MOBILE COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Minutes of March 20, 2025

Commissioners Attending:

Pat Mitchell	Robert Adams	Eric Linsley
Donnie Brown	Timothy Hughes	Chris McLean

Staff Attending:

Roy Hodge, Director
Hayley Clough, Recording Secretary
Ashley Carlisle, Comptroller
Robert Jackson, Radio System Administrator
Katrina Brewer, Communications Center Manager

The REGULAR board meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on March 20, 2025, at the Mobile County Communications Center.

Call to Order – Chairman Mitchell called the meeting to order at 8:58 AM.

Approval of Minutes – Commissioner Hughes made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 20, 2025, meeting, seconded by Commissioner Brown, all approved.

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

Director Hodge stated that the budget was amended due to the purchase of new trucks for the radio department. The trucks were not originally budgeted for therefore funds needed to be moved. Commissioner McLean made a motion to approve the FY25 amended budget, seconded by Commissioner Brown, all approved.

Personnel – No Report

Planning – Commissioner Brown asked Director Hodge for an update on the Saraland Fire Department Locution project. Director Hodge responded that we are still waiting on Locution to come up with a solution to interface with the radio system and that we should have an answer by the next board meeting.

Communications – Commissioner Hughes stated that Mr. Hartley would be giving an update on the USA Mobile tower site project.

Commissioner Hughes reported that the core upgrade is finishing up and includes a phone patch feature.

Emergency Medical – No Report

Building/Configuration – No Report

Board Attorney – Mr. Hartley reported on the AG's opinion that was requested some months back. He stated that we have received a response, and it is very comprehensive. Typically, an opinion is given based on information, cases, and other opinions that have already been given. He referenced page 5 of the opinion, specifically a paragraph about halfway down the page that states what MCCD can spend money on and there's a conclusion toward the end. His read on the opinion is that if the board wants to spend money on this, it needs to be done on a pro rata basis depending on how much of the video wall affects that particular paragraph in terms of dispatching. He stated that it looks like the summary of the opinion is that if the board wants to move forward with this, an analysis will have to be done to see what percentage will be used for dispatching. Commissioner McLean asked if Mr. Hartley could explain to which he stated yes that the video wall itself probably goes beyond the scope of what the statute allows for the expenditure of E-911 funds but to the extent that it's going

to be used to enhance dispatching and if there is a certain amount of time allocated for that, the board could move forward if there was a number of use, which may be subjective. If the board was going to go forward, there would need to be some sort of understanding of the percentage of use for dispatching. He stated that he could not remember the exact dollar figures but just as an example if this was going to cost $400,000 and the board determined that 50% of dispatching would happen from it, to be in compliance with the opinion, the board could spend $200,000 on it. He stated that there would need to be some sort of percentage, pro rata, of the total figure and what would be the total percentage used for an E-911 component of that. That is what the AG says is appropriate. He stated that he is unsure of how that percentage would be done, but asked Commissioner Linsley his thoughts as he might have the most experience to figure something like this out. Mr. Hartley stated that this is not a yes, give them the money and not a no, don't give them a dollar, it's kind of in between and that may complicate things more. Commissioner Linsley stated that it kind of differs from dispatch service and emergency service and dispatch service is 100% us. He stated that the opinion also references GPS service and allows for enhancing the 911 service and then it talks about the Fusion Center. If the Fusion Center looks like it has a component that could enhance the service of the call, he feels that it is a worthy expenditure of 911 funds but then there's the emergency services that gather information and are involved in decision making, as far as an operational part, and that is not dispatch. He stated that like Mr. Hartley said, if there is a line that is dispatch or emergency service, where do we fall in that? Is it going to be on all the time collecting dispatch information or if there is no call, is it going to be shut down? If it is going to be used for information gathering and surveillance, that's fine but is it going to interface with our CAD system and how does that part work? He stated that there is going to be a line that the board needs to identify, a quantity, and he recommended that MCCD IT Department meet with the Mobile County Sheriff's Office IT Department to find what part we can help with. Chairman Mitchell stated that there was a representative from MCSO in attendance. Frank Cassidy with MCSO stated they agreed that there are portions that will be the Sheriff's Office responsibility to pay for and portions that they're asking 911 to pay for. He stated they could sit down with MCCD to break down which part is being requested but their biggest difference is that it's not dispatch, its communications. The communications portion of it is what they believe is 911 and that's what they're asking for and then the operational portion would be covered by the Sheriff's Office, not just dispatch but communications. Mr. Hartley stated that that is not what the opinion says, and that the opinion says that it must be related to 911 dispatch services. That's what the AG says, not communications but dispatch. He stated that he did not write the opinion but that's not what it says and that is why he pointed everyone to the one specific paragraph. Mr. Cassity stated that he could sit down with MCCD to determine which parts, but that MCSO is in agreement with the pro rata. Commissioner Brown made a motion to move forward, seconded by Commissioner Hughes. Commissioner McLean stated that he wanted a conversation had with MCSO about the vision of the Fusion Center and what it entails concerning dispatch operations and conveying information to the smaller agencies during crisis situations like active shooters or school situations. He stated that being able to get information out in real time during a time of crisis is crucial and feels that if it helps with that, it falls under 911 dispatch. After conversations are had with them about the Fusion Center to see their vision, he would like to support them on this. Commissioner Linsley amended the motion to say that he would like the Director, MCCD IT and MCSO IT to work to find the percentage that MCCD would fund, seconded by Commissioner Brown, all approved

