

Item Title: Fire Commission Membership Changes

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners adopt the changes to the membership composition of the Fire Commission

Item Summary:

Purpose: The Wake County Board of Commissioners (the "Board") determines the composition of and makes all primary and alternate appointments to the Fire Commission (the "Commission"). The purpose is to modify the Commission membership to align with current operations and Board goals.

Background: In the late 1990's the Wake County Board of Commissioners established the Wake County Single Fire Tax District and appointed an advisory body, the Wake County Fire Commission. The Fire Commission makes formal recommendations on fire protection and emergency services delivery applicable to those departments providing coverage in the unincorporated area. The Fire Commission's structure has not been modified since the 1990's, despite many changes in the unincorporated area and service approaches. Current voting membership is at 14 members.

To reflect the importance of the relationship with the towns and nonprofit boards of directors, staff propose the following changes to the Commission's structure:

- Add representatives from participating Municipal Managers or Assistant Town Managers
- Add one Fire Department Board Officer
- Add an additional citizen representative, increasing this representation from four persons to five.
- Create a new category of representation, Subject Matter Experts, to include two representatives.
- "Re-balance" the fire department service regions by moving, Rolesville Fire to the North Region.
- Change the Wake County Board of Commissioner Representative to a non-voting member.

This change in membership composition would add one additional voting member to the Fire Commission and make the proposed membership at 15 persons. The Commission's Administrative Committee recommended the changes to the Commission. The Fire Commission voted unanimously on May 20, 2021 to support the recommendation for the Board's consideration.

Board Goal: This action supports Public Safety Goal 3: Provide high quality and sustainable public safety services to meet the community's current and future needs; and Great Government Goal 2: Embrace diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Fiscal Impact: None

Additional Information:

This Commission is presently comprised of; Wake County Board of Commissioner (1), Representatives of the fire service planning and service regions (4), President of the Wake County Firefighters Association (1), Citizen Appointees (7), Representative of the municipality participating in the tax district (1), County Staff (non-voting). The structure has not been modified since the 1990's.

To reflect the importance of the relationship with the towns and nonprofit boards of directors, Wake County Staff proposed adding representatives from participating Municipal Managers or Assistant Town Managers (1) and a Fire Department Board Officer (1).

Additionally, to expand citizen participation, the number of Citizen Representatives is being increased from 4 to 5 and a new category of representation, Subject Matter Experts, will include 2 representatives. To balance the fire departments service regions, Rolesville Fire will be moved to the North Region. Lastly, the Wake County Board of Commissioner Representative will become a non-voting member.



The Commission's Administrative Committee recommended the changes to the Commission. The Commission voted unanimously on May 20, 2021 to support the recommendation for the Board's consideration.

Attachment:

1. Fire Commission Membership Proposal