



MINUTES FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMISSION

September 19, 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 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC, with 3 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 Brock called the meeting to order at 18:00.

Approval of Minutes:

- Minutes for the August 15, 2024 commission meeting were emailed out.
- Motion to approve minutes by Commissioner McAlister
- Seconded by Commissioner Grant
 - Minutes approved unanimously

Radio Committee Report:

- Commissioner Brock was not able to attend the last meeting. Director Krein explained that there have been a lot of tests going on. He said that we now have the ability to patch in the field and communicate with Clemson and Pickens so our radios will talk to theirs when we get on a scene with them. Stated that they are still working on programming and testing the Motorolas and Kenwoods. We are making good progress but it is no small endeavor to transition from analog to digital.

Director Scott Krein's Report:

- Pumper/tankers.
 - County council authorized the lease-purchase Tuesday night. They will not be ordered for some time. We have to get the lease-purchase agreement in place first. The attorney and finance office is working through this. It could be 12-18 months. We will most likely get a couple early and then more later. We will have

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a better timeframe when the lease-purchase agreement is finished. The initial agreement will be for six pumper-tankers.

- Mobile air trailer
 - We hope to do training on the new trailer at the November training burns. We hope to have the trailer operational by then. This trailer is replacing Mobile Air and will be housed out of the Camp Rd area. This will be able to go to any station and fill their cascade cylinders if needed. We hope this will be delivered the last week of October.
- Maintenance on equipment
 - We need help when it comes to maintenance on equipment. Clear communication when issues are found and good documentation are needed so that we can fix the problems. Sometimes it takes time to get parts, so we need to be notified of problems as soon as possible. This includes reporting any accidents and damage to apparatus and equipment.

Chief Chris Smith:

- Emergency Vehicle Operations SOG
 - State law states that you should have a Class E or F license to drive a fire truck. Class F endorsements are no longer issued by the DMV, so that leaves us with Class E or CDL being required to operate fire apparatus. The new process for obtaining a Class E license is to get your Class E permit from the DMV, then complete the Class E course through the SC fire academy. Upon successful completion of that course, you are given a document to take to the DMV to get your Class E license. The CDL and class E road test is no longer offered at the Seneca DMV office, so we intend to host several of the SCFA Class E courses locally in the near future.
 - The county's policy requires EVDT and Pump Ops 1 to drive an engine, EVDT and Pump Ops 2 to drive a tanker, and Aerial ops to drive a ladder truck. Medical responders who do not drive fire trucks need to obtain EVDT or VFIS to operate a pickup truck or other non-commercial rescue vehicle.
 - The SOG also addresses the use of warning devices, emergency driving, non-emergency driving, and backing.
 - If department chiefs choose to hold their members to different standards than what is outlined in this SOG, they are assuming the liability for doing so. This SOG is a suggested practice that all stations should follow.
- Incentive reminder
 - Another reminder that the deadline for incentive check requirements is 9/30/2024.

Fire Representative Reports:

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

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- Region 5: Commissioner Sanford – Absent

Next Meeting

- The next Fire Service Advisory Commission Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 17th, 2024, beginning at 18:00.

Adjourn:

- A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner McAlister and seconded by Commissioner Grant and approved unanimously at 18:25

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