



# MINUTES

## FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMISSION

### June 19, 2025

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

#### **MEMBERS**

Commissioner Bruce Blackwell, Region 1  
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 4 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](http://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:**

- Chairman Sanford called the meeting to order at 18:00.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

- Minutes for the May 15th commission meeting were emailed out.
  - Motion by Commissioner Brock to approve the minutes, second by Commissioner McAlister. Motion approved unanimously.

#### **Radio Communications Committee Report:**

- No update from Commissioner Brock or Chief Smith. The committee hasn't met in a month or two.
- Commissioner Blackwell stated that Long Creek had been on a call the previous day and had difficulty reaching dispatch from the scene in the Brasstown area.

#### **Director Scott Krein's Report:**

- No update.

#### **Chief Chris Smith:**

- The new Highway 76 bridge opened this week. This will be a big help for Holly Springs and Long Creek to get assistance from Westminster and other areas.
- Operational changes occurring next week:
  - We will have a crew at West Union and a crew at camp to cover the areas around Walhalla. West Union fire station is undergoing some modifications.
  - Oconee 1 will be staffed out of Rescue 4 eventually.

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- Chief Hollifield is working out a schedule of when the county units will be visiting the area volunteer departments during the week.
- After the first of the year, when Corinth-Shiloh has hired their paid staff, the county staff currently there will return and be housed at headquarters at night and be moved to Stations 12 and 13 during the day, 7 days a week.
- Starting next week, the OCES firefighters housed at Corinth-Shiloh will be visiting Friendship twice a week to complete truck checks, cleaning, etc.
- Nomenclature updates: The crew at Station 16 will go by "Oconee 5," the crew at 19 will be "Fire Station 19," Oconee 1 will still be "Oconee 1," and the crew at South Union will continue to be "Oconee 2" and will be a three person truck.
- We submitted a new box alarm update to dispatch today which will go into effect soon.

### **Fire Representative Reports:**

- Region 1: Commissioner Blackwell –
  - Several members attended the training for the new reporting software this past Monday.
- Region 2: Commissioner McAlister –
  - Per Chief Wilbanks at Pickett-Post, they have added some members and are working on building their roster up.
  - Requested if we can ask individual fire members responding in POVs to stop calling en route and on scene over the radio. Stated that they responded to a wreck with entrapment and had difficulty contacting dispatch because of all the POV members talking on the radio. Everyone needs to practice good radio etiquette and keep transmissions relevant, short, and to-the-point.
- Region 3: Commissioner Grant –
  - Not present, no report.
- 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 August 21<sup>th</sup>, 2025, beginning at 18:00.

### **Adjourn:**

- A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Sanford and seconded by Commissioner Blackwell and approved unanimously at 18:11

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