MOBILE COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Minutes of July 19, 2024

Commissioners Attending:

Pat Mitchell	Eric Linsley	Donnie Brown
Sam Cochran	Timothy Hughes	Chris McLean

Staff Attending:

Roy Hodge, Director	Jeffery Hartley, Attorney
Hayley Clough, Recording Secretary	Robert Jackson, Deputy Director
Ashley Carlisle, Comptroller	Katrina Brewer, Communications Manager

The REGULAR board meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on July 19, 2024, at the Mobile County Communications Center.

Call to Order – Chairman Mitchell called the meeting to order at 8:57 AM.

Approval of Minutes – Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 21, 2024, meeting, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, all approved.

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

Personnel – No Report

Planning – No Report

Communications – Commissioner Hughes reported that we have received communication back after inquiring about a potential tower site in Earlsville. They are considering our offer.

Commissioner Hughes reported that the core upgrade is still ongoing. Gary Hand reported that we are currently waiting on Communications International to come back for the upgrade.

Commissioner Hughes reported on the FAA requirements for the tower sites. In a cost saving measure, we have decided to light the tower sites in lieu of repainting them. Salco Rd., MOWA, and Bayou la Batre tower sites are complete and working great.

Commissioner Hughes reported on the new mobile tower site truck. The truck was approved for purchase in the last board meeting and has been acquired, outfitted, and deployed already. The truck deployed to HydroFest in Guntersville at the end of June. Pictures from the deployment were shown to the board.

Emergency Medical – Commissioner Hughes reported that Mobile County EMS has new units added to their fleet. We have received one request for radios so far and they have been outfitted.

Building/Configuration – No Report

Board Attorney – Mr. Hartley informed the board that we have received a request from Greene and Phillips to preserve all information regarding an accident that happened a few months ago. They are representing the family of the deceased and think MCCD is culpable. They believe that response was not submitted quickly enough but Director Hodge has listened to the audio and doesn't believe that is the case. He wanted to ensure the board was aware of the situation.

Director – Director Hodge presented to the board a payment to Hexagon for the CAD upgrade. Any amount over $50,000 must be presented to the board for approval. Commissioner Linsley made a motion to approve the payment, seconded by Commissioner McLean, all approved.

Director Hodge gave an update on the status of the MOUs for equipment with the outlying agencies. He received the MOUs from Mr. Hartley and after reviewing them, he noticed some discrepancies on our end. There were several duplicates on the item list submitted to Mr. Hartley therefore another audit needs to be completed before issuing the equipment. Prichard Police Department's equipment is ready to disperse once the audit is completed. Mr. Hartley stated that the MOUs are structured to also have the city that the agency is in included in the agreement to have them be accountable as well. He stated that in addition to listing what specific equipment is included in the MOU, he is going to add a provision that will cover all equipment issued so that the MOU does not need to be updated every time new equipment is added.

Director Hodge updated the board on the Oak Hill tower site project. The latest is that the City of Mobile is requiring a flood zone permit. To obtain this, we would need to hire engineers and complete a study. The quote we received for this was $14,000. He stated that this plot of property is not necessarily a flood zone, and no one will be living on the property. The only party that could suffer a loss would be us if the area floods. He asked the board if they wanted to continue moving forward with the project to which Chairman Mitchell stated that we continue to spend money on this, but it doesn't seem like we are moving forward. Director Hodge stated that we budgeted $1,000,000 roughly 3 years ago for this project and we're already at $143,000 and still have not begun construction. Prices for construction are increasing and will only continue to increase the longer we wait. The estimated cost for this project is closer to $2,000,000 now. Commissioner Linsley stated that we need to look at the cost of this project compared to the need for this tower site. He asked if this project was only benefiting the hospitals, to which Director Hodge stated yes, there is little to no coverage in the hospitals and the only other way to fix this is to install BDAs. Commissioner Linsley asked if we were to stop moving forward with the project, could the hospitals come to us for help with the BDA installation? Director Hodge stated that one of the problems is that the fire department requires a certain level of coverage in buildings and the hospitals are currently out of compliance. It would be their responsibility to be brought back up to compliance. Commissioner Hughes stated that it sounds like the hospitals need to be more involved with this project because without it, they will be required to install the BDAs to be compliant. Mr. Hartley stated that the only hospital that has been involved in communication is Mobile Infirmary and that was only because they own the property for the potential tower site. Their plan was to deed it to us, but we are currently on a lease with them to have access to the property. Commissioner Hughes stated that we need to have some conversations with the stakeholders about how to move forward with the project. Commissioner Brown suggested getting the Police Chief and Fire Chief involved as well to maybe get some momentum. Commissioner Cochran stated that the hospitals need the coverage for public safety. Commissioner Brown made a motion to table this issue for now and to have Director Hodge and Mr. Hartley schedule a meeting with all stakeholders about how to move forward, seconded by Commissioner Cochran, all approved.

Director Hodge reported on the warehouse project. He stated that the project is moving along, and we should be able to officially break ground on it soon. We have already selected the colors for the building so that the material can be ordered.

Director Hodge reported on the Raymond James fund. In the last meeting, he informed the board that reserve funds were moved to a different account after our last account was continuously losing money. He reported that we have already made $14,630 with the funds in the new account.

Director Hodge reported on the building expansion project. He provided a handout to the board for review. He stated that Lathan Architects has presented several options for the building expansion including a two-story option. The handout included a price breakdown for each option. Commissioner Hughes made a motion to review the options and report back at the next board meeting, seconded by Commissioner McLean, all approved.

Director Hodge informed the board that we are beginning a Call Taker Spotlight to be presented every month. Our first spotlight was Jenni Bodiford. On July 3rd, 2024, we received a 9-1-1 call for service from an individual requesting assistance in a wooded area adjacent to Valhalla Cemetery in the City of Semmes. Using the available resources, specifically "What3Words", she was able to pinpoint the caller's exact location. Those three words, "EDUCATIONAL.CRASS.RECALLING" were added to the call screen that was transferred to the police department. After transferring the call and call screen, she contacted the police department to confirm the dispatcher was familiar with the "What3Words" application. She briefly explained "What3Words" and provided a link to the dispatcher that the officers used to locate the individual. She is commended for use of available resources and recognizing the responding

officers need to know the exact location of the caller in the wooded area. As exceptional work should not go unnoticed, Director Hodge was proud to present her with a Certificate of Recognition and a service pin to commend her for a job well done. He also gave the board a brief summary of what "What3Words" is and how it works.

Old Business – Commissioner Linsley asked about the status of the audit to which Director Hodge responded that it began back in June and is still underway. He also stated that the state auditors started right around the same time for our audit with them. Once completed, a report will be given to the board.

New Business – No Report

Announcement – Next board meeting to be held August 16, 2024.

Adjournment – Commissioner Cochran made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, all approved. The meeting adjourned by 9:36 AM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Pat Mitchell, Chairman

Hayley Clough, Recording Secretary