

ORIGINAL

ANDERSON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION COMMISSION

COMMISSION MEETING 2/17/2026

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 1/20/2026 meeting was made by Mr. Dickerson, second was made by Mr. Branyon, and the vote was unanimous.

MOTION: Motion to approve the agenda of 2/17/2026 was made by Mr. Merk, second by Mr. Branyon, all members approved.

There were no visitors to address the Commission.

Old Business-Committee Reports:

Personnel: None

Finance: Mr. Dickerson reported that had received a copy draft of the of the audit report. Mr. Dickerson has reviewed the draft and said everything appears to be fine and we can move forward performing the audit for last fiscal year. Mr. Dickerson requested that the audit team come in and present the findings of the audit once is it is complete.

Purchasing: None

Rules and Regulations: None

Maintenance: None

Planning and Development: None

Communications: None

Motion to go into Executive Session: Motion by Mr. Branyon, second by Mr. Wilson to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel and a contractual issue. The vote was unanimous.

Motion to return to Open Session: Motion by Mr. Branyon, second by Mr. Merk to return to open session, all members approved.

New Business- Committee Reports:

Personnel: None

Finance: None

Purchasing: Mr. Branyon reported that the new ladder truck for Pierceton will be here on March 6, 2026. The grant was for \$ 1.7 million. There was an excess of \$50,000 from the grant, but they were still lacking \$50,000 to be able to put all the equipment on the new truck. Mr. Branyon made a motion to supply the new ladder truck with the remainder of the equipment needed. No second is needed since this came from the Purchasing Committee. No discussion.

Rules and Regulations: None

Maintenance: Mr. Wilson reported that hose and ladder testing is currently being done. There has been some hose and ladders that have failed. Mr. Wilson made the motion to authorize Chief Sutherland and Chief Freeman at Headquarters to replace hose and ladders as needed. No second needed, since this came from a committee.

Chief Sutherland reported 6-24 ft, 1-14ft, and 2-attic ladders have failed. Still have 42 more trucks to complete testing on. Supplier has these ladders in stock and we would like to go ahead and put these on the trucks.

All approved, no opposition.

Planning and Development: None

Communications: Mr. Wilson reported that the Chief's Advisory Board met last week to go over the First Responders call types that stations can respond to. This is for Dispatch SOG's to know who to send to different types of calls. These are standard calls that have been in place for years. There are a few stations there were inquiring about responding to gun shots, stabbings, and breathing difficulties. The Advisory Board's recommendation was to maintain the current list of dispatch call times as it stands today. As discussed, Dr. King, the Medical Control Doctor, has been contacted to determine if other calls could be added to include breathing difficulties. Dr. King would have to make a recommendation and would have to sign-off on these types of calls before they could be added to the types of calls added to the dispatch list. Recommendation of the Communications Committee, based on the Advisory Board recommendation is to maintain the current list of dispatch calls as it stands today with no self- dispatching. If it is not listed on the call list, you cannot self- dispatch yourself to calls. No second is needed since this came from a committee. To clarify, this is cardiac arrest, unconscious, choking, trauma, burn, stroke, fall, overdose, poisoning, & drowning.

Four members were in favor of keeping the recommended dispatch list the same as recommended by the Advisory Board (Keaton, Wilson, Dickerson, and Branyon), one opposed (Merk).

Mr. Branyon reported that they have started the bid process to upgrade the VHF system in the county. This would include adding four towers throughout the county. The plan is to upgrad all VHF. This would be spread out throughout the county and it could be piggy backed off the lease. They met with Motorola this past week and they are working with us on this. They know our direction and the time frame we are working with. We are working with Motorola to get site

evaluations done. They are working on updating their quote. Goal is to get VHF working for everyone. 800 Radios are being looked at too, but due to the large cost it this it would need to be funded by a grant. VHF is the primary goal right now and 800's would be used a back-up. June 1st, the time frame given to them to be up and running by. Mr. Keaton expressed appreciation for the report.

