



City Attorney Love stated that he may disagree due to the fact that the current relationship between the City and the Arnoldsville Fire Dept. is not one that requires the fire department to "report" to the city. Lexington and Crawford are actually under the city governments, but Arnoldsville Fire Dept. is independent of the city. The City Council just contributes financial assistance to them. The fire department always provides updates etc. on their progress to the council as a professional and courteous position.

Heath Baker made the statement that the fire department had voted to go along with whatever the city advises them to do regarding joining the consolidation.

Mr. Melvin Fleming pointed out that with the Rescue Truck being placed in Arnoldsville, no additional funding will be received by the county. This truck was donated by the City of Carnesville. The decision to place the Rescue Truck in Arnoldsville was made due to the Arnoldsville Fire Dept. covering the largest area on the Hwy. 78 corridor going through the county.

Norma Craddock inquired about where this idea originated. Douglas Spencer stated that this plan is being modeled after what was put into place in Elbert County.

City Attorney Love asked for what the advantages would be for the Arnoldsville Fire Dept. Douglas Spencer stated that the biggest advantage would be access to more grant money. The county is looking at purchasing breathing apparatus with a Federal Grant. City Attorney Love stated that right now Arnoldsville has breathing apparatus. "They are in great shape." Spencer stated that all departments would automatically receive six (6) of these items. This would happen only for the departments that were members of the consolidated department.

As Spencer pointed out, this is a "hard sale" for a department that is doing as well as Arnoldsville. It is easy for some of the other departments that are struggling.

The discussion turned to the autonomy that would be retained by the departments. Arnoldsville would become Station 11. They could keep Arnoldsville in their name, but be identified as Station 11.

The question was asked if Arnoldsville had a fund raiser, would they have share the proceeds with all other departments. The answer from Spencer was "no."

Again, the advantages of less paperwork, administrative duties etc. were reiterated by Spencer.

Because of the structure of "officers" that will be put into place for the County Association of Firefighters, there would be a "sounding board" formed for the departments. This would be available whether or not a department was part of the consolidation or not.

