



Minutes

OCONEE COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD ADVISORY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Thursday, May 27, 2021

MEMBERS, RESCUE SQUAD ADVISORY COMMISSION

Sarah Avery, Tammy Wilbanks,
Steven Zahn, Michael Smith, Eric
Sprogis, Keith Wilbanks, Mike
Carroll

The Oconee County Rescue Squad Advisory Commission met at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla. Steven Zahn, Erik Sprogis, Michael Smith, EMS Director Mike Carroll and Vivian Kompier, County Planner were present. Tammy Wilbanks was watching LiveStream and taking minutes.

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]. In addition, it was made available [upon request] to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Call to order – Commissioner Zahn called the meeting to order at 1800 hr.

Approval of minutes from 06/24/21 – Commissioner Smith made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Sprogis and approved 3-0.

Rescue Squad Updates

- Region 1 – Squads 1 & 3 / Sarah Avery – Absent
- Region 2 – Squads 2 & 6 / Tammy Wilbanks – Absent
- Region 3 – Squads 4 & 5 / Michael Smith – Everything going well. Squad is running short on staffing for call response. Most all of their responders are working the same shift now, which is decreasing call response during that timeframe. Relayed a question from Allen White about why there was not more knowledge given to the rescue squads pertaining to the SCHAT training exercise. Squads have been notified in the past in case anyone wanted to participate. Deputy Chief Carroll said he would have to check on that.
- Region 4 – Squad 22 / Erik Sprogis – Digital radio has arrived and needs to be programmed and installed. There was some discussion on who to program and who to install it. At the last R22 meeting there was discussion on how to rebrand the squad to be more useful. They want to set a focus for the future. Squad is looking at recruitment and retention.
- Region 5 - Squads 7 & 8 / Steven Zahn – Been busy with calls, especially Special Rescue team; continued low turnout on calls; discussion underway about how to handle those members who aren't attending meetings, trainings, and calls. A small boat was given to them by the Sheriff's department and radios ordered for that. Received a forestry vehicle which needs to be painted. Ford Excursion also received with the boat. Radios have been ordered for all these and lights/sirens are being checked on. Discussion on mutual aid response to boat fire at Portman Marina.

Committee Reports

1. Training Committee – We are still working on that document. Last meeting was canceled.
2. Radio Committee – Commission Zahn reported that Lever Hall equipment had come in and was waiting for install. Testing equipment is still not ordered. Pushing departments and squads to get digital radios for apparatus and handhelds. Possibly of a tower being moved to another area for use.
3. Incentive Committee – Joint group of fire and rescue commission members. This year rosters that are turned in quarterly will be used for members who are actively engaged in response. Requirements for receipt of incentive are: 1) Current physical from Oct.1, 2020 – Sept. 30, 2021, and in ERS, 2) CPR certified (AHA, ARC, ASHI, Military Training Network), 3) Fire Training – 10 hours, Rescue Training 5 hours, Special Rescue and Dive – 5 hours. Administrative points given to disperse as needed for non-responders. Next year all training hours for incentive will be 20 hours across the board. Always make sure all training hours go into ERS.

Deputy Chief Mike Carroll's Report

1. Rescue 4
Mike Carroll attended the last meeting and there were 3 members present. He talked with them about reaching out to past members and see if they still want to volunteer. Some applications have been turned in.
2. Rescue 22
Mike Carroll attended the last meeting and there was good discussion on how to revamp the duties of the squad for better utilization.
3. Non-response on incident reports
 - Generic code in ERS for no response. If agency does not run call, then that should be documented.
 - This is to better document where there is a need for improvement in call response.
 - Michael Smith mentioned that it needed to be done correctly. He referenced a call where apparatus had been deleted.
4. Social Media policy – not acquired from Chief Greer
5. Physicals – There will be one Sept. 2nd at Long Creek Fire Department; still have slots available; a stress test is required

Other Items

- Michael Smith made mention of all EMS response was being halted until tornado warnings were over. He didn't know this was an option and if it is, then why should we be going to send our responders out. He has never heard of this being done in his 30+ years of response. Mike Carroll will be checking on this matter.
- Next meeting September 23, 2021 at 1800 hr

Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn by Michael Smith and seconded by Erik Sprogis. The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 1836.