



MINUTES FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMISSION

April 15, 2021

Oconee County Administrative Offices, Council Chambers
415 S. Pine Street, Walhalla, SC 29691

MEMBERS

Commissioner Travis Collins, Region 1(Absent)
Commissioner Tony McAlister, Region 2
Commissioner Austin Grant, Region 3
Commissioner Jamie Brock, Region 4 (Absent)

Commissioner Brandon Burton, Region 5
Chief Larry Greer, County Fire Chief
Scott Krein, Director, OCES
Steven Zahn, Secretary

The Oconee County Fire Service Advisory Commission met at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all members present and Steven Zahn, Secretary.

Press: Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting, date, time, place of meeting and agenda were posted on the bulletin board at the County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC, and the County Council website [www.oconeesc.com/council]. In addition, it was made available [*upon request*] to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

No members of the media were present.

Call to Order

Chairman Burton called the meeting to order at 1800.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the March 24, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved

Radio Committee Report:

Steven reported that information is needed from the Fire & Rescue Chiefs concerning areas in their districts where the digital radio communications is not satisfactory. This is to identify where to test for additional radio repeaters or voting receivers. A deadline is May 1st so we can keep on schedule. In addition, a list of additional needed channels has been requested and a reminder to order mobile & portable radios for their departments & squads installed no later than October 1, 2021. We also need a list of agencies they may need to communicate with that are not in Oconee County. Reminders will be sent out.

Director Krein added that the county has ordered the listening site to use for testing. Corinth Shiloh has a tower so this will be the first site to test. We are hoping that this site will also correct problem areas in the Friendship area

Director Scott Krein:

Physicals: The cost has increased but the Budget has not. Two Hundred & two have completed physicals. N. Greenville & Upstate are providing physicals but one from Upstate costs considerably more. Looking to put more \$ into that program. Sometimes we have no choice of which provider to use depending upon how much \$ we have. We are way up in the # of physicals provided. Everyone will get a Stress Test because we have to protect our volunteers & their families. 40-50% of LOD deaths are cardiac in nature. 49 y/o is the average death of a firefighter. 60 y/o is the average death for a regular citizen. Heart rate goes up 50 beats as soon as the tones drop. This puts a stress on your heart when adrenalin kicks in.

Future Incentive Criteria: A Joint Committee with Rescue needs to decide on the criteria.

Need to solve the problem of members being listed on numerous reports for the same call. Chairman Burton made a motion to appoint Mr. Grant & Mr. Brock to that Committee. A motion was made & seconded and a unanimous vote approved this motion.

A video recording of this meeting is available at www.oconeesc.com. Meetings have been live-streamed beginning January 17, 2017. Brought to you by Your Oconee.

Helo Insurance: Will work with Air Methods to see how our members can be covered. We are presently covered by the other Helos.

Financial Reporting System: Will roll out this new way of reporting soon. Council wants this reporting transparent. Steven Zahn has been using this new system for 1.5 years for 3 squads. Bo Horne developed this software for the county.

Chief Larry Greer:

Discussion of Helmet Policy & Accountability Policy. Will be writing these policies for review.
Discussed new Photo ID Card design. OK for Steven to work with Larry to come up with a card design.
Social Media Draft Polity distributed & discussed. Read for future discussion & compare with one in ERS.

Apparatus Update: 6 new trucks have arrived, insurance is in place & maintenance #s affixed. Looking at getting radios installed. Keeping them locked up at Motor Pool until placing into service. New hose needs testing before installing on trucks. The manufacturer will provide training & then trucks will be put into service.

Fire Commission Representatives' Reports:

Region 1: Absent but no issues.

Region 2: Lights left on by 21 crew when station is empty. Apparatus taken out of district to answer calls that are not Station 11 calls

Region 3: All good.

Region 4: Absent but all good.

Region 5: Box alarms need updating. Get maps that show boxes for review.

Hose testing last quoted for 107,500' of hose @ .27/foot = \$29,025. Director Krein added that the \$ would have to come from the Departments since this is not in the county Budget. Originally hose testing was a joint venture between the stations & 21. Some stations now do their own & some don't do any. Motion & seconded to take this to the Chiefs' Association Meeting to get their opinion. Unanimously accepted.

Lift assist calls: Scott added that the Rescue Squads have always taken care of these calls. If we make it the job of EMS to take over Lift Assist calls, it would have to be paid for out of our Budget. We are working on helping to solve these calls via other methods like adding ramps, etc.

Adding standard item on Agenda for Public Comments: After some discussion, a motion was made not add this Agenda Item. Motion seconded and a unanimous vote not to add this item to the Agenda.

Next Meeting

The next Fire Advisory Commissions Meeting will be held on May 20, 2021 beginning at 1800.

Adjourn:

Commissioner McAlister made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 1925.



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