MOBILE COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Minutes of September 20, 2024

Commissioners Attending:

Robert Adams
Sam Cochran
Eric Linsley
Timothy Hughes
Donnie Brown

Staff Attending:

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

The ANNUAL board meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on September 20, 2024, at the Mobile County Communications Center.

Call to Order – Vice Chairman Adams called the meeting to order at 9:14 AM.

Approval of Minutes – Commissioner Linsley made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 19, 2024, meeting, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, all approved.

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

Personnel – No Report

Planning – No Report

Communications – Commissioner Hughes reported that the core upgrade is still ongoing. We are waiting on Communications International to come back in at the end of the month for official cutover.

Commissioner Hughes reported that a solution has been reached for the Oak Hill tower site. The tower site intended for improving coverage for the hospitals will now be moved to the top of USA Hospital.

Commissioner Hughes informed the board that the tower lights that were installed in lieu of painting the towers due to cost have incurred a problem. Gary Hand has reached out to Drake Lighting who installed the lights for resolution.

Commissioner Hughes reported that we had a new UPS go out at one of the tower sites. The UPS originally came in damaged, and it was fixed but after installation, a board went out. We are currently waiting to see how the company we ordered through is going to correct the problem.

Commissioner Hughes reported that Citronelle Police Department has had their new radios deployed.

Emergency Medical – No Report

Building/Configuration – No Report

Board Attorney – Mr. Hartley stated that he has not heard anything further from Greene and Phillips regarding a notice we received sometime back about an accident.

Mr. Hartley reported that he has had discussions with Mobile Infirmary regarding the land meant for the Oak Hill tower site. They originally donated the land to us for the project but since it does not sound like that is the direction the project is going anymore; we will need to give it back. However, once we received the land, we had it subdivided for use. We will need to have the land undivided to return to them so that they may use it for something else if they would like.

Director – Director Hodge recommended the purchase of two vehicles; one is a 2025 Ford Explorer and the other is a 2024 Ford F-150. We currently have two 2014 Ford Explorers in the fleet used for travel and various business, but they

are both having mechanical issues. We have already put money into fixing both vehicles but now they need more work including a transmission in each. He would like to recommend purchasing two new vehicles to replace these. The Explorer would be for employees to use for travel for work and the F-150 would be for the IT Department to use when they are on call as well as transporting equipment when needed. He informed the board that we have already put the bid out for the vehicles, and it will be awarded to the lowest bidder. Commissioner Hughes made a motion to approve the purchase of the 2025 Ford Explorer and 2024 Ford F-150, seconded by Commissioner Cochran, all approved.

Director Hodge recommended listing the two 2014 Ford Explorers on GovDeals. Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the listing, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, all approved.

Director Hodge recommended the purchase of a variable forklift, this a piece of equipment used for raising and lifting. We have been renting several pieces of other equipment like this for a while for jobs around the center and it makes sense to buy one so that we can stop renting. He informed the board that we have already put the bid out for the forklift and only had one submission for $45,000. Commissioner Hughes amended the purchase to include a man basket for the lift before approval. Commissioner Linsley made a motion to approve the purchase of the variable lift with man basket, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, all approved.

Director Hodge presented to the board a payment to ChillCo for air conditioning work. 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 Hughes, all approved.

Director Hodge presented to the board a payment to Hangar 14 Solutions for Streetwise Software. Any amount over $50,000 must be presented to the board for approval. Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the payment, seconded by Commissioner Linsley, all approved.

Director Hodge presented to the board the FY 2024-2025 Budget. Commissioner Hughes made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Linsley, all approved.

Director Hodge presented to the board the FY 2024-2025 Holiday Calendar. Commissioner Linsley made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, all approved.

Director Hodge gave an update on the Oak Hill tower site project. We have spent a lot of money towards this project and construction hasn't even begun. The problem with moving forward with this project has been with the City of Mobile and their requirements. They wanted a flood wall built that was beyond normal requirements for the area. The area is only required to have a 100-year flood plain and the City of Mobile was requiring us to build a 500-year flood plain. They also were requiring that we dig up and remove an asphalt road that is already existing on the property and unfortunately, we do not know what all that that will entail or what we will uncover with the removal of the road. Director Hodge stated that he and Deputy Director Jackson have been looking for other options for the site and their proposal is the roof of USA Hospital. They have had discussions with them about this move and they seem to be on board with moving forward. There are more benefits to having the tower on top of the hospital than there are with building a whole new site. Some of the benefits include not having to build a shelter or have a backup power source because the hospital already has both of those as well as having the building be the actual tower and not having to construct one. This project will now be referred to as the USA tower site. Mr. Hartley has an agreement ready to move forward with USA Hospital, but he would encourage the board to make a motion to officially terminate the agreement with Mobile Infirmary and then begin a new one with USA Hospital. Commissioner Hughes made a motion to end the agreement with Mobile Infirmary and move forward with USA Hospital, seconded by Commissioner Linsley, all approved.

Director Hodge updated the board on the warehouse project. We are moving along with construction and currently have the electrical and plumbing work competed to have concrete poured next week. Hopefully by the next board meeting there will be a building completed.

Director Hodge updated the board on the building expansion project. He is still looking for insight on which direction the board would like to go in from the options they were given a few months back. He stated that there is still a need to expand our space at the center. Commissioner Adams asked if this expansion meets future needs to which Director Hodge

stated yes, especially if we go with the 2-story option. Commissioner Brown stated that building up is really the best option to get the most space as we do not have more property to expand out on. Commissioner Linsley made a motion to approve the 2-story building expansion, seconded by Commissioner Brown, all approved.

Director Hodge informed the board that we have an employee with a milestone year of service. Nyadra Merery has been with MCCD for 1 year this month. He presented her with a service pin and told the board how Nyadra was commended back in June for handling a call extremely well and remaining courteous and professional.

Old Business – Commissioner Linsley asked about the status of the MOUs with Prichard Police Department to which Director Hodge stated that Mr. Hartley has the MOU ready, however, every time an audit has been completed with the agency, issues have been reported. There has been a total of 4 audits with 1 of the audits resurfacing 9 radios that were in a box unused when they had just asked for an additional 13 radios. Mr. Hartley is waiting for the final figures from the audit to add to the MOU before issuing.

Commissioner Brown asked if the purchase of the vehicles came from this budget year or next to which Director Hodge stated that they came from this year's budget.

Commissioner Adams stated that he appreciated Director Hodge and the staff for doing everything to keep this place running.

New Business – During the annual meeting, the election of officers is to take place. Commissioner Cochran made a motion to keep the officers the same as they currently are, seconded by Commissioner Brown, all approved.

Announcement – Commissioner Brown asked for the board's consideration to move the next meeting date to another day for October as he has a prior commitment. Dates were discussed. Commissioner Linsley made a motion to move the October board meeting date to October 11, 2024, at 9:00 AM, seconded by Commissioner Brown, all approved.

Commissioner Brown invited all board members to the opening of a new ballpark in West Mobile. It is a special needs ball park off of Johnson Rd West. The opening will be on October 17th.

Commissioner Cochran stated that this agency brings in a lot of money and he would like to see MCCD build a storm shelter for Mobile County. Commissioner Adams stated that this can be in the form of a proposal, but where should we put it? Commissioner Brown stated that if this moves forward, it may be something the County could help with. Commissioner Adams asked Director Hodge to look into the mater and we will revisit in the future.

Adjournment – Commissioner Cochran made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Linsley, all approved. The meeting adjourned by 9:54 AM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Pat Mitchell, Chairman

Hayley Clough, Recording Secretary