

ANDERSON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION COMMISSION

COMMISSION MEETING 12/10/2024 – 9:00 am

*Minutes subject to approval by the Fire Commission*

**ORIGINAL**

**Present for the meeting were:** Tommy Keaton, Charlie Dickerson, Randy Wilson, Chris Branyon, and Bryan Merk. Also present were Chief Jimmy Sutherland and Captain Joey Freeman.

Chairman Keaton opened the meeting, and Mr. Dickerson offered the invocation.

**MOTION:** The motion to approve the minutes of the 11/19/2024 meeting was made by Mr. Branyon, second by Mr. Merk, and the vote was unanimous.

**MOTION:** Motion to approve the agenda of 12/10/2024 was made by Mr. Branyon, second by Mr. Wilson, and all approved.

There were no visitors to address the Commission.

**Old Business -Committee Reports:**

**Personnel:** None

**Finance:** None

**Purchasing:** None

**Rules & Regulations:** None

**Maintenance:** Mr. Dickerson advised that two sealed bids have been received for the two Boyers posted for sale. Sealed bids were opened from (1) Seven Hills Construction – bid to offer for truck from Iva FD \$5,025.00 and (2) Justin Reeves \$12,500.00 bid to offer for truck from Iva. Reeves wins the bid for the truck from Iva, and the other truck will be offered to Seven Hills Construction if wanted.

**Planning & Development:** Mr. Merk questioned whether his being on committee conflicted with his being on the Center Rock substation committee. Mr. Keaton advised it was not a problem.

**Communications:** Mr. Wilson advised they have received one quote are waiting on more quotes for the Microwave replacement and upgrades on the VHF 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. Merk with a second from Mr. Branyon, and all members approved.

Chairman Keaton advised personnel issues were discussed for information only and there are no announcements.

**New Business -Committee Reports:**

**Personnel:** None

**Finance:** None

**Purchasing:**

**MOTION:** Motion on recommendation of the Purchasing Committee was made by Mr. Branyon to purchase airpacks for the new ladder truck (6 airpacks, 12 cylinders) from Anderson Fire & Safety in the quoted amount of \$56,624.00, and the vote was unanimous.

**MOTION:** Motion on recommendation of the Purchasing Committee was made by Mr. Branyon to approve the quote from Sullivan's for approximately 350 people for the annual Chief's Banquet food in the amount of \$15,074.01. All members approved.

Chief Sutherland advised we are getting an accurate head count to bring the cost down if possible.

**Rules & Regulations:**

**MOTION:** Motion on recommendation of the Rules & Regulations Committee was made by Mr. Keaton to amend the Rules & Regulations as follows: Section 6, #7 should be removed and put in Section 7, #1. All approved.

Chairman Keaton advised that this issue has been raised by several fire Chiefs to Commissioners. This change should clarify any questions on officer requirements / election issues and who is eligible to vote. Mr. Keaton advised Chief that this should be typed in and corrections should be emailed out to the Chief's Advisory Board and all Fire Chiefs.

**Maintenance:**

**MOTION:** Motion on recommendation of the Maintenance Committee was made by Mr. Wilson to approve the estimate for repair for Station 13's engine in the amount of \$5,102.52 from Carolina International. All members approved.

**Planning & Development:** Mr. Merk expressed his concerns with dispatch and quality of sound / quality control issues and that we need to work closely with them to correct. Mr. Keaton recommended creating a committee from each organization to meet on a regular basis.

**Communications:**

**MOTION:** Motion on recommendation of the Communications Committee was made by Mr. Wilson to approve 800 MHz backup radio for headquarters in the amount of \$2,844.12, quoted from Kimball Communications. All members approved.

