



MINUTES FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMISSION

September 21, 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, Region 5 (seat vacant)
OCES Director, Scott Krein
Fire Chief, Chris Smith

The Oconee County Fire Service Advisory Commission met at 6:00 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]. 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 McAlister called the meeting to order at 18:00.

Approval of Minutes:

Meeting minutes from the August meeting were not sent out yet. Commissioner Brock took notes in Commissioner Grant's absence. The notes will be prepared and sent out so they may be reviewed and voted on at the October meeting.

Radio Communications Committee Report:

- In the last month we have found out that a lot of our radios are mis-programmed.
 - Issues are that some radios will only talk to one repeater.
 - This issue seems to have stemmed from one radio that was programmed incorrectly which was then cloned and the incorrect schematic was used on other radios.
 - They are working on the schematic and updating it to resolve the problem.
- The repeater at Newry is online now.
- The lease agreement is completed with Duke Energy for the tower on Highway 130 for the listening repeater.
- There are still plans to hire a dedicated radio maintenance person in the next budget cycle.

Director Scott Krein's Report:

- Incentive Update: We have about 40 people scheduled for physicals between now and the end of the month. There are a few slots left. The deadline is the end of the month.

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.

Please make sure training is entered. The minimum is 20 hours. It has to be in ERS for it to count. Please have all training added by the 15th of October. We have to adhere to these deadlines so that we can get the checks out before Christmas. We also hope to have the helicopter insurance in place by then for the people who meet the incentive criteria. This is a great benefit that will cost approximately \$180 per person. This insurance will also cover direct relatives who live in the member's household.

- Bountyland Station Update: Bountyland Station's generator will be installed soon. We will get the final certificate of occupancy once the generator is installed. We will be hiring positions to staff the Bountyland station soon. The new pay scale and positions will be pushed out soon. The city contracts are in the final phases of being signed.
- AFG Grant Update: Today we signed the newest AFG which is for a mobile air trailer. This will contain a compressor and cascade system to replace the one at the training center and be available to be towed to scenes as well to support those on scene. This will be a major benefit for dive and confined space incidents as well as fire scenes.
- Staffing Update: There are three firefighters, three engineers, and three captains in the new staffing plan. This will significantly help the Bountyland area and surrounding districts to have a three-person engine available there. We are optimistic that with the new step plan and pay scales we will be able to improve recruitment. Our entry level pay has had a significant increase. We had a hiring assessment on Tuesday where 7 or 8 completed the physical agility test and battalion interviews. Testing and interviews with Chief Smith will take place sometime next week. A couple of these candidates have prior certifications and the rest do not.

Fire Chief Chris Smith:

- Signature Forms: Chief Smith has emailed all of the chiefs of the departments that participate in the 1% distribution. All signature forms must be received back in order for the checks to be distributed.
- Annual Equipment Certificate – These forms can be found on the fire marshal's site of the fire portal. These quarterly reports and annual fire equipment certificates must be completed soon. The equipment certificates are due by October 31st. 4th quarter inspection report is due after September 30th.

Fire Representative Reports:

- Region 1: Comm Vissage – No update.
- Region 2: Comm McAlister – No update.
- Region 3: Comm Grant – No update.
- Region 4: Comm Brock - Remind members to ask for nearest 21 staff if they are needed and not dispatched. Don't be afraid to call for mutual aid if needed. At the county fire chief's meeting, it was asked that Bruce Brock be voted to be the liaison between the fire commission and the chief's association.
- Region 5: Seat remains vacant

Next Meeting

- The next Fire Service Advisory Commissions Meeting will be held on October 19th, 2023, beginning at 18:00.

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.

Adjourn:

- Meeting was adjourned at 18:27.

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