



MINUTES FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMISSION

October 21, 2021

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

MEMBERS

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

Commissioner Brandon Burton, Region 5 (Absent)
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

Austin Grant called the meeting to order at 1807.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the September 1, 2021, meeting were unanimously approved after a motion was made by Austin Grant & seconded by Tony McAlister.

Charlie Vissage was welcomed as the new Region 1 Commission Representative.

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.
- More departments & squads are buying mobile & portable radios

Director Scott Krein:

- The Region 1 Seat has to go back out for a vote for a new 2 year period. Nominations are out for a vote in November.
- New members have to complete a New Member Packet in its entirety before a background check can be completed and to be sure that they are covered before beginning to run calls. Workers' Comp will not cover them until they are listed on a county Roster, nor will the county supplemental health insurance cover them nor will they be eligible for an Incentive.
- Quarterly Checks: Before Quarterly checks can be released, we need to make sure that all call reports are completed & that everything is done on the list. Remember to email the Rosters so we have an electronic copy. If calls are not closed, Incentive points can't be assigned to members.
- Presented Capital Improvement Plan (see attached) & what has changed.
 - \$40,000 increase in truck fire engine costs.
 - FS-8 bought their own rescue truck. R-3B had not been used in 3 years & was rat infested. Reallocated that truck to Mtn. Rest Rescue Squad after they wrecked their vehicle. We're shuffling vehicles to save money.
 - Falling behind in receiving fire trucks because of delivery time from the manufacturers. 16

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- months from the date of order. In this year's budget.
- CSFD sub-station truck is being replaced.
- Working on Squad 21-3 for the east end.
- For ISO purposes, we will have to discuss that when we replace squads, we may move them to a service unit so we get service credit for them on structure fires.
- Fire boats are no longer recognized by ISO.
- Fire 1 Tahoe has been ordered.
- EM vehicle being purchased mostly with a grant.
- We have \$1,000,000 grant for 169 air packs with 2 cylinders. The committee is working on this. If we don't stay with Scott, we'll have to replace every pack. We'll have to go through another budget cycle before we'll be able to do this. Everything would have to get pushed a year.
- Bountyland station Engine 29 would get bumped if that station does not get built. 10% increase for E-13, \$385 to \$415,000.
- 21-4 will have to be replaced with a larger 450 truck.
- 2 rescue trucks will be replaced that year.

Chief Larry Greer:

- Distributed a new Incident Report Form (see attached) for fire & rescue to be used for gathering information so it will be easier for the member or 21 who enters the report into ERS. Take to Chiefs for feedback. Can add their dept./squad names, Member's names, FDIDs, etc. Need uniformity across the county. If 21 is entering reports, this is what we want them to have. If Dept./squad is entering reports, use what you have been using.
- Hose & Pump Testing: Have some quotes. Happening now. \$1.50/ft for ladders. 58 trucks for pump testing @ \$180/ea. Hose testing @ \$.22/ft. which comes to approx.. \$40,000 to do all hose in the county. \$3-4000 per dept. if the dept. pays for their hose. This company was \$1.57/ft. for ladders. This company can do ladder testing @ \$2.21/ft. Hose @ \$.35/ft. & pump testing @ \$200/truck. Presently, county pays for ladder testing & they do the pump testing. Question to the Commission is do the departments want to pay for the hose test or do it themselves? Talk to your department. They need to decide if they want to do the hose testing themselves or use a 3rd. party & have that cost deducted from their Quarterly check. These will have to go out to bid.
- Volunteers can apply for career opportunities. They would be welcomed but they have to apply. They can work for OCES but can't be on a volunteer Roster. 40 & 24 hour employees can run calls if they live in an area in Oconee County that has a volunteer dept. & that dept. is dispatched to a call & they get paid for that call. Part timers are limited to a maximum of 5 hours.
- Volunteer Firefighter of the Year. Nominations should be sent to Larry with a Narrative .To be awarded at the Christmas Party on 12/2/21. Would like 2 Commission members to be on a committee to select this member. Jamie & Brandon will be on this committee. If a committee member's name is in the hat, that member will not be allowed to vote.
- Physicals: Level 1 only from N. Greenville or Level 1 or Level 2 or Admin. from Upstate or your personal doctor. You will have an Oconee packet to take to your doctor explaining exactly what job you will be doing. Almost completed for the county attorney to approve.
- Hires: Another 3 put on this week. 1 from an Oconee volunteer dept. to the 40 hour position.
- 21 members are working hard. Not riding around.

Fire Commission Representatives' Reports:

Region 1: All good.

Region 2: All good. If not active, move member to Admin. Member

Region 3: All good.

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Region 4: Absent
Region 5: Absent

Next Meeting

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

Adjourn:

Commissioner McAlister made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Vissage and approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 1950.

Steven Zahn, Secretary

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