



MINUTES FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMISSION

October 20, 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
OCES Director, Scott Krein,
Fire Chief, Chris Smith
Secretary, Steven Zahn

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 Burton called the meeting to order at 1807 after some audio/visual problems.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the September 15, 2022, meeting were unanimously approved after a motion was made by Commissioner Vissage & seconded by Commissioner Grant.

Steven Zahn's Radio Communications Committee Report

- New representatives from the OCSO attended our last meeting.
- No word on frequencies for the Salem water tank repeater.
- Discussed going on the proposed Duke Bad Creek radio tower for digital.
- Next meeting voting on final decision for channel line-up.
- Michael Hunnicutt checking mobile repeaters to get them operational re cables.
- Brandon asked how long we have been working on this project? Answer, 2 years. What was the original time line? Answer, we were first hoping within a year (January 2022). The major hold-ups have been the FCC with frequency assignment & incorrect equipment purchased.

Director Krein's Report:

- Departments will be getting a list of who qualifies for Incentives this year & who is missing prerequisites. If you have any missing items, please submit them to help your members qualify. Checks distributed before Thanksgiving if possible.
- A Software Committee needs members for the ERS replacement. Austin Grant was Nominated by Tony McAlister & seconded by Charlie Vissage. Austin was approved by unanimous vote.
- The Chiefs' Association is working on food vendor & a venue for the Christmas Dinner.

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.

- Some members are still just using just their flashers thinking they can run Code 3--run red lights, follow a fire truck or an ambulance or a POV (that has county approval for lights & Sirens). The fire or rescue Chief are personally responsible and liable when they allow their member to run lights & sirens outside the rules & the law. The law states;

The red lights have to be mounted as high as possible, visible from 360 degrees.

Have a siren that can be heard from 500'

We are asking for right-of-way which does not have to be given.

Please ask your chiefs to remind everybody about this. We have to follow the law. Also the member's insurance company has to acknowledge that they are aware & will cover them when running code 3.

The county attorney is OK with this as long as they are following county rules & the law.

- To drive a fire truck, a member needs EVDT. If responding POV, emergency vehicle POV training is needed. This is a short class taken on-line. For the squads, VFIS offers a course for small vehicle response. A physical, with a stress test, is also mandatory to drive a county vehicle Code 3. A CDL is not needed.

Chief Smith:

- NFIRS reporting: 40 hour staff should not be entering fire reports for calls they did not respond to.

Fire Commission Representatives' Reports

- Region 1: All Good.
- Region 2: How is the Bountyland station coming? To Council 11/15/22 for approval of cost.
- Region 3: All Good.
- Region 4: Absent
- Region 5: All Good

Next Meeting

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

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Vissage, seconded by Representative McAlister and approved unanimously at 1834.

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.