



# MINUTES

## FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMISSION

### February 18, 2021

Oconee County Administrative Offices, Council Chambers  
415 S. Pine Street, Walhalla, SC 29691

#### MEMBERS

Commissioner Travis Collins, Region 1  
Commissioner Tony McAlister, Region 2  
Commissioner Austin Grant, Region 3  
Commissioner Jamie Brock, Region 4

Commissioner Brandon Burton, Region 5, Chairman  
Chief Scott Krein, OCES Director  
County Fire Chief Larry Greer  
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, Steven Zahn, Secretary & Katie D. Smith, Clerk to Council, 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

Chief Krein called the meeting to order at 1800.

#### Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the January 27, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.

#### Election of Officers:

Region 5 candidate, Richie Caudill, did not meet the requirement of living in the district he was representing. Two others were originally recommended & eligible, Kevin Wilbanks & Brandon Burton. Kevin did not want to be a Commission Representative again so that left Brandon Burton as the Region 5 representative.

Nominations for Chairman: Paper ballots will be used.

Travis Collins was nominated from the last meeting. Received 1 vote.

Tony McAlister nominated Brandon Burton for Chairman. Seconded by Austin Grant. Received 4 votes. Brandon Burton will be the new Fire Commission Chairman for 2021. Travis Collins remains Vice Chairman for 2021.

Commission Secretary. Steven Zahn was Nominated & seconded & unopposed. Steven will be Secretary for 2021.

#### Director Krein's Report

- AFAG Grant filed for air packs totaling \$1.174 Million. 159 SCBAs with 2 air cylinders each. The grant only does 1<sup>st</sup> due seats in apparatus. Does not cover all SCBAs that we have. If we don't get the grant this year we can apply next year before the deadline replacement period is reached. Crossroads & Cleveland have some of their own that need to be replaced also.
- Helicopter Insurance renewal: The county was not notified of the need to renew some of the policies. In the past, county paid for members who qualified for an Incentive Check. Each dept.

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may pay for those members who do not qualify for the county paying. They can pay at the county price, \$40 instead of \$75.

- Prisma Health has gone with Med Trans' competitor, Air Methods, as their primary helicopter. County insurance does not cover that provider. We don't want a helo coming for one of our members that is not covered & they receive a \$58,000 bill. Don't know if we'll be allowed to request a covered helo.
- New Firetrucks: 4 people will be going to FL to inspect 6 trucks. Dwayne Peay, Michael Honeycutt, Mike Carroll & Andy McGuffin. Will have another inspection for the other 2 trucks.
- Physicals: Open with Upstate & N. Greenville. Encourage all to get their physicals. One of the requirements to be on scene is having a physical. Chiefs are liable for this. Tell your members if they don't have a current physical, don't come to fires.
- Recruitment: Each dept. should come up with ideas for recruitment. Classes producing firefighters. Festivals could be used to help recruit.
- Larry Greer County Fire Chief. Brady Norris now Assistant Chief of Operations & Training.
- Discussed issue with bridge weight maximums. May have to reroute trucks or call other departments for help.

#### **Chief Larry Greer:**

- Review distributed SOG for standardization of Helmet colors. Easy to ID level of certification. White - Chief & Asst. Chief. Captains & Lieutenants - red. Black - interior firefighters. Yellow - exterior support, less than a Level 1 physical. The shield will tell the officer rank if not a Level 1. Orange - Junior FF & Explorers. Blue can be for medical. NY style helmets are \$275-\$350. Any style is acceptable. 1-2 years to adopt. Engineers can have a color. Motion to take to Chiefs' meeting to discuss. Approved 5/0.
- Steven Zahn & Scott Long are looking into changes in the ID Cards.
- SOG for volunteer requirements. Anonymous call. Add language for POV Code 3. Need a policy for this. Tony suggested if in neighboring district OK to respond but not from 3 or 4 districts away. Insurance co must know about this. Meet SC requirements for code 3 response. Look up existing policy for reference. Discuss next meeting to consider updating. Discuss with your Chiefs. Motion made to approve. Passed 5/0
- Fire Brigade Clearance: A Level 1 & 2 physical. Travis believes a Level 3 physical for drivers is needed. Scott believes a stress test needs to be required for drivers. Tony believes we'll lose several members if this is required. Those running medical calls only were allowed to be a Level 3. The issue is that N. Greenville does not offer a Level 3 physical. You either pass or fail. So a Level 3 who has a stress test becomes a Level 2 & can drive a fire truck and respond to medical calls.
- Brady is setting up Driver Training for Rescue so they may drive rescue vehicles and not have to take EVDT which is mainly for driving fire trucks.

#### **Fire Commission Representatives' Reports**

Region 1: Have radio communications issues. Will document & submit them. Invites Chief Greer to attend one of their meetings. Don't pull personnel out of stations due to short staffing. Whetstone still needs pavement to the road. Village Creek needs a concrete pad.

Region 2: No issues.

Region 3: No issues.

Region 4: All have concerns that Dispatch cannot hear members but members can hear other

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members. Scott wants these documented & submitted to him.

Region 5: Box alarms need adjustments. Re-tone vs. second alarms or closest unit. A tiered response. Make sure the right people are going. GPS will help with sending the closest staffed unit.

**Radio Committee Report:**

Steven reported that Travis Tilson is purchasing a voting receiver to use to test at different sites to improve reception. Friendship will be first since they are ready to buy equipment. Other areas will be tested when departments/squads report poor reception areas. An email was sent to all Chiefs regarding the purchase of portables & mobiles. Did not receive any responses. 1/1/2022 is the deadline to have digital equipment in operation. Motorola models 5550e & 7550e are the models required to operate in our system. A “mayday” channel may be used for firefighter down emergencies on scene. Over-the-air programming is another benefit. A list of department & squad special channels has been requested with no response. Consistency of radio numbers is also planned. We need to get moving toward getting this plan in effect. Steven will continue to request this information at the Rescue & FD Chiefs’ meetings.

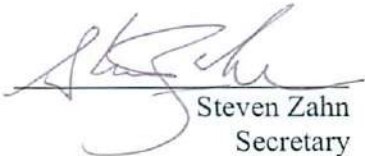
**Next Meeting**

The next Fire Advisory Commissions Meeting will be held on March 18, 2021 beginning at 1800.

**Adjourn:**

Commission McAlister made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 1845.

Respectfully Submitted:

  
Steven Zahn  
Secretary

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