

AVERY FIRE ASSOCIATION
May 20, 2021 - Gwaltney Station

President Scoot Stansbury Called the meeting to order and thanked the Ladder Company for hosting. Green Valley, Fall Creek, Newland, Linville, Seven Devils and Beech Mountain were represented. Bob Garland made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Bob Pudney seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Melissa Phillips distributed a flyer for a Drone Class June 16th. She asked interested parties to call and confirm attendance. She noted that she was trying to put together Firefighter 1 & 2 classes. She asked each Chief to let her know exactly which classes their members need, so she could give the most needed classes priority. She asked if any members have an interest in an Aerial Class?

Members discussed Fire Prevention in the schools this fall.

It was noted that Joe Shoupe had not been replaced and that it would preferably take a while.

Bob Garland reported from the 911 meeting that the dispatchers think that it is too confusing for them to keep up with who cuts trees from the road and who doesn't. After a lengthy discussion, members remembered that Jamie had previously agreed to put it in the CAD at a meeting at Crossnore. Bob was asked to take that back to Jamie.

Mark Taylor reported that the Fire Commission met with the County Commissioners. Scott Heath explained that the Commission would need more money for buildings at: Banner Elk, Green Valley and Elk Park. He also noted that additional monies would be needed for Tankers, QRV's and Brush Trucks.

Jeff Thomas announced that the County is down two firemen. The pay seemed to be the problem - Buncombe Coutie's starting pay is \$ 7,000 higher than Avery.

Jeff also shared that the Fire Commission would consider funding open houses and/or job fares. Members discussed a recruitment video that could be aired on cable. Melissa agreed to see if Mayland could help with a video. Members discussed a pay per call program that would be in compliance with the IRS - noting that money was more important to young people. Bob Pudney explained his program that gives points for : training, alarm calls, regular calls, work sessions and business meetings. He encouraged members to visit the NVFC website for additional resources to recruit and maintain volunteers.

Members discussed the rise in "No Show" calls and noted that we should be tracking the increases.

Mike Laws announced that House Bill 535 - Cancer Benefits for Firefighters had passed it's first reading and was moving forward.

Members voted to back to the regular monthly meeting schedule moving from department to department.

It was announced that David Charles Vance would be retiring June 30th and that would be a retirement party June 10th from 11:00 till 3:00 with a presentation at 1:00 pm.

Scott opened nominations from the floor for the position of Secretary. Briian Bodford nominated Andrea Carr. Bob Garland seconded the motion.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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