



MINUTES FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMISSION

March 17, 2022

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

Commissioner Brandon Burton, Region 5
Scott Krein, OCES Director
Brady Norris, Training Chief
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 and Steven Zahn, Secretary present.

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 Brandon Burton called the meeting to order at 1800.

Brandon congratulated Director Krein for his award for being the State Emergency Manager & everything he has done for the county.

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes from the February 17, 2022, meeting were unanimously approved after a motion was made by Brandon Burton & seconded by Tony McAlister.

Steven Zahn's Radio Communications Committee Report

- We had a short recent meeting. We need to have all members plus Tilson attend so we can make decisions and make more progress. We're waiting for the frequencies for the Salem water tank repeater.
- We need to make the final decisions about what the channel line-up will be on the different zones.
- We're sending out an email to all Chiefs so they can have 1 more opportunity to let us know what other agencies they need to communicate with outside of Oconee County.

Director Krein's Report:

- We're going to hold the line in the Budget at 2.9.. Looks the same as last year. Some small changes were made which will not affect aid to any of the departments. We will take \$40,000 left over from last year's Budget (for paving & concrete in some sub-station's parking lots) & use it to pay for pump testing. Hose testing will be paid for by the departments.
- We increased the money available to pay for the physicals. This cost has gone up.
- We will continue to pay for the lease for the air packs.
- We need to thank our Council and administration for their support we have in good equipment. That equipment saved one of our firefighters at a structure fire in a flashover yesterday. It did destroy the equipment but saved the firefighter from any injury. This was money well spent.

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.

- Treatment of members: The staff needs to be respectful of volunteers and the Chiefs need to make sure that the volunteers show respect back to the staff. A hostile work environment is not something we need. Over 500 openings in the state for firefighters. We don't want to lose any. Please talk to your Chiefs. In response to a question from Chairman Burton, Director Krein responded that there have been a few instances where a staff member was attacked by either volunteer Chiefs or officers & that's inappropriate. Director Krein clarified that by saying "It was the manner in which they were spoken to."

Brady Norris' Report:

- Air packs: Training will begin on 3/22 @ Long Creek. Fit testing at 1600 & training to go till 2100. The training will start at 1800. All members are invited to the training portion even if they do not need to be fit tested due to not being interior. 3/24 training at SF-11 from 1600 to 2100. 3/29 at FS-3 from 1600 to 2100. 3/31 at FS-15 from 1600 to 2100. 4/9 at HQ from 0800 to 1200. Attend any one you would like. There will be no one using a new air pack on scene who has not been fit tested. Being clean shaven is a prerequisite for fit testing. The packs should be here in about a month. Then programming will be done. Then one pack will be delivered to each station so the members can become familiar with them before we swap out all the packs. Mid June is the expected date of the arrival of the all packs & accessories ordered. 700 cylinders. 300 packs. Batteries & chargers.
- Engine 4 & 10 have been delivered. 10 is in service now. 4 will be in service soon. Equipment is being put on it tonight.

Fire Commission Representatives' Reports

- Region 1: All good.
- Region 2: Question about ID Tags not making it to the stations. Steven responded that he does not have paperwork for any ID Cards for FS-11.
- Region 3: Question re Form for physicals from outside MDs. Director Krein responded that this form is not yet available. We'll continue to use the form from last year.
- Region 4: All good.
- Region 5: All good.
- Tony congratulated the county on getting the Bountyland station going. It's a long time coming.

Next Meeting

The next Fire Advisory Commissions Meeting will be held on April 17, 2022, beginning at 1800.

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made by Chairman Burton and seconded by Commissioner Vissage and approved unanimously at 1821.

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.