

Fire Commission chair defends budget- says no contract debate tonight

Written by Lauren Ohnesorge
Wednesday, 11 July 2007 20:00

Avery Fire Commission chair Daryl Smith said accusations that the Fire Commission mismanaged fire tax money are unfounded.

While he admitted approximately \$1,200 was spent by the commission for food last year- he said that includes both a Christmas party for commission members, employees and county commissioners and refreshments for long meetings throughout the year. It's no different from any other company's expenditures, he said. It's a distraction from the real issue: the fire contracts, which, according to Smith, firefighters will have to wait to discuss.

No fire department contracts will be discussed at tonight's Fire Commission meeting.

The debate is simply not on the agenda. He expects the Highland games and other fundraisers to dissuade firefighters from attending what should be a short meeting.

The contracts will be discussed at another meeting tentatively scheduled for a week from Monday. The meeting will be attended by commissioners, the commission and the fire chiefs.

Smith promised to have a copy of the Commission's budget available to the press tonight at the 7:00 meeting, which will be held in the County Commissioner's

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Boardroom.