**Department Reporting:** Shanon Robinson presented the Department Report for Training. She expressed concerns on student registration. She will not be able to register students for classes. Students will now need to log into their fire portal or come to her office to complete registration. SCFA had concerns over the liability waiver being signed and are now requiring the change. She has concerns over losing class participation due to the change as students have to use the correct email for access to the fire portal. Chris Branyon added that the admin user can change or reset the email address if needed and that she sends out the course codes to the Chiefs for their use. Shanon advised she is willing to go to each station to help train on registration as needed.

Due to the number of injuries reported, Chairman Keaton asked that an email be sent out to station Chiefs to remind everyone to utilize PPE on every call.

Shanon stated she would like to develop a rehab/IDLH environment policy and make it mandatory. The Commission asked her to draft a policy for their review.

**Comments from the Fire Chief:** Chief Sutherland reported that all new trucks are now in service. We are looking into what will be needed to equip the spare trucks. We will need some minor equipment for that as well as for the new trucks. Abbeville has shown interest in some of the used trucks and we should talk to them this week. Both of the two trucks for donation have been delivered to both Career Centers. We will do a formal presentation and letter in the future, but we wanted to get them out of the cold for now. We did pick up the 3500 feet of 5-inch hose and will draft a letter of appreciation for the Commission's signature. The ladder truck delivery has moved up to the second week of January.

**Comments from Chiefs Advisory Board:** None

**Comments from Others:** Chris Branyon said he talked to Susan with State Fire who said the letter of intent to apply for V-SAFE is due Wednesday morning. Also, the VIP forms are ready, increased to \$6000 from \$3000 last year.

Chairman Keaton asked everyone to continue to keep Chief Moon's father-in-law and family in their prayers.

Chairman Keaton wished everyone a Merry Christmas and to stay safe and be careful.

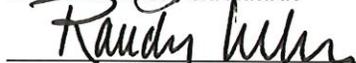
**MOTION:** Following a motion by Mr. Branyon with a second by Mr. Wilson, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Angie Bryant*

APPROVED BY:

  
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TOMMY KEATON, CHAIRMAN

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
RANDY WILSON, VICE CHAIRMAN

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CHARLIE DICKERSON, TREASURER

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CHRIS BRANYON

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
BRYAN MERK

**ORIGINAL**

SECTION 6  
Fire Station Elections

Guidelines in this section are standards applied throughout the county. Deviations from the standard set forth are not permitted without the expressed permission of the Commission.

1. All county stations must hold officer elections during the months of January & February of each year.
2. A quorum of eligible voters must be present to conduct the election..
3. A 2/3 majority vote is required to retain all officers from the previous year. Absentee ballots will count in the quorum.
4. The election must be supervised by the County Fire Chief or his designee, and at least one Fire Commissioner
5. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all meetings of the county fire department.
6. A member must have been in the station for at least one year to be eligible to vote or hold office.
7. To be eligible to vote the member must possess 40% combined average attendance of call response (excluding first responder), meeting attendance, and training attendance of the previous calendar year. (Average call response + average meeting attendance + average training attendance / 3) must be equal or greater than 40%). Exemptions must be approved by the County Fire Chief. Officer Election Procedure.docx
8. All nominations & elections will be held by secret ballot.
9. Any vacancies in the officer's ranks must be filled by a special election within 30 days of the vacancy.
10. Junior firefighters are non-voting members.
11. Members may vote by absentee ballot for officer elections. Ballots must be in a sealed envelope and signed by the member. They should be turned over to the Commissioner or the County Fire Chief or his designee the night of the election. Votes by telephone will be at the discretion of the Commissioner overseeing the election.

SECTION 7  
Officer Requirements & Duties

1. Any member must be a station member in good standing for one year, with a 40% combined average attendance of call response (excluding first responder), meeting attendance, and training attendance of the previous calendar year, to be considered for officer. Any member on suspension or probation will not be considered for an officer's position.
2. Officers must abide by & enforce all station & county rules, regulations & policies.
3. All officers must have a valid South Carolina Driver's License.
4. All stations must have the following officers: Chief, Assistant Chief, Captain, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant, & 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant. Other officers' positions may be filled at the discretion of