

EVERY FIRE ASSOCIATION

October 5, 2023 - Mayland Tech - Newland Branch

Scott Stansbury called the meeting to order and thanked Melissa Phillips for hosting and serving supper. There were no minutes from the previous meeting. Roll was called and all were represented except Banner Elk, Elk Park, Newland & Frank. The treasurer's report from David Charles Vance gave a balance of : \$ 6,143.11.

Kyle Kitchen reported that he is creating a proposal to merge EMS with the county fire service thru cross-training. Phillip Barrier is on board with the plan.

Levin Sudderth reported that the County flag is torn. Members recommended Donnie Garland for repair - 733-6294 or 385-0546. Levin priced a new one at \$511.00. Jim Brooks agreed to check the type of flag & price from his source.

Jeff Thomas reported for the Fire Marshal's Office that the county would be changing the dispatch equipment on Monday, October 16th at 6:00 pm. The command trailer would be set up to handle all calls. A pager test may be done to check the new equipment. He also noted that the county would wait one more year before implementing the DMR system. He also thought that the wattage requested from the new system was approved.

Melissa Phillips announced three classes: Opts 6 - Oct 11th, EVD - Oct 17th, and Drone Class December 11th.

The 911 committee reported for the last meeting that Brian Ledford noticed when reviewing Linville's rating summary that the dispatch points had dropped to: 6.5. Previously they had been as high as a perfect 10. He noted that calls were not going out fast enough and would look at the other ways things could be improved. Kennie noted that radio signals in Green Valley & Frank were very weak. Jeff thought that the new equipment would solve the problem.

Levin Sudderth reported that Ladder 9900 was out of service and waiting on parts for repair. He also developed a list of equipment needed to bring 9943 up to full ISO points and presented it to the fire commission.

Mark Taylor reported that the state of NC would provide 3.6 million to build the Elk Park Station. Members discussed the cost of new trucks and the need to increase the monies provided by the fire commission for future purchases.

NEW BUSINESS:

Levin Sudderth asked departments how they were doing background checks. It was noted that if you have lived in North Carolina for more than 5 years - fingerprints would not be required. Bob Pudney said that if you need help - give him a call.

Scott Stansbury explained that Ladder Company members and officers of the Fire Association had to be members of an Association Fire Department. It was noted that Frank & Newland departments had decided to drop out of the Association. Members thought that the Association Officers should meet with these departments. One item that might help - the new online rating requirements state that auto aiding departments must meet quarterly with the neighboring departments. That would require Green Valley to

meet with five departments quarterly. Our meeting with roll call would suffice. Mike Richardson noted that there is more clout when we go as a group. He reminded members that the Association stood behind him and his department when they had their troubles and got them through it. Linville had a problem with the county commissioners and the association stood behind them till it was resolved. It was also noted that no one from these departments has complained.

Charles Ballard explained that there are things that are brought up in meetings that are not followed to a resolution - such as the need for working channels that was discussed three years ago. Tonight the mention that there were weak signals in Green Valley & Frank was not good enough. Waiting on new equipment in hopes that the signal problem would be resolved is also not good enough.

Bob Pudney said - Why did they quit and send a letter? They could just not come and accomplish the same means. Leaving is the lowest form of problem solving. Department Officers are supposed to be leaders.

It was noted that David Charles was having good days & bad days with his radiation.

Scott was asked to ask the Fire Commission to send Brian Ledford to the Association meetings and also to ask Phillip Barrier to send Paul Buchanan. This would make meetings more valuable. He was also asked to see if Phillip would reinstate the quarterly meetings with the County Commissioners.

There was a discussion on the class B foam situation. Jeff said that they thought the cost of getting rid of it would be paid by the state. Because of that it was collected and put at the Ladder Station. The amount of foam needed in the county was discussed along with the shelf life.

Crossnore was thanked for coming to the meeting and telling their thoughts. It was noted that Scott & Mark stood up for Newland during their problems with the town council. Scott agreed to reach out to both departments.

Each department was asked to email Scott with the amount of foam needed so he could order foam needed for the county and each department. Scott agreed to order another pallet of absorbent and have it drop shipped to the Ladder Station. Emergency Management has a pallet.

Charles Ballard requested that the Association give the Fire Safety House to his department. Jim Brooks moved that the Association give the Fire Safety House to Crossnore. Kennie McFee 2nd the motion and it passed unanimously.

It was reported that the Drone lights were on order and that the Drone is insured.

Jeff Thomas was asked to invite the Forest Service Strike team leader to our meetings.

It was noted that Dale Laws had entered Hospice. Dr. Rodgers would be coming to the next Association meeting.

The next meeting was set for the Green Valley Fire Department - November 3rd