Mr. Hartley stated that the MOU has been sitting with USA for a while and now that they have returned it, there is something problematic. He is set to meet with Director Hodge and Robert Jackson to discuss so that we can move forward.

Mr. Hartley stated that the Wilmer Radio Tower site inspection falls under the allowable actions a board can do under the Alabama Open Meetings Act. As long as it falls under training, inspections, or informational, it is not in violation. He stated that the board cannot deliberate or discuss anything of business and cannot discuss what we can spend money on, it can only be informational. Director Hodge stated that everything is ready for a tour today and anyone who would like to go is welcome.

Director – Director Hodge recommended approval of a payment to Ryan Public Safety Solutions for the hardware refresh on the phone system in the amount of $214,873.03. Any amount over $50,000 must be

presented to the board for approval. Commissioner McLean made a motion to approve the payment, seconded by Commissioner Brown, all approved.

Director Hodge recommended approval of a quote from CMA for Artic Wolf Cybersecurity in the amount of $71,985. Commissioner Hughes made a motion to approve the quote, seconded by Commissioner Adams, all approved.

Director Hodge recommended approval of Bid #2025-01 to Communications International for 20 AMP Headsets for the MCSO SWAT team in the amount of $45,512. Commissioner McLean made a motion to approve the bid, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, all approved.

Director Hodge updated the board on the CALEA Accreditation process. He referred to a letter in the back of the packet that states that our online assessment to become accredited is in April and the on-site assessment will take place in June. Commissioner Linsley asked how long after the assessment would we be accredited to which Director Hodge stated that we will report to the annual conference in Jacksonville, FL but we should be accredited by June 11, 2025.

Director Hodge recommended approval of the MCCD Employee Handbook that was presented last month. Commissioner Linsley stated that the handbook was very thorough. Director Hodge stated that he did not receive very many edits from the board, so it is ready for approval. Commissioner McLean made a motion to approve the MCCD Employee Handbook, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, all approved. Commissioner Adams stated that he would like to have major policies gone over with the supervisors, specifically harassment and grievance, to ensure an understanding of the procedures. Commissioner Hughes asked if all employees will acknowledge to which Director Hodge responded yes, through PowerDMS.

Director Hodge updated the board on the warehouse project. He stated that the warehouse should be ready by the next board meeting. The power was turned on last week and MAWSS installed the water meter this week. Commissioner Hughes asked if the board could see the warehouse after the next meeting to which Director Hodge responded absolutely.

Director Hodge informed the board that April 13-19, 2025, is National Public Safety Telecommunications Week.

Old Business – No Report

New Business – No Report

Announcement –Next board meeting to be held April 17, 2025 during Telecommunications Week.

Adjournment – Commissioner Brown made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, all approved. The meeting adjourned by 9:21 AM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Pat Mitchell, Chairman

Hayley Clough, Recording Secretary