Department Reporting: Mr. Hamby offered the department report for the Fire Marshal. Mr. Hamby gave an update on the fire safety robot and the smoke house. Mr. Kay is working on trying to find a new battery for the fire safety robot, but we are unsure if it is going to be repairable. We are working on getting the current smoke house in better condition so it can be used as spring and summer approaches. Mr. Kay has been advised that the best way to work on obtaining a new smoke house is to apply for grants with various community partners. Sunbrella, Firehouse, Arthrex, Bosch, have all led us toward applying for grants.

Mr. Cochran has recently passed his Fire II. Mr. Kay is working on getting ready to take his soon. Department is moving forward with getting the needed education courses completed.

Mr. Wilson inquired on how many business inspections are done annually. Mr. Hamby said the inspections vary every month. Last month there were 232 inspections, the average is around 200 a month. Follow-ups, complaints, and helping with various needs in other departments can reduce the amount on inspections completed on a given month. The Department has been diligently working to update the system so that all the information is uniform for street addresses, etc. and making sure the contact information is correct and as up to date as possible. Mr. Branyon inquired if they have access to SABRE 13 Chemical Reporting System, where chemicals are reported for businesses. Mr. Hamby reported that it goes through the Tier II Hazmat System. Mr. Branyon suggested this may be a good way to keep up contact information updated. Per Mr. Hamby, the large manufactures do a good job keeping up with these records. Employee turnover in small businesses can make this more difficult.

Chief Sutherland congratulated Mr. Hamby on now being a certified Fire Marshal in the State of South Carolina. The Commission expressed appreciation.

Comments from the Fire Chief: We are doing hose and ladder testing. The two new ladder trucks and two new pumpers will be ready on March 6th. They are wanting us to come see the new ladder trucks the week of March 16th. We do not have a date for the pumper trucks yet. The ladder truck is complete and was being taken to testing today.

We had a vehicle that blew out a spark plug and caused the wire harness to catch fire. We are getting prices on what it will cost to repair it, but we may have to replace it. Vehicle is a 2008 model that is used by the Fire Marshal Department.

Mrs. Bryan is working on a spreadsheet for the one percent accounts. These spreadsheets will be from the end of November and will go to the end of January. February statements will not come out until the end of February. She is working on getting these out to everyone, would appreciate everyone being patient as she works on getting these done. The one percent budget was passed and funds has been deposited into the accounts. Gas mileage and county funds will be ready next month for approval.

Comments from Chiefs Advisory Board: Chief Hart expressed appreciation for to the Headquarters Staff for helping get everything set-up for the Chief's Banquet. The next Chief's Advisory Board meeting will in District 3. Chief Hart will advise of location as soon as it is announced.

Other Business: Mr. Merk expressed appreciation for County Fire participating in Firefighter Rick Aiken's funeral.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion by Mr. Branyon, with a second by Mr. Dickerson. All in favor.

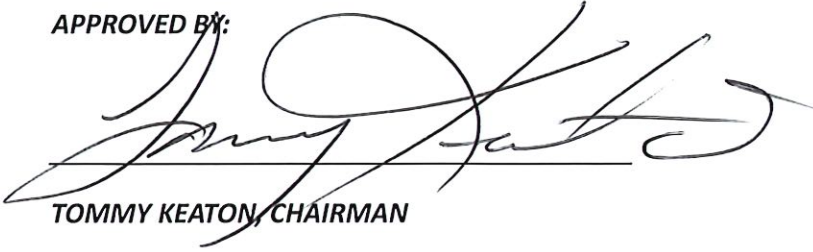
Respectfully submitted,

By: *Anna Bryan*

Anna Bryan

**Administrative Assistant & Finance
Coordinator**

APPROVED BY:

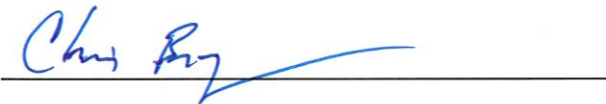


TOMMY KEATON, CHAIRMAN

RANDY WILSON, VICE CHAIRMAN



CHARLIE DICKERSON, TREASURER



CHRIS BRANYON



BRYAN MERK