



MINUTES

FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMISSION

July 25, 2024

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

MEMBERS

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

Commissioner Terry Sanford, Region 5 (absent)
OCES Director, Scott Krein
Fire Chief, Chris Smith

The Oconee County Fire Service Advisory Commission met at 7:11 p.m. in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC, with 5 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:

- Commissioner Bruce Brock called the meeting to order at 19:11

Approval of Minutes:

- Minutes for the April 18th and May 16th commission meetings were emailed out.
- Motion to approve April 18th minutes by Austin Grant, second by Tony McAlister
 - Motion carries unanimously
- Motion to approve May 16th minutes by Bruce Brock, second by Austin Grant
 - Motion carries unanimously

Radio Committee Report:

- Will be addressed by presentation by Eli Patterson

Director Scott Krein's Report:

- Radio Presentation – Eli Patterson
 - Technical Services Update
 - Working on identifying and resolving issues with radio programming, inventory, site visits to repeater and tower sites.
 - Purchased and placed in-service a Starlink Sattellite system to get internet when working in remote areas
 - Upgrading the phone system at the EOC to move to a digital VOIP system.
 - Feasibility study conducted to evaluate the radio infrastructure and aid in long-range planning for upgrades and improvements.

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.

- Received 9 new Kenwood NX 5000 series portable radios for deployment to Station 21 staff and officers for testing. Compatible with MSA G1 AirPak communication pairing.
- Participated in dress rehearsal of ONS FSE supporting communications and technology needs.
- Installation and deployment of station alerting system at Station 21
- Countywide radio updates beginning August 2024, anticipated completion 10/2024
- Standardization of radio equipment approved for use on the Oconee County Public Safety Radio System
- Fire Tankers Lease/Purchase
 - Trying to get the lease/purchase of the first 6 pumper/tankers to county council. We hope to have the three readings done in August. We are still finalizing the details of the lease/purchase and hope to have it completed soon.
 - Since the last commission meeting, we have added ladders and pike poles to the spec so they can truly function as an engine.

Chief Chris Smith:

- Volunteer Incentive Requirements Reminder
 - 20 hours of training
 - Some type of fire or rescue certification
 - Valid CPR and First Aid card
 - 1 hour of incident command training
 - Reach out to Mike Hunnicutt or Chief Hollifield if you still need one.
- 1% Equal Distribution Signature Forms
 - An email was sent to all the departments last week asking if the department plans to participate in the 1% equal distribution or not. Please let Chief Smith know asap via email if you have not done so yet.
 - Checks should come out sometime in September or October.

Fire Representative Reports:

- Region 1: Commissioner Bates – Absent
- Region 2: Commissioner McAlister –
 - Will be doing fit test at KEFD Monday the 29th at 6:30pm.
- Region 3: Commissioner Grant –
 - Per Mike Hunnicutt, Rescue 1 is hosting an IC training on August 12th, and Fair Play is hosting one August 19th.
- Region 4: Commissioner Brock -
 - Asked if 21 is fully staffed. Asking because several stations look to be short, especially on their 40 hour staff. Chief Smith states that they are fully staffed, but we had one staff member out due to an injury who was just cleared to return yesterday, and four others have been out sick this week. Covid is making a comeback.
 - Radio issues. Still having radio issues. Asked Eli to please let him know how he can help.

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.

- Raised concern if we can get a mechanic specifically for fire apparatus. Crossroads has an engine down and has had other issues recently with check engine lights and bad sensors. Chief Smith states that motorpool is doing the best they can when working with the specialized fire apparatus. They are also using Copeland, a company who offers mobile repair service within the county. We have also used Safe Industries for repairs. Chief Smith states that he feels it would be a waste to use money from the fire budget to hire a dedicated mechanic due to difficulty of retaining the employee due to the nature of the specialized training required for the position.
- Region 5: Commissioner Sanford – Absent

Next Meeting

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

Adjourn:

- A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Grant and seconded by Commissioner McAlister and approved unanimously at 19:57

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.