



# MINUTES FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMISSION

April 20, 2023

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 Bruce Brock, Region 4

Commissioner Brandon Burton, Region 5 (absent)  
OCES Director, Scott Krein  
Fire Chief, Chris Smith

The Oconee County Fire Service Advisory Commission met at 6:01 p.m. in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC, with four members 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](http://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:**

- Vice-Chairman McAlister called the meeting to order at 1801. Comm. Vissage motioned to approve the minutes from the March fire service advisory commission meeting with Comm. Brock seconding. Members unanimously approved the minutes.

## **Election of Officers**

- Commission Secretary: Steve Zahn resigned the position effective the March meeting. Commissioner Austin Grant agrees to serve as commission secretary for three months pending the appointment of a permanent replacement by the July meeting. Anyone interested in serving in this capacity should contact a member of the fire service advisory commission to be considered at the May meeting.

## **Radio Communications Committee Report:**

- Director Krein reported that the radio communications committee did not meet this month. Newry dam upgrade and Seneca Water Tower equipment upgrade is progressing. There have been funds requested for both the Salem and 130 tower in the new budget. A 75' tower is needed for the Long Creek project.

## **Director Scott Krein's Report:**

- Budget Discussion – Changes in proposed 2.9 fund for next fiscal year
  - Equipment maintenance line increased from \$61,200 to \$75,000.
  - Telecommunication line item increased from \$12,000 to \$15,000
  - Medical physicals – Line item increased by \$10,000
  - Gas and fuel oil – increasing by \$4,200 to keep up with rising prices
  - Water/sewer/garbage – Line item reduced by \$1,000 due to lower costs

A video recording of this meeting is available at [www.oconeesc.com](http://www.oconeesc.com). Meetings have been live-streamed beginning January 17, 2017. Brought to you by Your Oconee.

- Data Processing – New line item of \$30,000. Adding a line item to pay for ERS to continue while we build out the contract for a new reporting system. Brady is working on the proposal for the new software.
- Small equipment – Increased from \$15,000 to \$25,000
- Small Equipment Radio Equipment – new line item for \$20,000. For computer/programming upfit
- Small Capital AEDs – New line item for \$15,000 for AED replacement and maintenance (enough to replace 14 aging AEDs)
- Non-capital IT equipment/Software – will pay for some of the IT programming
- Buildings, Capital Exp – Money that will be used for paving at some of the substations
- Burn Building Inspecting and repair – Burn building is reaching the point where it needs to be inspected annually. \$10,000 budgeted for maintenance.
- Training facility Equipment and Upgrades - \$30,000 for IT upgrades including a new projector, completing the flammable liquids pit.
- Engine pump and hose testing – Increasing from \$10,000 to \$25,000. Last year the county was able to cover this at no cost to the individual stations because of funds leftover from the SCBA replacement project. Increasing this line item to cover more of the expense. If it ends up costing more, the cost will be paid by the individual fire stations.
- Gasoline - \$15,000 for a fuel contingency fund if needed in case of price increases or shortages. Can be moved to “Diesel” line item if necessary.
- Grant to independent agencies/Basic station Exp – line did not change
- Volunteer Compensation – line did not change.
- Discussion regarding Quarterly Checks
  - There have been issues with checks being delayed because of paperwork not being completed on time. If all station paperwork is completed by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month, then the check will be cut the following week. This will prevent checks sitting for long periods of time and expiring.
- Discussion regarding staffing
  - We are still under-staffed. We are working to get people hired. Looking at different scheduling options and models to ensure a good working environment.

**Chief Chris Smith:**

- SOG 202.1 – Discussion regarding new awards program:
  - New SOG explains new honors and awards that both volunteers and paid staff can be nominated for. Nomination form is included in the SOG.

**Fire Representative Reports:**

- Region 1: Comm Vissage – Nothing to report
- Region 2: Comm McCallister – Nothing to report
- Region 3: Comm Grant – Nothing to report
- Region 4: Comm Brock – District chiefs are requesting help in the stations. They understand that the county is still short-staffed but just wanted to reiterate that the staffing is needed and appreciated. Chief Smith reports that one new employee starts

A video recording of this meeting is available at [www.oconeesc.com](http://www.oconeesc.com). Meetings have been live-streamed beginning January 17, 2017. Brought to you by Your Oconee.

this week, one graduates from a cadet class next week, and we still have some openings that need to be filled. had a question about the 40 hour staff not being in the station enough hours per week.

- Region 5: Chairman Burton – Not present

### **Next Meeting**

- The next Fire Service Advisory Commissions Meeting will be held on May 18, 2023, beginning at 1800.

### **Adjourn:**

- A motion to adjourn was made by Comm Brock and seconded by Commissioner Vissage and approved unanimously at 18:39.

**A video recording of this meeting is available at [www.oconeesc.com](http://www.oconeesc.com). Meetings have been live-streamed beginning January 17, 2017. Brought to you by Your Oconee.**