



# Minutes

## OCONEE COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD ADVISORY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Thursday, March 24, 2022

### MEMBERS, RESCUE SQUAD ADVISORY COMMISSION

Kelly McCormick, Tammy Wilbanks,  
Michael Smith, Steven Zahn, Eric Sprogis,  
Keith Wilbanks, Mike Carroll

The Oconee County Rescue Squad Advisory Commission met at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla. Steven Zahn, Tammy Wilbanks, Kelly McCormick, Erik Sprogis, EMS Director Mike Carroll, OCES Director Scott Krein and County Planner Vivian Kompier were present.

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]. In addition, it was made available [upon request] to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

**Call to order** – Commissioner Steve Zahn called the meeting to order at 1800 hr.

**Approval of minutes from 02/24/22** – Commissioner McCormick made a motion to accept the February 24, 2022 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Sprogis and approved 4-0.

### Committee Reports

1. Radio Committee – Commissioner Zahn reported that the project is moving forward well. They are still having trouble getting frequencies for Salem tower, which prevents ordering any items for that tower as of right now. A tower will be going up in Cleveland and in Long Creek. Chiefs will be assisted in the desired channels for their station's radios.
2. Training Committee – Commissioner Wilbanks reported that she had checked on the hours in question. It appears to be topics that Oconee County put into the local EMR classes for responders to have by the completion of class. The group will be meeting in a few days to begin work on another component and hope to soon have the original document finalized.
- 3.

### Rescue Squad Updates

- Region 1 – Squads 1 & 3 / Kelly McCormick –
  - 1) Rescue 1 –
    - a) Action Training starting soon, cost is around \$70 per person
    - b) Insurance bill coming up this month
    - c) A few more radios will need to be purchased due to new members
    - d) More coverage with truck response and working together to cover calls
  - 2) Rescue 3 –
    - a) Situation with quarterly check has been resolved
    - b) Rescue 3D still in shop for decal work(update: all striping had to be redone)
    - c) Thanks to two members for being present

- Region 2 – Squads 2 & 6 / Tammy Wilbanks
  - 1) Rescue 2 –
    - a) Concerns about dispatch not toning what would have been the closest unit; Fall Creek incident
    - b) Possibility of going to the state fuel card to save some money in that area
  - 2) Rescue 6 – No issues or concerns expressed when asked
- Region 3 – Squads 4 & 5 / Michael Smith – absent
  - 1) Rescue 4 – (per Mike Carroll)
    - a) Doing fairly well with six active members
    - b) Meeting and training with good energy
    - c) Currently do not have a full slate of officers and are looking to hold an election soon
  - 2) Rescue 5 – (per Steve Zahn)
    - a) Still hurting for members; one leaving for police academy
- Region 4 – Squad 22 / Erik Sprogis –
  - a) Completing training on Action Training
  - b) Currently seven members, possibly losing two, then gaining one more
  - c) Working well as a group
- Region 5 - Rescue 7/8 /Steve Zahn
  - a) Struggling to get people to respond to calls
  - b) Season is about to hit and doing the best they can

#### **Deputy Chief Mike Carroll's Report**

- 1) Thanked the members of the training committee for all the work being done.
- 2) CEP classes coming up on March 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> for EMRs. We need more attendance at these sessions. We also need to advertise the EMT CEP classes.
- 3) We are six months into the incentive period. All responders should be making sure they are getting the necessary hours for training before the end of September. Another component is the physical. Currently, there are approximately one hundred responders without physicals. There is one coming up April 14<sup>th</sup> at Corinth-Shiloh. Call Cindy at 638-4200 to set that up.
- 4) Replacement rescue squad vehicles – it looks like F150 is the one with the best pricing. He would like to get with some vendors about compartments, etc. to see what would work best for storage purposes. Looking at DHEC regulations for what marked rescue vehicles should carry.
- 5) If you need radios, order them now because turnaround time is about four months at this time. Make sure you follow the guidelines for buying radios.
- 6) Standard for response – Looking at the box assignments and trying to ensure that the closest unit is responding to the call.

#### **Director Krein's Report**

- 1) Budget –Funds will stay the same for now until the 2.9 Fund money amount is named. Squads will continue to receive \$10,000 for expenses and \$20,000 for operations. Three new positions in budget requests to assist with call volume as needed. Personnel are cross-trained as fire and medical so they can be dispatched to assist with any call. Commissioner McCormick asked about the American Rescue Fund money and if it would be available for use and Director Krein explained that it would not be on this allotment period. Commissioner McCormick also broke down the amount per call for rescue squads per call compared to dive and special squad calls.
- 2) Respectful treatment of members – Director Krein expects his staff to be cordial and respectful to all volunteers and people at all times. He also will not accept chiefs because they are a chief or commissioners because they are a commissioner to berate, belittle anyone of his staff. It is unacceptable to him. We are more than welcome to have a conversation with him if needed.

The staff is out there to help. We are all professionals and should not be conducting ourselves in this manner on a scene. We have to work together and if we don't, we are going to tear our system apart. Pass this information down to ensure that there should never be any disrespect shown. It is uncalled for.

- 3) Appropriate response systems – Our goal in helping the citizens is to send the closest, correct unit. We must communicate, if needed, with those responding and if there's a unit closer, they need to be sent. Needs to be done appropriately. Some of the 21 units will let us know if they have an extended ETA. Lengthy discussion followed.

Commissioner Zahn raised questions/comments about the following:

- 1) PAR checks for rescue calls. Mike Carroll said there probably should be a meeting about making a SOG/SOP for that.
- 2) Financial program that was built a couple of years ago and where did we stand with that. Mike Carroll said that he tried to get it to upload to the county system and it wouldn't. Zahn will contact Bo Horne about following up on project.
- 3) Is the incentive committee going to meet again? Director Krein said yes.
- 4) Remind departments to complete the IRS forms for the charities.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Sprogis and seconded by Commissioner McCormick. Approved 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 1850.