MOBILE COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Minutes of June 21, 2024

Commissioners Attending:

Robert Adams	Eric Linsley	Donnie Brown
Timothy Hughes	Chris McLean	

Staff Attending:
Roy Hodge, Director
Hayley Clough, Recording Secretary
Robert Jackson, Deputy Director

The REGULAR board meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on June 21, 2024, at the Mobile County Communications Center.

Call to Order – Vice Chairman Adams called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM. Commissioner Linsley opened the meeting in prayer.

Approval of Minutes – Commissioner McLean made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 16, 2024, meeting, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, all approved.

Treasurer Report – Commissioner McLean made a motion to approve the May claims list and MCCD Budget-To-Actual, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, all approved.

Personnel – No Report

Planning – No Report

Communications – Commissioner Hughes reported that Director Hodge and Deputy Director Jackson met with Mayor Collier of Dauphin Island to discuss a potential tower site. They have identified a parcel owned by the Town of Dauphin Island for the new site.

Commissioner Hughes reported that Director Hodge and Deputy Director Jackson have also identified an area in the Earlesville community for a potential new tower site. There is an old AT&T tower that has a hardened shelter on Shiloh Road. The tower has been out of commission for many years and Deputy Director Jackson has contacted American Tower to inquire about obtaining it. He's hoping to make an offer of around $100,000 for the entire tower site. Director Hodge stated that the shelter there is large enough to potentially become a backup facility in the future.

Commissioner Hughes reported that the core upgrade is still on schedule and moving along. Gary Hand reported that the wiring for the upgrade has been run and the repeaters have been installed and tested. Communications International will be coming back in a few weeks for the upgrade. He reported that work is set to begin soon on updating the Symphony consoles. There has been a great deal of planning for the actual core cutover.

Gary Hand reported that the MOWA tower site is free of the equipment from LandSea Wireless. The equipment was removed and disposed of by Miller Co.

Commissioner Hughes reported that in a previous meeting, the repainting of the tower sites was discussed. Instead of painting the towers, the FAA will allow a lighting system to be installed and we are looking at moving in that direction due to cost. A quote has been received for lighting packages and the cost to paint one tower is roughly the same as it would be to install the lighting on three towers. The lighting is galvanized so it will not corrode. We are actively looking to go that route instead of painting.

Commissioner Hughes commended Deputy Director Jackson and Cody Chinrock for assisting with the search of a missing child a few weeks back. The mobile command truck served as a command post for the search and was utilized several times for interviews and medical treatment. Cody also deployed the drone to assist in the search. Thankfully, the search ended with a good outcome.

Commissioner Hughes reported that the radio department is deploying to Lake Guntersville for HydroFest next week and the team is working a concert at The Grounds this weekend.

Emergency Medical – No Report

Building/Configuration – No Report

Board Attorney – No Report

Director – Director Hodge recommended the purchase of a 2025 Mack Pinnacle. In previous meetings, the board discussed purchasing a new mobile tower site truck as our current truck had major mechanical problems on the last deployment. The truck has been repaired but the consensus was to find a new truck better suited to fit our needs. At the time, there were not any trucks available, and we would need to get on the order bank. When he and Deputy Director Jackson went to get on the order bank, the salesman showed them a truck that was currently on the lot for sale, and it fits the needs of MCCD. He would like the board to consider purchasing the 2025 Mack Pinnacle for the mobile tower site truck. Commissioner Hughes made a motion to approve the purchase, seconded by Commissioner McLean, all approved. The truck is being purchased for $176,330 and includes a 5-year warranty.

Director Hodge recommended selling the old mobile tower site truck, a 2014 Kenworth, on GovDeals. Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Linsley. Commissioner Hughes asked if we could put a reserve on the truck to which Director Hodge answered yes, we will put a reserve on it, he was going to suggest a minimum of $30,000 as that is about what it cost us to fix it. He also stated that there is not currently anything like the truck listed on GovDeals so he feels like it will sell easily.

Director Hodge presented to the board a payment to Communications International for mobile radios for Prichard Police Department. Any amount over $50,000 must be presented to the board for approval. Commissioner Hughes asked if the issues with Prichard had been resolved, to which Director Hodge stated that we are still waiting on Mr. Hartley to put together the MOUs, but the board did already approve the purchase in a previous meeting. The radios will not be issued to Prichard Police Department until the MOU is ready and signed. Commissioner Linsley made a motion to approve the payment, seconded by Commissioner McLean, all approved.

Director Hodge gave an update on the Raymond James fund. In a previous meeting, it was discussed to move our reserve funds from a mutual account into a CD. He and Ashley Carlisle went to Raymond James about the change, and they decided to move to an enhanced savings account with a 5% interest rate. The idea is that this is the reserve account and if something were to happen and we needed the funds, we would be able to access them whereas we wouldn't with the funds in a CD. He reported that he can provide the board with a figure of interest we have already earned at the next meeting.

Director Hodge reported that while meeting with Raymond James, they discussed the remaining almost $83,000 left over from the radio funds. This is money that can only be used for radio expenditures. They have issued us a check for the amount left and this money will be used for the tower site lighting.

Director Hodge reported on the Oak Hill tower site project. The board had Mr. Hartley draft a letter for all involved parties stating that MCCD was no longer moving forward with the project. The letter was sent to Director Hodge and Chairman Mitchell for review. Prior to sending out the official letter, Chairman Mitchell and Commissioner Adams had discussions with the City of Mobile's Chief of Staff about the project ending and they were able to get the project moving in the right direction again. Commissioner Adams also had discussions with the mayor about the project. Unfortunately, the project is stalled again due to the CEO of Mobile Infirmary being unavailable to officially sign off on the plot to be used for the tower site. Director Hodge hopes to have an update by the next meeting. He informed the board that the figures for this project have been presented to him and it's estimated to cost well over $1,000,000 to continue moving forward.

Director Hodge reported on the warehouse project. The contractors are ready to move forward, however, the architects are having to resubmit the drawings to the City of Mobile for permits as the codes have changed. Once submitted, they will need to be approved again and the project can move forward.

Director Hodge informed the board that we had two employees with milestone years of service. Lin Casoria-Scott and Temeka Palmer both have reached 15 years of employment with MCCD. While neither were present, they will both receive 15-year service pins.

Director Hodge stated that he had something to present that was not on the agenda. The board received a handout of the new additional building. Core drilling was completed a few weeks ago and we are currently waiting on the analysis to come back. Based on the samples, we will receive an estimate and schedule soon. Commissioner Linsley asked if this plan included purchasing land from adjacent landowners to which Director Hodge responded no, that he hasn't been able to get in touch with anyone at The Grounds to discuss purchasing property.

Old Business – No Report

New Business – Vice Chairman Adams introduced Chief Bexley and Captain West of USA Police Department. USAPD is responsible for roughly 20 sworn officers and is looking to increase this number over the next few years.

Announcement – Next board meeting to be held July 19, 2024.

Adjournment – Commissioner McLean made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Brown. Meeting adjourned by 9:34 AM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Pat Mitchell, Chairman

Hayley Clough, Recording Secretary