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Main fire engine blows engine County Fire Department using 1952 REO

By Chip Miller
of the Carlisle Mercury staff
What's going to protect county residents and their property from fire?

The question was raised Monday night at an emergency Nicholas County Fire Committee Board meeting held in the county fire station.

Nicholas County's main fire truck, a 1963 Ford Pumper Truck, had its engine blow up, leaving county firefighters with a 1952 REO as a backup fire vehicle.

The truck has been on loan to Nicholas County by the Kentucky Forestry Division and has a top speed of 42 m.p.h., according to NCVFD Chief Mark Hughes.

In effect, the county now has no fire protection of its own and the meeting was called to determine if there is a fire emergency and alternatives to combat this problem.

At the opening of the meeting, it was determined by the board that no fire emergency exists in Nicholas County.

Board members Rube Wilson, Kenneth Stephenson and Billy Hunter said the great need to call a fire emergency. Member Billy Hunter and Hughes agreed for an emergency to be called in order to replace the broken down truck.

During the meeting the three board members and Hughes discussed the two opposing options - repairing the broken truck or replacing it, which will require financing.

"I think we're in pretty bad shape," said Hughes.

"I think I'm speaking for all the

members of the fire department when I say that, too."

Hughes said the new truck will cost approximately \$68,000. He said the firemen have raised through donations and volunteer work \$15,000 and that \$20,000 has been saved over time by the fire department.

That still leaves us \$32,981 short," said board member Stephenson. He asked what it would cost to repair the old truck.

Hughes said, "Everything you spend on the old truck you're taking away from the new one."

"We should just patch the motor up," board member Williams said about the old truck. Stephenson agreed.

"You live in the city and don't pay county property tax, Rube," Hughes said, adding he didn't know whether it was proper or not. Williams was on the county fire board, being a resident of the city.

Rube said if someone wanted his job then they could have it. "I've got people in the county willing to donate money if we get a new truck," Hughes said. He added he thought he could raise the firemen's \$15,000 to \$20,000 with donations by the end of the week if the board members voted for a new truck. "I've got people in the county willing to sign for a new truck with the county."

"Let them sign for it then," said Stephenson.

"Well, we've got to do something," board member Billy Hunter said.

"I think we're in pretty bad shape," said Hughes.

"I think I'm speaking for all the



Here, top picture, is the 1952 REO backup fire vehicle. Below, the broken 1963 Ford Pumper Truck: It had to be towed to the fire station after blowing its engine. - Chip Miller Photo.

Water emergency is declared by city

All water users asked to conserve

By Chip Miller
of the Carlisle Mercury staff
The City of Carlisle has declared a water shortage emergency.

Notice has been sent to most businesses, alerting them of the shortage problem and asking them to conserve water, according to Gayle Vanlandingham, City Superintendent.

"This announcement has been made because of a mechanical problem at the river pumping station, according to city officials.

According to Vanlandingham, the city is in a "critical condition" on its water supply.

"As of now it is very, very critical condition," he said.

Vanlandingham explained due to a problem at the river pump the city is now pumping all its water from the lake, which repairs are being made at the river pump.

He added the lake is already low from the near drought-like conditions and it would take less than a week before that supply is exhausted, if there is not substantial rainfall.

The lake has three to four days supply of water before the water level gets below the suction of the pumps," Vanlandingham said.

He said the city is trying to maintain adequate amounts of water for fire protection and residential use and is asking industries and businesses to limit their supplies.

Vanlandingham called these businesses, asked to help limit the water, "priority users."

"Blurgess (Locky) has cut back, so have water trucks, car washes and laundromats. The schools are on a limited supply and Locky is using non-essential water - they're cut off from the

main water tanks now."

He said the main water tanks are used for residential use and fire protection.

"The next step is to start rationing the residential water," he said, but he added he didn't think it would come to that.

The river pump began kicking off Sunday, Vanlandingham said. On Monday, around 4 p.m. the pump shut down altogether.

"We think there's trouble with the wiring, overheating in the panel box. We don't think there's any problem with the motor," he said.

He said if the pump's motor is burned out it would take up to 48 hours to rebuild it, but "it checked out OK" when the initial trouble started.

Vanlandingham said he estimates the emergency could last up to a week.

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It's a giant task

By Chip Miller
of the Carlisle Mercury staff
Maintaining around 170 miles of road yearly is a big job.

The employees of the Nicholas County Road Department should know since the county service crumbles tons of rock at the county-owned rock quarry daily in order to maintain these many miles of road.

The Nicholas County facility is one of only handful to be operated by a county.

"We crush about an average of 500 tons a day," said John Ecton, foreman and road supervisor at the facility.

"And then we about have to crush every day in order to keep ahead."

Ecton has been employed by the county since 1966, foreman of the road department facility since 1978.

"One hundred fifty five miles of

county roads in this department and the remainder is gravel roads," he said.

The road department must maintain all county roads with this crushed gravel, according to Ecton.

The combined facilities of the rock quarry and road department office in Park Road employ 12 people and is operated by the county fiscal court.

The facility also crushes the stone for agriculture lime which is sold to area farmers.

"We sell lime to farmers and truck to individuals," Ecton said. He added a little more than half of the crushed material the quarry makes is sold to these individuals who haul it themselves. "Farmers put it on the ground. It keeps acid in their ground and is good for pasture land," he said.

The operation for getting the five

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Nicholas County General Election 1987: The People Make The Choice

See Election Results on Pages 2 - 3

