

**ORIGINAL**

**ANDERSON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION COMMISSION**

**COMMISSION MEETING 1/20/2026**

**Minutes subject to approval by the Fire Commission**

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

Chairman Keaton called the meeting to order. Mr. Merk offered the invocation.

**MOTION:** The motion to approve the minutes of the 12/16/2025 meeting was made by Mr. Branyon, second was made by Mr. Merk, and the vote was unanimous.

**MOTION:** Motion to amend the agenda and add the election of officers for the commission at the end of the meeting was made by Mr. Keaton, second by Mr. Dickerson, all approved.

There were no visitors to address the Commission.

**Old Business- Committee Reports:**

**Personnel:** None

**Finance:** None

**Purchasing:** None

**Rules and Regulations:** None

**Maintenance:** Mr. Branyon reported that Anderson Fire and Safety have given us a date of January 19<sup>th</sup> to have all the hydrotesting completed. Mr. Bubba Todd at Anderson Fire and Safety reported today that they still have 95 more cylinders to hydrate and all of them should be done. Mr. Branyon encouraged everyone to check with their stations to make sure none of them have been missed. All of them should now have a silver sticker on them and an updated date if they have been done. Mr. Keaton thanked Mr. Branyon for the update.

**Planning and Development:** None

**Communications:** None

**There were no motions for Executive Session.**

**New Business- Committee Reports:**

**Personnel:** Mr. Branyon reported there is no new business. All positions are currently filled.

**Finance:** Mr. Dickerson advised the Commission they have a copy of the Audit from 2025 that they can review.

**Purchasing:** None

**Rules and Regulations:** None

**Maintenance:** None

**Planning and Development:** Station # 2 was approved in the previous meeting to go ahead with building the sub-station.

**Communications:** None

**Department Reporting:** Zach Arnold presented the department report for Maintenance. The Commission expressed appreciation.

**Comments from the Fire Chief:** Hose and ladder testing will be next month. We have not been given a date on when it will start. Chief Sutherland and Mrs. Bryan have been to the bank to get the 1 % accounts changed so Mrs. Bryan will be able to handle administration of the accounts. All 1% e-mails need to come directly to Anna. Chief Sutherland asked for everyone to advise their departments that Anna has not got to the 1% accounts yet, but she will get them an updated balance and will work on getting them their updated spreadsheets soon. Anna has worked hard to get everything changed so she can handle it efficiently. Chief Sutherland expressed thanks to Anna for all she has done to learn the position. Chief Sutherland also thanked Chief Freeman for helping with a small project this morning and Mr. Zach Arnold for his efforts with air packs.

**Comments from Chiefs Advisory Board:** Chief Hart could not be here for the meeting. Chief Hart asked us to include the invitation for the banquet in the packet for tonight. Chief Sutherland advised the event had not been put on the calendar and we had to take the closest date we could. Mr. Keaton said he had received his invitation and asked that Delegation be e-mailed their invitation along with the mailed copy. Chief Sutherland and Mrs. Bryan advised both had already been done. Mr. Keaton expressed appreciation to both for taking care of this matter.

**Other Business:** Mr. Dickerson asked for an update on how the change from NFIRS to NERIS is going. Chief Freeman reported that a few days into the change RedNMX reported to Central Square to stop reporting to NFIRS. When this request was made, they cut off NFIRS and NERIS. This caused us to not be able to see our calls. This took several days for us to start receiving our calls again. We reached out to our Sale Rep to get it resolved and were told we would have to wait on Central Square to get this issue fixed. At this time, the fire stations will be able to review the reports and can check them as "pending review." Headquarters will do the final review of the reports before it is submitted to NERIS.

A CAD vendor change is in the works and has been voted on by Anderson County Council. The proposed demo date is May 2026. Anderson County is working on all the fine details of the agreement before making the change. The change will move dispatch from Central Square to Motorola. This change will hopefully alleviate some of the problems we have been experiencing with NERIS.

Mr. Dickerson asked for an updated truck inventory that includes equipment and apparatus since the new items have been issued for a few years. Chief Freeman agreed to work on this and get Mr. Dickerson an update.

Mr. Keaton inquired on when the two new trucks would be complete. Chief Sutherland advised that one will be ready January 26<sup>th</sup> and the other one on will be ready February 13<sup>th</sup>. We are hoping to be able to inspect these by the end of February. The trucks that are almost complete are for Stations # 9 and # 3. The other seven trucks should be done by the end of December 2026. Chief Sutherland stated we do not have a completion date on these yet.

Mr. Merk asked if we had requested any training for RedNMX for the ones that are using that program. Chief Freeman said he would like to have some training, but he thinks it is not in our best interest at this point to bring them in with possible program changes coming soon. Chief Freeman said he has tried to be available to help them with any questions about the program. Some "cheat sheets" have been passed on to help with usage of the program. Chief Freeman will continue help and visit as needed. Mr. Merk expressed his appreciation for Chief Freeman's help with this.

Mr. Branyon inquired on eDispatch. Chief Sutherland stated it should be close to being done, but has not heard from anyone on this yet. Chief Sutherland spoke to Mr. Josh Hawkins at the county. Mr. Hawkins advised they are doing away with theirs too. Mr. Hawkins agreed to make additional spots for the new users that are not currently on the Active 911 if necessary. Chief Freeman has e-mailed the fire departments that need Active 911 since we are no longer going to have eDispatch. Mr. Keaton and Mr. Branyon asked that all fire departments using eDispatch to be notified with a date it will be discontinued. Chief Freeman stated he would send a link to the Chief or the contact at the departments so they can get Active 911 set-up with the county.

Mr. Branyon inquired about the status of the 800 radios. Chief Sutherland stated we only have a list of them, but we have not been advised of any prices. Chief Sutherland suggested we may need to see if we can get a price on the radios from the surplus. Mr. Branyon and Mr. Keaton asked Chief Sutherland to move forward with getting prices for the radios. Chief Sutherland agreed.

**Vote for Commission Officers:** The Commission voted to stay the same.

**MOTION:** Motion to adjourn by Mr. Dickerson, with a second from Mr. Wilson.

Respectfully submitted,

By: *Anna Bryan*

Anna Bryan

Administrative Assistant & Finance  
Coordinator

APPROVED BY:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tommy Keaton", written over a horizontal line.

TOMMY KEATON, CHAIRMAN

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Randy Wilson", written over a horizontal line.

RANDY WILSON, VICE CHAIRMAN

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Dickerson", written over a horizontal line.

CHARLIE DICKERSON, TREASURER

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Branyon", written over a horizontal line.

CHRIS BRANYON

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bryan Merk", written over a horizontal line.

BRYAN MERK

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