

AVERY FIRE ASSOCIATION
April 1, 2021 - Newland Fire Station

President Scott Stansbury called the meeting to order and thanked Newland for hosting the meeting. There was no treasurer's report. Kennie McFee moved that the minutes be approved as presented. Bob Pudney seconded the motion and it passed. There was no Fire Marshal's report.

John Hall with Fortner Insurance addressed the group to answer questions about agreed upon coverages. He explained that the difference in a \$ 300,000 replacement coverage and a \$ 400,000 policy was only \$ 130.00. He also noted that most wrecks only involve repairs, high agreed upon values allow for extensive repairs - even on older vehicles. If a truck can not be repaired for 75% of the agreed upon value, it will be totaled and the owners will not be left without enough money to make repairs. The Renewal Questionnaire is attached to these minutes - answering all questions.

John passed out the Accident & Sickness policies. Bob Pudney asked about insurance that covers the treasurer. John explained that VFIS does have coverage for the treasurer - providing the department meets certain criteria : 2 signatures on every check, background checks on the money handlers, someone who does not make deposits or withdrawals that checks both, etc. Members thought the \$25,000 coverage that Fall Creek had was too low. Each department agreed to check their coverage. Josh Henson said that Crossnore wanted to find someone to handle their monies. Jamie Miller in Spruce Pine was recommended.

Melissa Phillips announced that she has a sprinkler class at Green Valley mid month and a Rescue class at Camp Lutherock the 23rd. John Hall announced that there would be Honor Guard training at Parkway April 30th & May 1st. Scott Stansbury asked Melissa to see if she could link the Mayland calendar to the fire association website.

Bob Pudney reported from the Chief's Committee and reminded members to attend the Fire Commission meeting to support Fall Creek.

Mark Taylor expressed a sense of urgency to obtain an appointment to visit the A-B Tech Fire training site and get started on the Avery Fire Training site - noting that management had just changed at Eseeola Lodge.

Scott Stansbury told members that he would like a I Am Responding Class. It was noted that Bob Pudney's pager did not go off just before the meeting - but his phone gave him a verbal notification just like the pager - a new I Am Responding feature : "2 tone detect" . Mark Taylor reported that the Fire Commission is looking at a program called Tango Tango that connects smart phones to radio communications - an expensive program : \$ 1,800 plus \$ 75 per phone.

Scott Stansbury brought retiring Ranger Joe Shoupe forward and presented him with a plaque for 30 years service with the Forest Service (16 in Avery County) noting that Joe was always available, attending our meetings and did a lot to improve Avery County. He also set up the strike team and trained numerous members in Wildland Firefighting.