



MINUTES

FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMISSION

February 15, 2024

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

MEMBERS

Commissioner Will Bates, Region 1	Commissioner Terry Sanford, Region 5
Commissioner Tony McAlister, Region 2	OCS Director, Scott Krein
Commissioner Austin Grant, Region 3	Fire Chief, Chris Smith (absent)
Commissioner Bruce Brock, Region 4	

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.

Election of Officers

- Commission Chairman
 - Will Bates was nominated by Tony McAlister
 - Motion seconded by Bruce Brock
 - Unanimously Approved
- Vice Chairman
 - Terry Sanford nominated by Tony McAlister
 - Motion seconded by Bruce Brock
 - Unanimously Approved

Appointment of Fire Commission Committees for 2024

- Radio Committee Liaison
 - This committee typically meets during the day
 - Bruce Brock is willing to volunteer for the position, but cannot guarantee that he can make all the meetings. Director Krein stated that the meetings can be recorded or held via Zoom so he can stay up to date.
 - Motion by Will Bates for Bruce Brock to be the commission's radio committee liaison
 - Seconded by Tony McAlister
 - Motion approved unanimously
- Incentive Committee

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- Motion by Bruce Brock to appoint Tony McAlister to the incentive committee.
- Seconded by Terry Sanford.
- Motion approved unanimously

Approval of Minutes:

- Minutes for the January 18th, 2023 commission meeting were sent out.
- Motion by Terry Sanford to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Bruce Brock. Members unanimously approved the minutes.

Radio Committee Report:

- Highway 130 tower update: The concrete pad was poured for the building, generator, and fuel tank to get this tower operational.
 - We are holding off on the Salem tower for now. It is being put on hold because the 130 tower is taller and in a better location.
- There was a committee meeting today and there will be another meeting on the 29th of this month.
- Station-specific radio zones:
 - Each department has a choice to put a zone in the schematic so that it can be a department-specific zone. If a department does not tell us what they want, we cannot make them a zone. When you receive this email, please respond with your desired frequencies. The sooner the county receives a reply, the sooner they can start building out the schematics.
- Radio Programming
 - Continuing to find and correct additional issues with current radio programming and schematics.
- We are working with the hospital to improve interoperability through simulcasting so that everyone can receive pertinent information as efficiently as possible. The upgrade for the dispatch-side of this piece should be completed within a month.
- We are looking at replacing two of the older repeaters in the county and creating a replacement schedule to replace them on a rotating basis. We also want to invest in a spare to have on hand in case of a lightning strike or component failure.
- The part-time radio programmer has been selected and is going through the hiring process. An announcement will be made and they will be introduced soon.

Director Scott Krein's Report:

- We have the signed contract for the helicopter agreement with MASA.
 - We plan to send the required paperwork out to the chiefs for dependents in the next week. We need these forms back as quickly as possible. Coverage will not be active until we have these forms back and processed.
 - This insurance will cover helicopter and ground ambulance no matter which company provides the service.
 - County is paying for all of the members who earned an incentive check for the current year.

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- If the departments wish to cover members who did not qualify for the incentive, they will have to cover the cost. Each department is eligible to go to MASA and purchase the coverage themselves at the same rate as the county.
- Bi-Annual County Response Drill (Emergency Worker Decontamination) is coming up on August 18th.
 - Please encourage all of your members to complete radiological training annually

Chief Chris Smith: (not present, report given by Director Krein)

- Awards Program Recap
 - Was well-received, and many awards were presented to fire/rescue personnel, EMS, law enforcement, and dispatchers.
- Bountyland Station
 - We hope to have the Bountyland Station fully operational and staffed by March 15th.
 - There will be an open house on March 28th from 1 to 4:00pm.
 - At 2:00pm the Woodmens will hold a ceremony to dedicate the flagpole that was donated and raise the flag.
 - A traffic signal will be installed on Keowee School Road that can be controlled from the station.
 - Ladder 21 and Engine 21 will be stationed there
- Recruit class
 - We had 17 employees start in January and February so far. This will allow us to support the volunteer departments better. 10 of these new employees will be going through the upcoming rookie school.
- Train class by Norfolk Southern on Monday April 22, 2024
 - Limit of 50 students.

Fire Representative Reports:

- Region 1: Commissioner Bates –
 - MSA LUNAR Thermal Cameras - Handed out an article about LUNAR cameras. These cameras are about \$2,800 per camera from Safe Industries. These can also link to the MSA G1 packs. These also offer a subscription service which costs approximately \$3,600 annually for an umbrella subscription that will allow multiple logins. This would allow a user with an iPad to monitor air levels of interior crews and track the camera locations within structures structure.
 - Hazmat request – asked to get four air packs without PASS devices for Hazmat operations in the coming budget years.
- Region 2: Commissioner McAlister – Nothing to report.
- Region 3: Commissioner Grant – Nothing to report
- Region 4: Commissioner Brock –
 - Accountability committee: At the last chief's meeting, it was requested that each district select a representative to serve on an accountability committee. Their region representative will be Carter Stone from Station 8. Mr. Brock asked why county ID cards are so difficult to get. This committee will look into options for

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accountability, examining ID card issues, passport system, etc. Will Bates was selected to represent Region 1.

- Training Survey: There will be an online survey sent out about training and what changes can be made to better serve the needs of our members.
- Region 5: Commissioner Sanford – Nothing to report.

Next Meeting

- The next Fire Service Advisory Commission Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 21st, 2024, beginning at 18:00.

Adjourn:

- A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Sanford and seconded by Commissioner McAlister and approved unanimously at 18:41

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