



MINUTES FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMISSION

February 16, 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, Absent
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:

- Chairman Burton called the meeting to order at 1800. He then made a motion to amend the Agenda to read this meeting to be on February 16, not February 23th. This motion was seconded by Comm. Vissage and unanimously accepted. He then presented the Minutes from the January 25, 2023 meeting. Comm. McAlister made a motion to approve the minutes with Comm. Brock seconding and the members unanimously approving.

Radio Communications Committee Report:

- Steven Zahn reported that the Communications Committee has not had a meeting in a number of months.

Director Scott Krein's Report:

- Physicals: We continue to pay 2 vendors so we have adequate access for volunteers. He reiterated that a Fire Physical must have an arduous Stress EKG physical with it. Just going to your doctor & having him sign your paper is not a Fire Physical. Even a Level 2 must have that physical. You cannot drive a fire truck without one. It is a liability issue. It must follow NFPA standards. Most doctors don't know what's involved in a Fire Physical. Bruce asked why not have a form spelling out what needs to be in a Fire Physical? Krein responded that "even our form does not spell out what is required in a Fire Physical". "You would have to look at hundreds of pages of NFPA to figure

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that out". Bruce stated that for his job, he had to go to his specific doctor. They would not accept the county doctor's physical. Krein said that this would be acceptable as long as the required elements are covered. If there's a stress test involved & we can show that the required areas are covered, we can accept that. Brandon asked what the county attorney's position is on this. It should not be the county's liability because the doctor has signed the sheet. The liability should reside on the doctor. Krein said the liability lies with the county. Brandon asked if we take a packet to our doctor, spelling out what is required, and he signs the cover sheet, that would be acceptable. Krein responded that 2 years ago, we started this process but it did not get done. We have 2 vendors that can get the proper physicals done. We need you to have a stress test & the easiest way to do that is to use our vendors. Bruce again said that if a member wants to use a private doctor, he needs to hand their doctor a package that spells out what is needed. Also, how many Levels are there? Krein responded that we used to have 4. Level 4 was Administrative but you could not go on calls. Level 3 was designed for medical First Responders who drove small trucks. It did not require a stress test & no firefighting on scene. (Level 2 was not mentioned). When tones are dropped, up to a 40% increase in heart rate occurs. That's why we do a stress test. Bruce suggested you take the county packet to your doctor & have him complete it. Krein responded by saying a stress test is also needed. Brandon added that there must be a worksheet that lists all the things required for a FF Physical.

- Bountyland Fire Station: Doing some utility work that is needed & waiting for one DHEC permit to be signed. Some material (block) has been ordered while were waiting.
- ISO Classifications: Nothing has changed in last 8 years since we received an ISO 4 in the county within 5 miles of a fire station. They recognize the sub stations but we need to insure that those apparatus are responding.
- Complaints on Lights & Siren response: Lighting & sound policies must be followed in POV that respond Code 3. Just flashers do not meet this policy. There is a county Form which includes the member's insurance company knowledge that they are responding Code 3 as an emergency vehicle. The lighting & sound requirements are very clear. If a member chooses not to meet the SC lighting & sound requirements and their Chief allows them to respond Code 3, the Chief is liable if something happens. Citizens don't understand why a vehicle is responding Code 3 so they call the SO or Emerg. Mgt. Please have your members follow the rules & regulations.

Chief Chris Smith:

- Helmet Policy Distributed: The Commission approved this policy 1.5 years ago. Went into effect January 2023. This is just a reminder.

Fire Representative Reports:

- Region 1: Charlie had a question. Can an Active go out when a call is canceled? Krein responded that he would look into it.
- Region 2: Tony had a question re Road Dept. cutting trees out of road.
- Region 3: Absent
- Region 4: Bruce had a question about the 40 hr. staff.
- Region 5: All good.

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Next Meeting

- The next Fire Service Advisory Commissions Meeting will be held on March 16, 2023, beginning at 1837.

Adjourn:

- A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Burton and seconded by Commissioner McAlister and approved unanimously at 1837.

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