

ANDERSON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION COMMISSION

COMMISSION MEETING 4/21/2026

Minutes subject to approval by the Fire Commission

ORIGINAL

**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.

Chairman Keaton asked that we remember the Anderson County Deputy that was injured in the line of duty recently.

**MOTION:** The motion to approve the minutes of the 3/17/2026 meeting was made by Mr. Dickerson, second was made by Mr. Branyon. The vote was unanimous.

**MOTION:** Motion to approve the agenda of 4/21/2026 was made by Mr. Branyon, second by Mr. Merk, all members approved.

There were no visitors to address the Commission. Chief Sutherland advised that the Auditor was scheduled to be here tonight, but they requested additional information and have not completed the review at this time. Once the audit is complete, Mr. Phillips will be here to address the findings of the audit with the Commission.

**Old Business-Committee Reports:**

**Personnel:** None

**Finance:** None

**Purchasing:** Chief Sutherland reported that the hoses have been ordered and we are starting to receive those. Plan is to start working on those soon.

**Rules and Regulations:** None

**Maintenance:** Mr. Dickerson inquired into the status of the Headquarter's fleet trucks. Chief Sutherland advised that the new Headquarters truck is now in service. We are waiting for the lights and the radios to be installed. The Headquarters truck that required a new transmission to be installed has been repaired and is now back in service. The two new pumpers have been delivered and are now on site.

**Planning and Development:** None

**Communications:** None

**Motion to go into Executive Session:** Motion by Mr. Branyon, second by Mr. Merk to enter Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter. The vote was unanimous.

**ORIGINAL**

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

**Announcements from Executive Session:** The Commission discussed a contractual issue that will be brought up in new business.

**New Business- Committee Reports:**

**Personnel:** Mr. Branyon advised that Investigator Mr. Wendall Hunter will be retiring at the end of the month. Mr. Hunter had been with us for 17 years. We are taking applications for his position.

**Finance:** None

**Purchasing:** None

**Rules and Regulations:** None

**Maintenance:** None

**Planning and Development:**

**MOTION:** Motion on recommendation of the Planning and Development Committee was made by Mr. Merk to join the Special Purpose District Membership. The cost is approximately \$2,000.00 a year. Being a member of the Special Purpose District allows them to help us with legal advice, policies, social media policies, legal guidance, and gives us continual legislative updates. Recommendation comes from the Planning and Development Committee and does not require a second. All in favor, no opposition. No discussion.

**Communications:**

**MOTION:** Motion on recommendation of the Communications Committee was made by Mr. Wilson to approve the capital improvement for the VHF Radio System, not to exceed \$400,000.00 with the provider used by Motorola. This capital improvement project also allows us to add more towers and sites in the future.

Mr. Dickerson added that the primary objective is to replace the current equipment that we have that is out of date and out of warranty. Mr. Dickerson feels Motorola is the best path to move forward. We will also continue to work on the expansion sites.

Recommendation comes from Communications Committee and does not require a second. All in favor, no opposition.

**Department Reporting:** Mr. Tommy Miller offered the department report for Fire Prevention and Recruitment/ Retention. The Commission expressed appreciation.

**Comments from the Fire Chief:** Chief Sutherland reported that the 2 new pumpers are here. One truck is ready and the radios are being installed tomorrow. Once the radios have been installed it will be going into service. The other truck is almost complete. When it was being

**ORIGINAL**

brought from Florida the windshield was hit by a rock and cracked it. It is scheduled to have a new windshield put in before being put into service.

The Ladder truck for Piercetown is at Spartan. We should be getting it next week. We will get it put in service soon.

We are working with dispatch to get Ladder 28-1 put into service. They had it in the system and an upgrade knocked it out. They are working on getting it put back into the system. Should have it back in service by next week. Still need to work on getting the lines drawn for the Ladder truck in District 1.

I would like to thank Mrs. Bryan for taking the initiative to review our phone service and get lines removed that were not in use.

**Comments from Chiefs Advisory Board:** No one was in attendance from the Chief's Advisory Board.

**Other Business:** Mr. Branyon advised that Assistant Chief Freeman is working on an email on how to get added to RedNMX and get added to the system for your department.

Mr. Keaton asked Chief Sutherland to work on taking bids for the trailer at the training center that burned and the truck assigned to Headquarters that caught fire. Chief Sutherland agreed to take bids and have them available at next month's Commission Meeting.

Mr. Merk inquired about the status of 3" hoses from hose testing. Chief Sutherland advised that he has had a few calls from departments needing them and we are going to try to get them out this week.

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

Respectfully submitted,

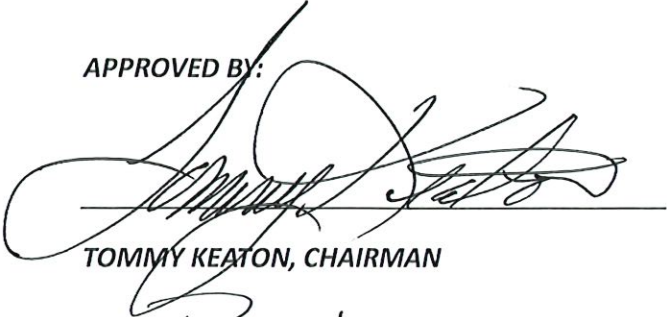
By: *Anna Bryan*

**Anna Bryan**

**Administrative Assistant & Finance  
Coordinator**

**ORIGINAL**

APPROVED BY:



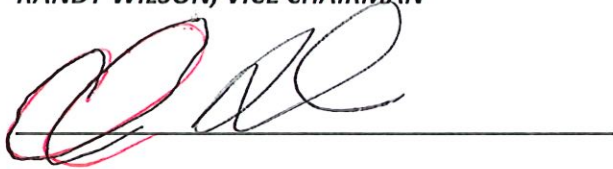
\_\_\_\_\_

**TOMMY KEATON, CHAIRMAN**



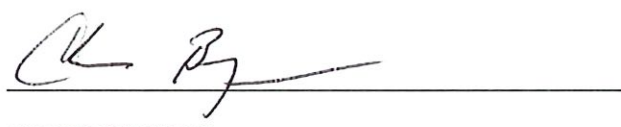
\_\_\_\_\_

**RANDY WILSON, VICE CHAIRMAN**



\_\_\_\_\_

**CHARLIE DICKERSON, TREASURER**



\_\_\_\_\_

**CHRIS BRANYON**



\_\_\_\_\_

**BRYAN MERK**