

ANDERSON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION COMMISSION

COMMISSION MEETING 11/19/2024 – 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, and Mr. Hanks offered the invocation from the audience.

MOTION: The motion to approve the minutes of the 10/15/2024 meeting was made by Mr. Dickerson with a second by Mr. Branyon, and the vote was unanimous.

MOTION: Motion to approve the agenda of 11/19/2024 was made by Mr. Merk, second by Mr. Dickerson, and all approved.

There were no visitors to address the Commission.

Mr. Keaton welcomed former Commissioners Gerald Hanks and Mark Cole.

Old Business -Committee Reports:

Personnel: None

Finance: None

Purchasing: None

Rules & Regulations: None

Maintenance: Mr. Wilson reported that Broadway Station 8's new engine is complete and has been inspected and all good. It is in Spartanburg as of yesterday (11/18/24).

Planning & Development: None

Communications: Mr. Wilson reported that the tower is back up at Headquarters. The microwave link is also back up. The county is working on the county link. Also, they are in the process of getting other quotes on the radio system.

MOTION: Motion to go into Executive Session for Personnel issues was made by Mr. Branyon with a second from Mr. Merk, and the vote was unanimous.

MOTION: Motion to return to open session was made by Mr. Branyon with a second from Mr. Merk, and all members approved.

Chairman Keaton advised announcements will be made in New Business.

New Business -Committee Reports:

Personnel:

MOTION: Motion from on recommendation of the Personnel committee was made by Mr. Branyon to hire a social media intern from Anderson University for 10 hours a week. All members approved.

MOTION: Motion on recommendation of the Personnel committee was made by Mr. Branyon to allow Headquarters staff to have the state holiday Christmas Eve off, and the vote was unanimous.

MOTION: Motion on recommendation of the Personnel committee was made by Mr. Branyon to approve the Christmas Bonus for Headquarters personnel, amount same as last year, and the vote was unanimous.

Finance: Mr. Dickerson reported that the truck purchase is tracking like it should.

Purchasing: None

Rules & Regulations: Mr. Keaton advised they have been working on the new Dispatch SOG's since the first quarter of this year and have made a few changes. This will be sent to dispatch and allow time for them to make changes. A copy of the new SOG's will be emailed to the station chiefs for their clarification. Mr. Dickerson gave a basic outline of the changes and included that they went with across the board decisions to make this the best way for everyone.

- *Structure Fires by District:* Districts 1 and 4 will be a 3-station response to structure fires 24/7. Districts 2 and 3 will maintain a 3-station response Monday through Friday from 7am to 7pm, with a 2-station response after these hours. District 5 will remain a 2-station response to structure fires at all times.
- *Automatic Aid:* 3-station response to structure fires always and a 2-station response to all other calls always. Refer to the table included in the SOGs.
- *Cancel calls:* Trucks cannot be cancelled unless by someone who is able to assume command at the scene and only after they have responded and have had time to assess the scene. The cancel call will have to come from the incident commander on scene.
- *Response times:* 4-minute response time across the board (rather than previous 3 minutes on Structure fires, 4 minutes on car fires, and 5 minutes on alarms.) This is from the time-out of the first dispatch tone.
- *Tones:* To shorten the airwaves and decrease radio traffic, all calls will be single toned instead of double toned.
- *MVAs* will generate a response only if there is a Priority 1 life threatening injury, but not for no injuries or just traffic control. This should cut down on unnecessary runs of the volunteer fire departments.
- *Lift Assists:* Will be for priority 1 emergency lift assist when all EMS resources have been depleted. Priority 2 lift assists will be determined by a station officer after all EMS resources have been depleted.

MOTION: Motion on recommendation of the Rules and Regulations Committee to approve the new Dispatch SOG's, and all members approved.

Mr. Keaton stated he appreciated all the hard work on changes to these SOG's.

Mr. Keaton also advised they will put out for a vote in December a section of the Rules & Regulations in the section regarding the 40% rule of members in good standing.

Maintenance:

MOTION: Motion on recommendation of the Maintenance committee was made by Mr. Wilson to approve Quarterly Air Quality testing for the Cascade systems in the amount of \$7,608.50 from Safe Air, and all members approved.

MOTION: Motion on recommendation of the Maintenance Committee was made by Mr. Dickerson to allow Double Springs Station 5 to purchase their 1999 Freightliner in the amount of \$15,000 to use as a tanker, and all members approved.

MOTION: Motion on recommendation of the Maintenance Committee was made by Mr. Dickerson to post two Boyer pumpers for sealed bids, minimum \$5000 each, and all members approved.

MOTION: Motion on recommendation of the Maintenance Committee was made by Mr. Dickerson to donate Station 6 and Station 22's trucks to the Districts 1/3/5 and District 2/4 Career centers, and all members approved.

MOTION: Motion on recommendation of the Maintenance Committee was made by Mr. Dickerson to move over the existing Engines 8-1 and 13-1 into their respective substations, and all members approved.

Mr. Dickerson stated they will work on the inventory and create as many spares as we have houses for. There may be one or two to move around based on what is best.

Mr. Dickerson also reported that this will leave 10 trucks to sell. He added that Abbeville County has a strong interest in purchasing all ten trucks, and the Commission is planning to negotiate.

Mr. Dickerson also reported that the new ladder truck will be housed at Centerville Station 9. The existing Ladder 28 (currently housed at Station 9) will need to be relocated.

MOTION: Motion on recommendation of the Maintenance Committee to move Ladder 28 to District 3, Station 4, and to develop a District 3 Ladder Team, and all members approved.

Planning & Development: None

Communications: None

Department Reporting: Tommy Miller presented the Department Report for Fire Prevention / Recruitment & Retention. The Commission expressed appreciation.

Comments from the Fire Chief: Chief Sutherland reported that Headquarters staff have been pump testing and should be done by middle of next week. They also will be changing out airpack batteries. He extended an invitation to the Commission for the Headquarters Christmas party on December 3rd at 6:30 pm. He also added that the Chief's Banquet will be held on January 13, 2025 at the Civic Center.

Comments from Chiefs Advisory Board: Mr. Branyon reported the next Chiefs meeting will be held on Monday November 25th at 7pm at Starr Fire Department.

Comments from Others: Rhonda Elrod asked if Chaplains were included into the dispatch SOG's and was advised that Chief Sutherland and Chief Moon will be meeting with the Chaplains to discuss further.

MOTION: The Emergency Reporting system will need to be pro-rated and \$15,500 is due to keep the software through January 1 until the changeover with RedNMx. Motion by Mr. Keaton to approve, second by Mr. Merk, and all members approved.

MOTION: Following a motion by Mr. Branyon, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Angie Bryant

APPROVED BY:



TOMMY KEATON, CHAIRMAN



RANDY WILSON, VICE CHAIRMAN



CHARLIE DICKERSON, TREASURER



CHRIS BRANYON

BRYAN MERK

ORIGINAL