

South Carolina State Firefighters' Association
Executive Committee Meeting
January 30, 2024

Minutes

The Meeting was called to order at 0914 by President Burns.

In attendance in the room were: Malcolm Burns, Joe Palmer, Randy Arant, Pierce Womack, Jamie Helms, Tres Atkinson, Josh Holzheimer, John Bowers, and Jason Dennis. In attendance via zoom were: Ross Vezin, Terry Sherriff, and Kevin Henson.

President Burns welcomed the group and asked Joe Palmer to offer the invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Burns turned to meeting over to Joe Palmer who offered a historical perspective of the last two years on the status of employment and transition plan for the new Executive Director. Chief Palmer elaborated on the requirements and cohesive needs for the Executive Committee. The offering was followed by several members addressing the group as a follow up on the current status of the committee and Association.

Josh Holzheimer made the motion to promote Jamie Helms to the position of Executive Director. The motion was seconded by Randy Arant. No discussion. All approved. None opposed.

Josh Holzheimer made the motion that the current President and 1st Vice President will work with Chief Helms on an approved transitional operational/staffing plan for the next several months. Seconded by Randy Arant. No Discussion. All approved. None opposed.

Josh Holzheimer made the motion to enter into Executive Session for a personnel matter. Seconded by Tres Atkinson. All in favor, none opposed.

The Committee came out of Executive Session at 10:57 with no action taken in executive session.

Tres Atkinson made the motion for the authorization of the President to enter into the contract for promotion as proposed with the new Executive Director Jamie Helms. Seconded by Josh Holzheimer. No discussion. All approved, none opposed.

Randy Arant made the motion to approve the personnel transition plan as written and presented by Chief Helms with the exception that the group directed the posting of the Deputy Director position before February 1 and organization of the interview process by March 1. Seconded by John Bowers. Discussion included the overall objective being the hiring and implementation of the Deputy position prior to Fire-Rescue '24. Further discussion

highlighted the motions intent to have Chief Palmer work with Chief Helms and the new Deputy in training at Fire-Rescue '24. **All were in favor, none opposed.**

Josh Holzheimer made the motion to instruct the Executive Director, Randy Arant (as incoming President) and Pierce Womack (as incoming 1st Vice President) to research options for the organization relating to non-PEBA retirement options such as but not limited to a 401K program. The motion was seconded by Tres Atkinson. Discussion followed that the intent was not to abandon current PEBA affiliation but to research future employee alignment and opportunities. The discussion directed that this has no deadline and is a look into the viability only. **All were in favor, none opposed.**

President Burns offered a directive to the new Executive Director that it is the Executive Committee's wish to establish a hiring committee to assist in the first-round selection process of the next Deputy Director, similar in concept and design as was last conducted with understanding that the ultimate hire is still at under the purview of the Executive Director. Further, President Burns offered the names of Randy Arant, Pierce Womack, Zorrina Harmon, and one Fire Chief (*Named but not yet contacted- thus redacted*) to serve on this working group.

Tres Atkinson represented a motion out of the Legislative Committee that the description of the Society of the Maltese Cross have one alteration to the qualifications to include others outside the realm of the General Assembly. No second is required as the motion is out of committee. All were in favor, none opposed.

Tres Atkinson made a motion out of the Legislative Committee that the 2024 Society of Maltese be awarded to: (Name *redacted pending notification/award*). No second is required as the motion is out of committee. All were in favor, none opposed.

Josh Holzheimer made a motion that staff be directed to review the travel policy of events - and attendees found in the policy and procedure manual, to search for fiscally responsible opportunities for expansion of the attendees at each function so as to further provide conversational and directional time for members of the Executive Committee and return any alterations proposed to the Executive Committee for adoption. Seconded by John Bowers. Discussion was offered to further elaborate the intent for the new Executive Director. **All were in favor, none opposed.**

Tres Atkinson made the motion to adjourn at 11:15. Seconded by Randy Arant. All were in favor.