



MINUTES

FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMISSION

May 20, 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

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 April 15, 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. No new reports received since last month. These reports are to identify where to test for additional radio repeaters or voting receivers. A deadline of May 1st was originally chosen 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 are being sent out monthly. Steven will send Commission members a list of who has responded as requested. Steven also reported that he believes that we may have to extend the date of initiation of the digital system past 1/1/22 due to a shortage of computer chips for radios.

Director Krein reminded the Commission that the new radios also include the older analog system. Also, the 2 digital channels are presently being used now as an alternative when someone can't communicate on the analog repeater channel. Steven added that we were told that 21 was going to collect information from squads & FD's as to how many of their apparatus do not have digital capabilities. Chief Greer responded that John Erwin was working on that.

Director Scott Krein:

Physicals: June 3 with N Greenville is the last physical for this fiscal year at R-4, 4-8:30pm. The Budget is out. More physicals will follow in July when the new Budget comes in. More physicals this year than any other.

Incentives: Will set up a date for a meeting with the 2 members from the Fire Commission (Grant & Brock) & the 2 from the Rescue Commission (Zahn & Avery) who are on the Incentive Committee. Would like their decision to happen soon so volunteers would know what is expected.

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.

Financial Reporting: Hope to have training soon to move departments over to a digital format. No deadline at this time

Chief Larry Greer:

Helmet Policy: To be voted on at the next Chiefs' Meeting.

Social Media Policy: Draft distributed with changes requested. This policy meets or exceeds county policy. It gives Chiefs the control of managing this policy. Mr. McAlister made a motion to accept this policy with Mr. Brock seconding. Motion was unanimously approved.

Accountability Policy: Will be writing these policies for review. Proposed ID cards distributed & discussed. Commissioners request four cards or whatever works. Mr. Zahn will manage the card system. He will decide what card goes to a member depending on their physical level & certifications. Steven pointed out that the Chiefs are responsible for assuring that the certifications listed on a member's ID Data Sheet are accurate. Look at again at next meeting.

Health & Physical Evaluation Form for Private Physician: Our physical is recognized as a Fire Ground, not a Fire Brigade physical. The form as presented was acceptable to the Commission. It will be in ERS. The county will not pay for a private physical. Upstate & N. Greenville only.

New 21 employees: Trained & in the stations now.

New Apparatus Update: Six new trucks are in service now. Making some minor changes, i.e. radio mounts, tailgate switch for work lights. New trucks went to FS-19, 24,11,14,15 & 2. Signed papers on other two trucks which will go to Mtn. Rest & Cleveland. Some replacement apparatus are going to the boneyard, two going to training & others going to reserve. The next big group will be tanker replacement.

AFG Grant: Correcting some clarification.

Hose Testing: Majority of Chiefs are in favor of 3rd party testing. Will come out of Dept's \$. Estimate from one dept. is \$900. \$.24-.27/ft.

Pumper testing. Can go 3rd party also if needed. Done by staff now. Ladders are presently being done. Check with your Depts. Brandon suggested putting together an NFPA contract for ladders, pumps, hoses & air packs so stations will have an idea of how much this would cost.

Fire Commission Representatives' Reports:

Region 1: Absent. Mr. Burton read Letter of Resignation from Mr. Collins (see attached). He thanked Mr. Collins for his service. Director Krein said they will work to fill that vacancy.

Region 2: All OK

Region 3: All OK

Region 4: All OK

Region 5: Question on Helo Insurance. Director Krein reported that he met with Air Methods today. He doesn't think it will be as bad as originally thought. Our present insurance does not cover Air Methods but they will work with us to make sure the closest helicopter is sent. Advantages to their chopper are that it is IFR instead of VFR, which means they can fly in poor weather when others can't and they have 2 engines & is bigger. They are in-network for BC/BS. In operation 6/1/21. Will do training with them. We will work with them if there is a bill involved.

Box Alarms: Chief Greer responded that this is not fixed yet but working on.

Next Meeting

The next Fire Advisory Commissions Meeting will be held on June 17, 2021 beginning at 1800.

Adjourn:

Commissioner Grant made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McAlister and approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting.

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.

5/20/2021

To: Fire Advisory Commission, Chief Greer, Region 1 representatives

From: Chief Travis V Collins/ Cleveland Fire Dept

It is with great sadness that effective immediately; I Will be resigning as region 1 representative on the Fire Service Advisory Commission. Due to the constant and ongoing hostile actions and false accusations, I feel that I can not effectively represent my region at this time. I will always be available to answer questions or provide assistance in any way possible to help our fire service. The Fire Service Advisory Commission was established to assist in decision making for the many great volunteers in our county and should always be the main goal. I have past minutes, plans and supporting documents which the previous commissions established and approved from the past several years to assist you if needed. Thank You for allowing me the honor of representing you in the past and hope that one day I will be able to serve you again.

Best Regards

Chief/Cleveland Fire Dept

Travis V Collins