



Scott & Mike,



We had an interesting meeting last night. Attending were: Matt Millsaps, Tom Bookstaver, Kennie McFee, Bob Pudney, Mark Taylor & Myself - not quite a quorum.



The Bike Race tonight was discussed. Kennie and others except Mark knew Nothing about it. This is another case where the Fire Marshal needs to attend our meetings and stay on top of things. He evidently did not follow thru with the race leader or our departments effected after Levin alerted him.



No one had any ideas for housing the fire safety house. Members agreed that It needs to be put on the Government website and given to some department that will fix it up and use it. You would think the Fire marshal's office would help with this.

The 911 meeting did not give any information about the new radio system. They elected Brian Ledford as the Chairman and Chicken as the Vice Chair after Kevin Hodges quit. There are problems for the Viper Tower lease with Bucky Vance. The state is still checking on the dispatch operations and making recommendations. Burke County is no longer the backup. It sounds like they will put it in the old Ag building. The most substantive information came from Brian Ledford and we definitely need to follow up on it - The ISO rating points for dispatch has dropped from a perfect 10 to 6.5. Brian read the suggestions in the Linville rating. We need to get a copy of their rating and work on the suggestions.

I have quite a few notes on the discussions about the letter from Johnny Mathis. It was thought that Newland would be sending a letter and Kennie said his department is leaning towards doing the same. The group thought that we should ask you and Mike to reach out to Johnny and see if you two could meet with him to see why they think nothing is being accomplished and how the association is not looking out for their best interests? It would Probably be a good idea to do the same with Newland & Green Valley. I think it might be a good idea to also consider the Board of Directors. Kennie is all for the association - but his board thinks differently.

Points that were brought up - How do we increase the need to attend ? Watauga requires the members to attend 2 out of every three meetings. No one thought we needed that. It was noted that we need to make an effort to get Phillip to require Paul or Chicken to attend. We need to get the fire commission to require Brian to attend. We need to get the Forest Service there every meeting. We may need to follow suit with Watauga and meet at a central location - Mayland Tech or the Board Room./ Watauga rotates the food and meets at Caldwell Tech in Boone. We also noted that the fire commission does not get much attendance and we used to meet together. This should be considered. It would get Brian to our meetings and give the non fire Commission members more background on our needs, operations & problems. After meeting with Johnny & others, I think the group felt like there should be a special meeting or regular meeting in the Newland area to figure out how to make the need to attend stronger. Less meetings were discussed - but we decided that we need to meet just as often as the fire commission. Meeting together would cut down the number of meetings. We have made progress with the stipend monies. We have offered Frank a nice piece of equipment - the blue truck. We need to store the fire safety house until we can get rid of it. We own the Tower, Blue truck, air compressor, drone, foam & absorbent together. We need more cooperative buying. Departments have a voice in the representatives on the fire commission. We still have a problem with the radio system. There is strength in numbers.

One other major point from Kennie McFee. The state now wants each department to meet with their auto aid departments once a quarter to keep their water hauling credit points. Kennie has to meet with 5 departments. The Fire Association meeting covers some of these if they come. We need to research these and we may need to do more in the minutes than saying which departments were represented.

The group last night had good conversation and I know I did not write down everything. If you want to call me - fine - I work everyday.

bring in



If we can implement some of these suggestions and thank these guys for bringing it to our attention - we can make this much better.