



# Minutes

## OCONEE COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD ADVISORY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Thursday, February 24, 2022

### MEMBERS, RESCUE SQUAD ADVISORY COMMISSION

Kelly McCormick, Tammy Wilbanks,  
Michael Smith, Steven Zahn, 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, Tammy Wilbanks, Kelly McCormick, EMS Director Mike Carroll, OCES Director Scott Krein and County Planner Vivian Kompier were present.

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** – Director Scott Krein called the meeting to order at 1808 hr.

**Welcome** – Director Krein welcomed Kelly McCormick (Region 1 – Squads 1/3) and Tammy Wilbanks (Region 2 – Squads 2/6) to the Rescue Advisory Commission.

#### **Elections of Officers –**

- **Chair** – Director Krein opened floor for nomination of Chair of the Rescue Advisory Commission. Kelly McCormick nominated Steve Zahn, seconded by Tammy Wilbanks, approved 3-0. Director Krein turned the meeting over to Commission Chair, Steve Zahn.
- **Vice-Chair** – Steve Zahn nominated Michael Smith, seconded by Kelly McCormick, approved 3-0.
- **Secretary** – Kelly McCormick nominated Tammy Wilbanks, seconded by Steve Zahn, approved 3-0.

**Approval of minutes from 11/18/21** – Commissioner McCormick made a motion to accept the November 11, 2021 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Zahn and approved 3-0.

**Calendar** – A list of proposed dates for Rescue Squad Advisory Commission meetings was provided. There was discussion concerning the July, November and December meetings. Commissioner Wilbanks made a motion to accept the proposed dates, eliminating the July and December meetings, and possibly combining with Fire Advisory Commission for the November meeting. Motion was seconded by Commissioner McCormick and approved 3-0.

## Rescue Squad Updates

- Region 1 – Squads 1 & 3 / Kelly McCormick –
  - 1) Rescue 1
    - a) Squad is up to 20 members, two new applicants with EMT and two who need EMR
    - b) Currently three vehicles in service. A new one has been purchased with hopes of having it in service soon.
    - c) Rehab trailer is up and running.
    - d) Renovations coming along on the building which also houses and EMS unit
    - e) 501(3) c compliant, name changed from Tri-City Rescue to Seneca Rescue Squad.
    - f) Squad is footing the bill for the EMS unit with no reimbursement. With the additional cost for utilities and continued rise in cost of supplies, fuel, PPE, oxygen, etc., the funds are being stretched very thin. We like the service to the community but financial help is needed. Now on state fuel contract to help fuel costs.
    - g) Would like for any new squad vehicles to be purpose built and practical for use; they have located one and would like for that style/makeup to be considered; cost is less than the “cookie cutter” trucks currently being used.
    - h) Commissioner McCormick would be glad to speak with Director Krein and Mike Carroll to show some ideas for he has on how to assist squads financially.
  - 2) Rescue 3
    - a) Last year was very hard on them with sickness and call response.
    - b) Jennifer Fuller is going through rosters to see if any former members are still interested in responding. Currently there is one new applicant and five members who are responding to calls.
    - c) Truck is in shop for repairs and they are hoping to get that back soon. Mike Carroll said the projected date on that was within a week.
    - d) Concerned expressed about getting quarterly check. They felt like everything had been turned in and had maybe gotten lost. Director Krein stated that part of the problem was that it was coming in pieces and some papers hadn’t been signed. Also, may have had all items in for one quarter but still missing from the quarter before.
    - e) Proposal from Commissioner McCormick to recognize Diane Mason publically for her service.
- Region 2 – Squads 2 & 6 / Tammy Wilbanks
  - 1) Rescue 2 –
    - a) We have two new responders: one who has completed class and already responding and one who tested out yesterday
    - b) There will be a breakfast April 2<sup>nd</sup> at the station.
  - 2) Rescue 6 – Had not had contact with Chief Lynn Wilbanks
- Region 3 – Squads 4 & 5 / Michael Smith – absent
  - 1) Rescue 4 – (per Mike Carroll)
    - a) Several new members come in, with one having completed EMR
    - b) Eight total members as of now, with answered calls increasing
    - c) Working with them on financials and getting set
  - 2) Rescue 5 –
    - a) Hurting for members, hurting for call response during the day
    - b) Possibility of Buck Haney moving back into area and may be joining
    - c) Expressed same concern as Commissioner McCormick about finances being tight
    - d) Director Krein reminded Commissioner Zahn that Rescue 5 did not have to pay any expenses pertaining to their building

- Region 4 – Squad 22 / Erik Sprogis – absent
  - a) One new member who needs EMR and they’re trying to get him in a class
- Region 5 - Squads 7 & 8 / Steven Zahn –
  - 1) Rescue 7/8 -
    - a) Getting geared up for increase in calls coming up soon
    - b) Getting some new members

### **Committee Reports**

1. Radio Committee – Commissioner Zahn reported that the project is at a good place. They are having trouble getting frequencies for Salem tower. A donated tower will be going up in Cleveland. Another receiver will be ordered and looking for a tower to go up in Long Creek. Most departments are ready with digital radios.
2. Training Committee – Main document was sent to commissioners for review so that it can be pushed to chiefs. This should make training more accessible to all EMRs to get the training that is needed for recertification and training hours. Director Krein requested that we do one more look through to make sure hours were in check with SCFA and National Registry. Michael Smith also had some concerns that we will get with him about. Concerns can be sent via email.

### **Deputy Chief Mike Carroll’s Report**

- 1) Thanked the members of the training committee for all the work done on the document.
- 2) Community Medical Outreach – a new program using a grant. Zac Smith and Kaylee Phillips are employed by OCES to go out and do home safety and once DHEC approval is obtained it will be a Community Paramedic program as full ALS providers. They will also be working to update list of special needs people in the county for evacuation purposes. Rescue squads can refer people to them to see if additional help is needed.
- 3) Checking on the truck issue

### **Director Krein’s Report**

- 1) Budget – Hopefully numbers to review at next meeting
- 2) Replacement Plan – Had to bump up air packs on the plan so items had to get moved around; probably going to push a fire truck out due to the shuffle
- 3) Funding – Appreciate concern for funding; medical calls and expenses incurred are ever growing but that line item is currently fixed; where would other money come from; no tax increase
- 4) Radiological training – This training is a must for all members. Scott Smith will do this training.
- 5) Reports – Reference to article about falsifying information on reports; we need to make sure that our members ARE NOT on two reports for the same call; reports should be done correctly and in an appropriate amount of time; we do not want to have a situation pertaining to misappropriation of government funds when it comes to incentive. Paid personnel for a municipality do not get paid with incentive funds for that call; communication is key.
- 6) There is no penalty for “no response” call

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Wilbanks and seconded by Commissioner Zahn. Meeting adjourned at 1854.