



MINUTES FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMISSION

September 1, 2021

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

MEMBERS

Commissioner, Region 1 (Vacant)
Commissioner Tony McAlister, Region 2
Commissioner Austin Grant, Region 3 (Absent)
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 June 17, 2021, meeting were unanimously approved after motion by Commissioner Brock with a second from Commissioner McAlister.

Radio Committee Report:

- Steven reported that the repeater for Lever Hall has arrived & is waiting installation. This should make a big difference for FS-3 & 12.
- The repeater for the Salem water tank and the receiver to be used for testing is in the process of being ordered.
- More departments & squads are buying mobile & portable radios. Waiting for Travis to let me know some specifics on how he wants the programming to be done.
- No new information has come in re digital problem coverage areas so at this point; we must assume that all the problem areas have been reported.
- Scott Krein reported that the City of Westminster will be donating a 75' self-supporting radio tower they no longer need. We will be using this tower at an appropriate location to increase our coverage area.
- OCES has supplied a list of apparatus radio models to the Radio Committee so we can determine which need to be replaced.

Director Scott Krein:

- Re filling the Region 1 Fire Commission seat, we started out with 5 nominations. After 2 votes, there has been no majority. Mr. Ashton has dropped out after the second vote. We have 2 options. The first is to continue voting until there is a majority or take the top 2 and let the department members vote on them. This is following Robert's Rules of Order & the County Attorney. This would be Mr. Vissage and Mr. Blackwell. Tony made a motion that we go with the top 2 people for the run-off election with

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the Region 1 departments voting. Mr. Brock seconding. A discussion took place re: Robert's Rules of Order. A unanimous vote to accept this motion took place.

- Elections will be held in October/November for those Commission seats that are expiring. Emails have been sent to those Chiefs affected.
- In order to be eligible for an Incentive, the following are required and must be in ERS:
 - A current physical by each member
 - A current CPR/AED/FA, at a minimum
 - 10 hours of training for fire must be in ERS. 20 hours is normal but for this year, due, due to COVID, it's been reduced.
 - 5 hours of training for medical responders, Dive, Special Rescue & HM. 10 hours is normal but for this year, due to COVID, it's been reduced. Beginning next year, FDs, Squads, Dive, SR & HM will all be required to have 20 hours of training per year for Incentive eligibility.
 - 50 points are available, at the discretion of the Chief, for Administrative members or members who go above & beyond normal duties.
 - An active member with an appropriate certification such as
 - For Fire:
A fire certification or EVDT and Pump Ops.
 - For Rescue:
A current medical certification
 - For Dive:
A current Dive or Tender or Boat Operator or Sonar Operator or approved to drive a county Dive vehicle on the road
 - For Special Rescue:
A current SW certification or approved to drive a county Special Rescue vehicle on the road or a current Cert for Intro to Tech Rescue or Tech Rescuer
 - For HazMat:
A current HazMat certification or approved to drive the HazMat trucks
- Make sure Rosters are up-to-date & member's paperwork is up to date. Paperwork may not be submitted on line.
- No Response: "No Response" will be placed on reports when the FD/Squad does not respond to a call. This is being done in order to document this response. FDs, who are not also classified as Rescue Squads (e.g., Corinth-Shiloh), will not be penalized for not responding to medical calls.
- Jamie suggested that 21-2 be toned out when Med 13 & R-3 are toned out to medical calls in order to save precious time. Tony suggested that 21 be toned out for "Lift Assists" at night followed by the volunteers if 21 needs help.
 - Jamie asked about Mutual Aid from Townville on medical calls at the east end. A discussion took place

Chief Larry Greer:

- We were awarded the AFG grant for SCBAs. A 15 person Committee is being built at this time.
- Social Media Policy distributed again. Some corrections made by the County Attorney. It is now being presented again to the Commission. Tony made a motion to accept this policy with Jamie seconding. The vote was unanimous to approve.
- Physicals: Discussed the need to keep members safe & abide by the NFPA requirements (1582). N. Greenville will do a Level 1 or Level A (Interior) physical. A Level 2 or Level B (Exterior) physical can be obtained from a member's own doctor with a special form that the county has developed. Upstate Medical will also do a Level 2 physical. Upstate will also do an Administrative physical. Job descriptions will be coming for the different levels.

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- **Operational Model:**
Mondays & Fridays are usually off days for our 40s at the stations. Support personnel will cover those days.
Tuesdays-Thursdays have full stations when our staff is full.
Part-timers fill in on trucks when someone is off. Hope to have more of these. 7/week.
Jamie suggested using the M & F staff to fill-in in high volume areas.
- Have received hose lists. May have to do our own testing this year. Waiting on 3 quotes.
- Fit testing is required for members who wear SCBAs. Remind your members. EMRs need N-95 fit testing.
- Box alarms: Travis Tilson has it in hand. Being created. Will take some time. Some stations have requested additional boxes.
- Apparatus: FS-4 & 10 have approved their new apparatus which are being built at this time. Brandon requested an updated Capital Replacement List -- What's been replaced & what's looking to be replaced.

Fire Commission Representatives' Reports:

Region 1: Vacant

Region 2: All good. First arriving on scene needs to update so units can be canceled.

Region 3: Absent

Region 4: All OK

Region 5: All OK

- The new ID Card formats are still on hold waiting for the County Attorney's response on some questions.
- R-7 & 8 surveyed members on reasons for poor response. Tallying responses.

Next Meeting

The next Fire Advisory Commissions Meeting will be held on September 16, 2021 beginning at 1800.

Adjourn:

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

Steven Zahn, Secretary

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