



MINUTES

FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMISSION

May 19, 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 (Absent)

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.

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes from the March 17, 2022, meeting were unanimously approved after a motion was made by Charlie Vissage & seconded by Tony McAlister.

Steven Zahn's Radio Communications Committee Report

- No meeting last month. We need to have all members plus Travis Tilson attend so we can make decisions and make more progress. We're waiting for the frequencies for the Salem water tank repeater.
- A contractor is coming to look at the site for the Cleveland FD receiver tower. Interface almost done.

Director Krein's Report:

- Discussed county Budget.
- Physicals more expensive & we're getting more volunteers attending.
- Burn building getting some needed repairs.
- Discussed Bountyland building.
- Discussed vehicle replacement.
- Discussed air packs.
- ERS Access: Needed to change due to security reasons. Untrained people had access.
- A-911. Only those who should be going to calls should be receiving dispatch information. Chief of Dept. can authorize this.
- ERS to become ESO. Need a group from fire, rescue & OCES to evaluate which company will fit our needs the most.
- Incentive requirements. 20 hours of training is the only change from last year. See email sent out covering the requirements. Non-responders use the 50 points available for each dept. &

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squad. Some type of fire or medical certification. Should not be responding to calls unless you have a fire or medical cert. Example of certifications: If you have a CPR card, you can run a cardiac arrest call because you can make a difference at that call. Boat Operations Course is acceptable for Special Rescue & Dive members to attend calls to operate a boat. If you are a member of a rescue squad & a fire department, you need only 20 hours to qualify. This training needs to be entered into ERS.

- Helicopter Insurance: We now have 2 helicopters that cover over 2/3 of our county that do not accept our helicopter insurance. Only 1/3 of the county, if that helicopter is available, is covered. This is a huge cost that does not cover most of us all of the time. We don't want members to think they have helicopter insurance when they do not. Med-Trans would cover us. Air Methods through Prisma will not. There is other insurance that would cover us that is too expensive. If your department chooses to get this insurance for its members, county money could be used. The county will continue to look for options. Motion made by Brandon, seconded by Tony to not proceed with helicopter insurance until we find a company that will cover all 3 helicopter services at a reasonable cost. Stations are responsible for this fiscal year. A unanimous vote to accept took place.
- June 18th is Fire/Rescue Appreciation Day at HQ 10-3. Food, games, etc.

Brady Norris' Report:

- 220 members have current physicals. About 100 members do not. Only those with current physicals should respond to calls. 6/25/22 next physicals at R-4. 6/16/22 is the last day for physicals at Upstate. Restart the end of July. Request a copy at checkout of the Physicians' Affidavit if you want a copy.
- Discuss SCBAs. Pick up loaners from your stations on 5/26/22.
- Send Brady a digital image or pic of you dept. patch for a video.
- Brady reported that the 3rd party testing will run from \$54,620 to \$72,578. That includes 170,000 ft. of hose, 50 pumpers, 3,000 ft. of ladders & 4 aerial trucks. Tony made a motion to move forward with 3rd Party Testing of hose, ladders, pumpers and aerials. Charlie seconded and the members unanimously approved. Hose testing will be paid for by each dept.
- Brady requests that each dept. look at the amount of hose in their station & decide if they really need all that hose.
- FIT testing: 5 events covered only 146 members. Need more to be tested. Required for interior.
- Recruit School: 6/14 to 8/18/22, M-F, 8-6. Any or all are available to volunteers. Call Brady.
- See email for classes through SCFA.
- New hires: 3 weeks ago, 2 new hires. Tomorrow offering 8 full time & 2 part time jobs. That's 10 new hires coming on within a month. No training for any. By Oct., will be fully staffed.
- Brady would like an XL dept. shirt for the Training Room from each dept.

Fire Commission Representatives' Reports

- Region 1: All good.
- Region 2: All good
- Region 3: All good
- Region 4: Absent
- Region 5: All good.

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Next Meeting

The next Fire Advisory Commissions Meeting will be held on June 16, 2022, beginning at 1800.

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made by Chairman Burton and seconded by Commissioner Vissage and approved unanimously at 1910.

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