



MINUTES FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMISSION

January 25, 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
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:

- Director Scott Krein called the meeting to order at 1800 & presented the Minutes from the October 20, 2022 meeting and a Special Meeting on December 28, 2022 to vote on the Firefighter of the Year. Bruce made a motion to approve the October 20 meeting with Tony seconding and the members unanimously approving. Brandon made a motion to approve the December 28 meeting with Charlie seconding and the members unanimously approving.

Election of Officers:

- Chairman: Tony nominated Brandon with Charlie seconding. This motion was unanimously approved.
- Chairman Burton took over the meeting requesting nominations for Vice Chairman. Bruce nominated Austin with Brandon seconding and Austin nominated Tony with Charlie seconding. A written ballot was handed out and Director Krein & Chief Smith determined that Tony McAlister will be the Vice Chairman.
- Brandon motioned that they continue with Steven Zahn as Secretary. Tony seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Setting the Dates & Times of the 2023 Meetings and the January 2024 Meeting:

- All times are 1800 except as indicated. February 16, March 16, April 20, May 18, June 22 @ 1900, July 20, August 17, Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16, Dec 21 and January 18, 2024. Bruce made a motion to accept those dates with Tony seconding. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

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.

Committee Assignments:

- Radio Committee: Need 1 member to be from the Fire Commission. Tony nominated Bruce with Charlie seconding. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
- Incentive Committee: Need 1 member to be from the Fire Commission. Charlie nominated Tony with Bruce seconding. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Radio Committee Report:

- Steven reported no meeting last month. We are still waiting for the FCC to issue us digital frequencies for the Salem Water Tank.
- We have permission to be on the new 300' Duke Bad Creek tower which will greatly improve our communications in that part of the county. We are waiting on the FCC to assign us frequencies.
- The police & we will have a repeater at the Newry Mill at the Mill's expense, which will greatly improve communications in that part of the county.
- We are still waiting for some FDs & Squads to report on what equipment they have.
- When we planned our new system, all FDs & Squads were advised to purchase specific brand & model radios so we could do Over-The-Air programming when a change or addition occurs, at night, all at once with no cost involved. Some FD's decided to purchase other than what we advised which will interfere with the county plan.
- County does not have employees as programmers. Some volunteers have been doing the programming but the OCSO has not supplied a Codeplug for the proper programming. Personnel at the OCSO won't support programming fire radios. Brandon made a motion with Charlie seconding for OCES to put into their Budget to hire a radio programmer. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Director Scott Krein's Report:

- Director Krein reminded the Commission Representatives to report the matters discussed at the Commission meetings to the regions & Chiefs they represent. They should also get items that their members may have to bring back to the Commission. Reach out to Scott if you have any concerns.
- Steven volunteered to send out a copy of the Approved Minutes to all Fire Chiefs after each meeting. Brandon agreed that this was a good idea & to go ahead with it.
- Welcome Bruce Brock to the Commission.

Chief Chris Smith:

- In order to continue to supply the very best to the citizens of Oconee, we have worked on a Deployment Model Change so staff can work in pairs & split the county up into 4 regions.
- Each region except 1 will have two units 5 days a week, two 40 hour people on a truck together working 5 days a week instead of 4 days a week 8-4. Several days a week there should be a truck at each station.
- In 2022, FS-3 had almost 900 calls. Two people will be at FS-3 24/7.

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- Chief Norris reported that
 - Region 1 will be Cleveland, Holly Springs, Long Creek & Mtn. Rest. That region will have a north truck, 21-1 with 2 personnel. One apparatus will have two 40 hr. personnel.
 - Region 2 will be 11, 14, 17 & 16.
 - Region 3 will be 8, 1, 15.
 - Region 4 will be 12, 3 & 13.
 - Monday will be the start date for this deployment model. A diagram of this model, will be sent out by Chief Smith.

Honor Guard Report:

- Chief Smith would like to see more participation from the volunteers & paid staff. Gabe Haney has done a good job with this & Chief Smith has asked him to serve on a committee & put together some guidelines.

Fire Representative Reports:

- Region 1: All good.
- Region 2: Tony wants Squad 21 toned on all rescue calls on the first alarm.
- Region 3: All good.
- Region 4: All good.
- Region 5: Wants a Roster sent out the first of each week of the 21 staff so the Chiefs know who is at their station each week.
- Brandon handed out a Resolution (see attached) he is submitting to County Council requesting the Council modify the Ordinance so Region 5 representatives do not have to live in their districts. Most employees do not live in their districts so they are limited who can serve. Brandon made this a motion with Charlie seconding. Motion passed by unanimous vote. Brandon thanked the Representatives who served this past year.

Next Meeting

- The next Fire Service Advisory Commissions Meeting will be held on February 16, 2023, beginning at 1800.

Adjourn:

- A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Vissage, seconded by Representative McAlister and approved unanimously at 1854.

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)

COUNTY OF OCONEE)

RESOLUTION 2023-1

**A RESOLUTION OF THE OCONEE COUNTY FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY
COMMISSION RECOMMENDING OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL AMEND
RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS**

WHEREAS, Oconee County Ordinance 2012-24, §4, dated 7-17-2012 created and regulates the Oconee County Fire Service Advisory Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Oconee County Fire Service Advisory Commission mission is to provide a body of active members of the Oconee County fire service; and

WHEREAS, the Oconee County Fire Service Advisory Commission is responsible for guidance, advice, and recommendations to the county and the county council on current and future fire service activities in Oconee County; and

WHEREAS, residency requirements stipulate that Fire Service Advisory Commissioners reside in a district of the region they represent; and

WHEREAS, the Oconee County Fire Service Advisory Commission desires to ask Oconee Council for amendments to residency requirements for Region 5; and

WHEREAS, Region 5 Commissioners, historically, have been the chief officer of a department in the region represented; and

WHEREAS, district residency is not a requirement for chief officers by their employers;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Oconee County Fire Service Advisory Commission, in regular meeting duly assembled, a quorum being present that:

1. Fire Service Commissioners must be a legal resident of Oconee County.
2. Fire Service Commissioners must be an active member in good standing in one of the fire organizations in a district of the region they represent.
3. Region 5 Fire Service Commissioners need not reside in a district of the region they represent.
4. The Fire Service Advisory Commissions authorizes the Chair to present this Resolution to Oconee County Council.

(continues next page)

AND IT IS SO RESOLVED this 25TH day of January 2023.

Timothy B. Bunt

Chair, Oconee Fire Service
Advisory Commission

AYES	<u>5</u>
NAYS	<u>0</u>
ABSENT	<u>0</u>
ABSTAIN	<u>0</u>

Attest:

[Signature] Sec. 1/25/23
Secretary to Oconee County Fire Service
Advisory Commission