



Rowan County Fire Commissioners



Overview & Orientation



Rowan County Fire Commissioners

- ☞ On behalf of the Rowan County Board of Commissioners and the Emergency Services Department, we would like to thank you for your service as a Fire District Tax Commissioner for one of our local fire districts.
- ☞ This packet contains an overview and orientation to the roles, responsibilities and duties of serving as a Fire Commissioner and why that role is critical to providing fire protection and other related services to our county's citizens.
- ☞ If at anytime during your service you should have a question regarding you service duties, please feel free to contact the Fire Division Chief with Emergency Services at 704-216-8900 or the Rowan County Manager's Office at 704-216-8180.

Why do we have Fire Commissioners?

- ∞ The County Board of Commissioners have state statutory oversight of the funds provided to an individual fire district through a fire district tax. This oversight may be provided either 1) directly by the Board of Commissioners or 2) by the appointment of three individuals to a fire district tax commission to provide the oversight on behalf of the Board of Commissioners.
NC General Statute: 69-25.7
- ∞ The Rowan County Board of Commissioners have chosen to utilize fire district tax commissions in each district for this oversight.
- ∞ Fire Commissioners have a long standing history of helping ensure smooth operation of the fire department providing service to the district and working with community.

Who May Be a Fire Commissioner?

☞ Any citizen who:

- is a qualified voter, and
- resides within the fire district where they intend to serve.

Appointing Fire Commissioners

- ☞ Fire Commissioners are appointed by the Rowan County Board of Commissioners. Individuals having a desire to serve as a Fire Commissioner complete a standard Board Appointment application and submit it to the Rowan County Manager's Office.
- ☞ Applications are available on-line at:
<https://onboard.rowancountync.gov/apply/>
- ☞ Submitted board applications are considered by the Board of Commissioners during the first meeting in the month. Applications must be received by the Clerk to the Board by 5pm the second Friday prior to the meeting. Please feel free to contact the Clerk to the Board at
704-216-8180 with any questions.
- ☞ After the Commission meeting all applicants are notified of the Board's decision.

Terms of Fire Commissioners

- ☞ Once appointed, Fire Commissioners serve for a term of two years and they serve at the discretion of and under the supervision of the board of county commissioners. If the fire district lies in multiple counties, fire commissioners serve the boards of county commissioners of both counties. NC General Statute 69-25-7
- ☞ The two year term periods for Fire Commissioners are different for each fire district, depending on appointment date(s).
- ☞ Individuals may be re-appointed and serve two consecutive terms. The Board of Commissioners may reappoint an individual to serve beyond the two term limit by special waiver during an appointment process.

Duties of Fire Commissioners

- ✎ Fire Commissioners provide advisory oversight of the tax expenditures in the district rather than board of commissioners. This includes recommending the tax rate of that fire district annually.
- ✎ Fire Commissioners approve the fire district's budget along with Board of Directors of that district.
- ✎ The County Board of Commissioners have statutory responsibility for the final approval of tax rates for individual fire districts.

Fire Commissioner Access

- ✎ Fire Commissioners should have cursory access to operational documents of the department, including financial documents for periodic review.
- ✎ Fire Commissioners may also & are encouraged attend the fire district's Board of Directors meetings. Fire Commissioners are not members of the Board of Directors, and are not allowed to vote on Board matters unless specifically allowed by the individual department's by-laws.

Questions?

☞ Please feel free to contact:

- Rowan County Emergency Services
 - 704-216-8901.
- Rowan County Manager's Office
 - 704-216-8180.