

ANDERSON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION COMMISSION

COMMISSION MEETING 9/24/2024 – 5:30 pm

Minutes subject to approval by the Fire Commission

Present for the meeting were: Tommy Keaton, Charlie Dickerson, Randy Wilson, Chris Branyon, and Bryan Merk. Also present were Jimmy Sutherland and Brian Moon.

Chairman Keaton opened the meeting at 5:30 pm. He welcomed new Commissioners Chris Branyon and Bryan Merk, and advised we have received their confirmation letters from the Governor.

Mr. Hanks offered the invocation from the audience.

MOTION: The motion to approve the minutes of the 8/20/2024 meeting was made by Mr. Merk with a second by Mr. Wilson, and the vote was unanimous.

MOTION: Chairman Keaton asked for a motion to amend and approve the agenda to include a vote for Commission Vice Chairman and Treasurer seats and to include the assignment of committee members. Following a motion by Mr. Wilson with a second by Mr. Branyon, all members approved.

Chairman Keaton advised that elections will be held at the end of the meeting.

There were no visitors to address the Commission.

Old Business -Committee Reports:

Personnel: None

Finance: None

Purchasing: None

Rules & Regulations: None

Maintenance: Mr. Wilson reported that the air test quote from Safe Air has been tabled.

Planning & Development: None

Communications: None

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Branyon, second by Mr. Wilson, to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel and contract issues, and the vote was unanimous.

MOTION: Motion to return from Executive Session was made by Mr. Branyon with a second by Mr. Wilson, and all members approved. Chairman Keaton announced that during the session, personnel was discussed and no action was taken. Chief Sutherland will take care of the personnel issue, and the contract issue will be taken care of in Planning & Development.

New Business -Committee Reports:

Personnel: Chairman Keaton commended Fire Marshal Anthony Hamby, who obtained his Fire Inspector 1 in such a short amount of time.

Finance:

MOTION: Motion on recommendation of the Finance Committee was made by Mr. Dickerson to sign the audit engagement letter with Phillips CPAs and Advisors to start the audit process for the 2023/2024 budget year, and the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Dickerson reported that a fund was established specifically for the new trucks. The fund has accrued interest to be able fund future projects. The first round of trucks has been received. We have transferred the funds out of that account to pay the first invoice from Spartan for 3.5 million dollars for the first round of trucks. Two more rounds of trucks will be invoiced separately as received.

Purchasing:

MOTION: Motion on recommendation of the Purchasing Committee was made by Mr. Wilson to approved Fire Prevention Supplies in the amount of \$5,958.00 from account 871 for supplies for the upcoming Fire Prevention month in October. All members approved.

Rules & Regulations: Mr. Keaton reported no new business, other than to assign the Social Media policy to Rules & Regulations Committee for their review.

Maintenance: Mr. Dickerson updated that the headquarters renovation is complete except for a few things. Door locks and hardware are needed, and a decision was made to rekey all the door locks including the offices, storerooms, exterior doors and administrative offices for security measures. They have received two quotes, one for \$7100 from Loc-Doc, formerly EBS, and one from Fred's Locksmith out of Clemson in the amount of \$4500.

MOTION: Motion on recommendation of the Maintenance Committee was made by Mr. Dickerson to approve the quote from Fred's Lockwork in the amount of \$4500, and all members approved.

Mr. Dickerson asked for an update on the new reporting software, and Chief Sutherland advised that Headquarters has went online, they will get information for stations and add nine stations at a time to get them online. They will provide headquarters with a link to test and see if any changes are needed.

Mr. Keaton advised two letters have been received regarding trucks and substations. He assigned the matter to the Maintenance Committee. The task will include which trucks will be kept and/or sold or sent to substations.

Planning & Development:

Mr. Dickerson reported that Elevated Media, our social media program partners, has the Facebook page up and going. There are also several other platforms they are working on, and a lot of background work has been done on these platforms. There is meet the staff, safety tip, myth or fail, Headquarters staff section, and a link to engage with stations. Most all stations should have received a link. Instagram had to be restarted. They have reached 11,537 accounts, 3900 engagements, with numerous likes and visits, and provided demographics to include male/female and areas of interest and/or location. We are getting to where we can measure the value of continuing the program and what it can do for the fire department. The next phase of the partnership would be, not to exceed \$10,000, a 10-week agreement that would eventually transfer over into part time employees to help manage the program, with eventually up to two student workers for \$10-12 part time.

MOTION: Motion on recommendation of the Planning & Development Committee was made by Mr. Dickerson to approve a 10-week agreement to continue the social media program with Elevated Media Consulting, and the vote was unanimous.

Communications: Mr. Wilson asked if there were any more updates on the radio grant. Chief Sutherland advised no new updates have been received. He also provided updates on the current radio system repair.

Department Reporting: Investigator Wendell Hunter presented the Department Report for the Fire Marshal's Office. The Commission expressed appreciation.

Comments from the Fire Chief:

Chief Sutherland advised that the new trucks were inspected, five have been received so far in September and more will be here tomorrow. There was a motor issue on one that is being corrected.

All physicals are complete. Makeup Physicals will be held at Headquarters on 10/10/2024 (8am-12pm) for anyone who needs it.

He also extended special thanks to Captain Freeman and all the shop personnel and everyone else for getting the new trucks ready to go to the stations while he was gone for inspections at the manufacturing plant. The old trucks are locked at the Training Facility to make room at Headquarters for the new ones.

Spartan will offer pump training and driver training will be arranged for stations in the future.

Comments from Chiefs Advisory Board: Matthew Ashley is now the district 2 representative of the Chiefs Advisory Board since Chris Branyon has been appointed to the Fire Commission.

Comments from Others: None

Elections for Vice-Chairman and Treasurer

Since there was a turnover of Commission members, a vote was held for the positions of Commission Vice-Chairman and Commission Treasurer.

Mr. Wilson was elected the new Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Dickerson elected Commission Treasurer.

Chairman Keaton also assigned new Standing Committee members as follows:

Personnel Committee: Keaton (Chairman) and Branyon

Finance Committee: Dickerson (Chairman) and Merk

Purchasing: Wilson (Chairman) and Branyon

Rules & Regulations: Branyon (Chairman) and Keaton

Maintenance: remains the same, Wilson (Chairman) and Dickerson

Planning & Development: Merk (Chairman) and Dickerson

Communications: Wilson (Chairman) and Merk

MOTION: Following a motion by Mr. Dickerson with second from Mr. Merk, the meeting adjourned.

ORIGINAL

Respectfully submitted,

Angie Bryant

APPROVED BY:



TOMMY KEATON, CHAIRMAN

CHARLIE DICKERSON



RANDY WILSON,



CHRIS BRANYON



BRYAN MERK


