thanks to pay the fire departments back for the efforts they made.

Levin felt like Linville fared better than most departments. For a while they were short staffed and could not get out more than 100 yards. They were able to help some of the other departments and gave Green Valley a generator.

Kennie McFee asked the county for two things Thursday before the storm and got nothing. He was not given permission to evacuate the campgrounds on the river and two people passed away. Spruce Pine Department kept them in Fuel & meals. It took three days for the DOT to get there and all they only brought barricades. He challenged the Association to make things better in the future for the County. The only thing they got from the county was a light tower and the barricades. Whites Memorial Church opened a shelter and Dollar General gave them their entire inventory. Green Valley residents lived off of snacks for days.

Phillip Barrier thanked departments for all that they did during the storm.

Mike Richardson told of a department in Maryland that was sending his department the proceeds of a Firefighter's Ball to help with our needs. He explained that all roads in his district were open - but all of his water points were gone. One of his lakes that was 1.2 million gallons was drained in 9 minutes and probably went to Elk Mills. The needs of the Elk Mills Station were discussed.

The meeting was adjourned in favor of the Fire Commission.