



MINUTES FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMISSION

August 15, 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 (absent)
Commissioner Bruce Brock, Region 4

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 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 Sanford called the meeting to order at 18:00.

Approval of Minutes:

- Minutes for the July 25th 2024 commission meeting were emailed out.
- Motion to approve minutes by Commissioner Brock
- Seconded by Commissioner McAlister
 - Minutes approved unanimously

Radio Committee Report:

- Commissioner Brock was not able to attend the last meeting. Director Krein explained that the biggest update is that we are trying to partner with the Sheriff's Office on the machine that monitors all the workings of the program. This machine costs approximately \$30,000, or we can rent it monthly to save money. This machine is like a scanner that will make sure all of the radios are within parameters. It is recommended by the manufacturers that this be done annually. They are going to start working on the radio connectivity with the packs after the nuclear drill is completed next Tuesday.

Director Scott Krein's Report:

- Incentive deadline is coming up fast – cutoff for requirements is September 30th.
 - Reminder that we added the required IC class this year. Please remind your members about this requirement. This class will be updated next year to include the new accountability system after it is rolled out.

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- Request made by Commissioner Brock that if any more classes are scheduled to please send out an email to inform everyone of the location and date/time.
- Tanker lease-purchase paperwork for six pumper-tankers is in progress. This will take three readings in council.
- The lease-purchase for the airpacks is now complete, which will free up capital for next year.

Chief Chris Smith:

- PPE and facial hair
 - We have had some issues with firefighters being on scene with facial hair. Reminder that NFPA 1500.915.2 states “nothing shall be allowed to enter or pass through the area where the respiratory protection facepiece is designed to seal with the face, regardless of the specific fit testing measures that can be attained.” It does not matter if you can pass a fit test, no facial hair shall be permitted if it interferes with your mask seal. OSHA also has similar rules. Please remember that fire chiefs and incident commanders can be held responsible if members on scene are in violation of this policy.
 - Reminder that if a volunteer is injured and covered by the county worker’s compensation, you receive \$273 per week in pay. So please do not take unnecessary risks. If volunteers want to have facial hair, they should not be allowed to perform interior firefighting operations or enter IDLH environments
- 1% Equal Distribution Signature Forms
 - Chief has only received one signed form back at this time. No checks will be distributed until all forms are received. Scanned electronic copies are fine.
- Final reminder to please review all of the incentive requirements that have been emailed out. Reminder that if you do not have current EMR or EMT certification, you must have both a current first-aid certification and a CPR/AED card. In addition to the required incident command training, 20 hours of training, and a county physical.

Fire Representative Reports:

- Region 1: Commissioner Bates – Absent
- Region 2: Commissioner McAlister –
 - No report
- Region 3: Commissioner Grant – Absent
- Region 4: Commissioner Brock -
 - No report
- Region 5: Commissioner Sanford –
 - No report

Next Meeting

- The next Fire Service Advisory Commission Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 19, 2024, beginning at 18:00.

Adjourn:

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- A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Sanford and seconded by Commissioner Brock and approved unanimously at 18:17

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