



MINUTES FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMISSION

January 18, 2024

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

MEMBERS

Commissioner Will Bates, Region 1
Commissioner Tony McAlister, Region 2
Commissioner Austin Grant, Region 3
Commissioner Bruce Brock, Region 4 (absent)

Commissioner Terry Sanford, Region 5
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:

- Director Scott Krein called the meeting to order at 18:00.

Approval of Minutes:

- Minutes for the October 19, 2023 commission meeting were sent out.
- Motion by Commissioner McAlister to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Bates. Members unanimously approved the minutes.

Election of Officers

- Commission Chairman and Vice Chairman.
- Due to the onboarding of two new commissioners and the absence of Commissioner Brock, Commissioner Bates made a motion to table this until the February meeting so the two new members would have a chance to be briefed and the decision could be made when all commissioners were present next month. Motion seconded by Commissioner McAlister. All approved.

2024 Meeting Schedule:

- Proposed meeting dates for the next year are as follows, to be located in county council chambers at 18:00:
 - February 15
 - March 21
 - April 18
 - May 16
 - June 20

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- July 18
- August 15
- September 19
- October 17
- November 21
- December 19
- January 16, 2025.
 - Motion to approve dates Commissioner Bates, Second by Comm McAlister. Dates approved unanimously.

Radio Committee Report:

- Aaron Smith will be the new full-time emergency planner and radio technician. The radio programming part-time position will be hired soon.
- We have had good results with the new correctly programmed Kenwoods and Motorolas that have been tested. We have found more programming issues with our current radio programming that will need to be corrected.
- Once we have the schematics corrected for the different makes and models of radios, Aaron and the part-time employee will be going out to the various departments to begin reprogramming radios.
- The Newry Mill tower is up and operational.
- There is another tower possibly going in at Duke Energy rather than the Salem water tower which would be a more ideal location for our repeater system.

Director Scott Krein's Report:

- Welcoming Comments – Welcome and thank you to new and returning commissioners.
- Introduction of New Members
 - Will Bates, Region 1. Has been with Mountain Rest for 9 years.
 - Terry Sanford, Region 5. Will be representing the municipalities.
- Incentive Update
 - Incentive is out. Director Krein will be working on the helicopter insurance, which will cover ground and air transport for any member who received an incentive this year. The sooner the paperwork is completed, the sooner the policy will be active. This is the policy that is through the SC State Firefighter's Association.
- Staffing Update for Radio Position – The staffing has been fulfilled. We have put some upfit money in the budget for this position so we will be getting any needed computers and cables soon. The part time position is open and has been posted on the county's website.

Chief Chris Smith:

- Quarterly Reporting Policy –
 - Updated policy outlines everything that departments need to do to meet the quarterly requirements.

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- All incident reporting needs to be completed by the 10th of the months so that the NFIRS report can be submitted to the state by the 15th of the month.
- Fire Staffing Update
 - We have hired 16 people in the last 3 and a half weeks. 10 will be going to recruit class. 9 of them start next week. We currently only have two 40 hours positions open. 3 or 4 part time positions remain available. All 9 of the Bountyland positions are filled. County council's newly approved pay adjustments have helped with recruitment and increased our number of applications.
- Junior Firefighter SOG
 - Please review the new guidelines for junior firefighters.
 - They will be covered by county worker's comp insurance provided that they are on the roster.
 - Junior members will be required to undergo a medical physical prior to training or going on calls.
 - Commissioner McAlister asked if the career center program would resume. The fire instructor position has not been filled at this time and there are currently no plans to fill this position.

Fire Representative Reports:

- Region 1: Commissioner Bates – Most of the concerns in Region 1 revolve around the radio issues.
- Region 2: Commissioner McAlister – Nothing to report. Requested a moment of silence for Shon Hamilton.
- Region 3: Commissioner Grant – Nothing to report
- Region 4: Commissioner Brock – Not present
- Region 5: Commissioner Sanford – Nothing to report.

Next Meeting

- The next Fire Service Advisory Commission Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 15th, 2024, beginning at 18:00.

Adjourn:

- A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Bates and seconded by Commissioner Sanford and approved unanimously at 18:33

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