MOBILE COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Minutes of April 17, 2025

Commissioners Attending:

Robert Adams
Timothy Hughes
Eric Linsley
Chris McLean
Donnie Brown

Staff Attending:

Roy Hodge, Director
Hayley Clough, Recording Secretary
Katrina Brewer, Communications Center Manager
Jeffery Hartley, Attorney
Robert Jackson, Radio System Administrator

The REGULAR board meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on April 17, 2025, at the Mobile County Communications Center.

Call to Order – Vice Chairman Adams called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Commissioner Linsley opened the meeting in prayer. Vice Chairman Adams read a proclamation designating April 13-19, 2025, as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week and stated that the board appreciates the operators for what they do every day.

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

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

Personnel – No Report

Planning – Commissioner Brown thanked the staff for arranging the field trip to the Wilmer Tower Site and stated that he felt more educated about what the radio department does.

Communications – Commissioner Hughes deferred to Cody Chinrock for an update about the Locution project. Cody stated that the radio side is up and running with testing and configuration happening as well. They are still working on getting the stations up but hoping to have them ready this week.

Commissioner Hughes deferred to Director Hodge for an update on the USA Mobile Tower site. Director Hodge stated that there has been extreme progress since the last board meeting. The MOU between us and USA has been executed and a purchase order for the equipment has been issued. He stated that Mr. Hartley worked diligently on this project to have it moving forward again. Commissioner Hughes asked for a timeline of completion to which Director Hodge stated that it should be 6-8 months, hopefully completed by the end of the year.

Emergency Medical – No Report

Building/Configuration – No Report

Board Attorney – Mr. Hartley stated that Hayley Clough approached him before the beginning of the last board meeting with a Conflict-of-Interest form that she found on her computer and wanted to know if it was still applicable. Mr. Hartley stated that he wrote the policy back in 2015 when things were very tense with Harris and the radio system was trying to get off the ground. There was also a lot of publicity at that time with TV stations attending the meetings. One of the things the board wanted was a concrete written disclosure that listed how employees and board members should act and ensure there were no conflicts or cause for concern. Mr.

Hartley stated that it was presented to the board in August of 2015 and approved in September of 2015. The meeting minutes from September of 2015 were included in the board packet.

Mr. Hartley stated that it's come to his attention that it hasn't been signed by board members in quite some time so they would need to decide if they wanted to continue with the policy or dissolve it. It stated that it was just an administrative oversight and nothing nefarious is going on. Vice Chairman Adams asked Mr. Hartley if he had any amendments to the policy and if he recommended still going forward with it to which Mr. Hartley stated that he believes it is in good practice to continue going forward with it. He stated that things were a lot more complicated with the board then but still believes it's a good idea now and that it might be something nice for the accreditation process. He asked the board to review the policy and then discuss it at the next board meeting. Commissioner Linsley stated that he had no issue with the policy and that there was something similar at the County Commission. Vice Chairman Adams stated that the policy has not been discontinued so it is still in play to which Mr. Hartley stated that is correct and it has already been approved by the board, it just has not been upheld in a while. Commissioner Brown asked if the policy would affect members voting on something for different agencies to which Mr. Hartley stated no, it will not conflict with that, and the policy was written that way. He stated that the policy was self-dealing to make sure there was no personal gain from something the board voted on. The board can decide to rescind or amend this policy. Vice Chairman Adams asked if any board members had any reason to rescind the policy and Mr. Hartley encouraged the board members to review it and discuss at the next board meeting. Commissioner Linsley asked if this was only for board members to which Mr. Hartley stated that it was for employees too. He stated that Robert Jackson may need an amended policy due to the unique nature of his position, but he can also draft that and bring it next month. Vice Chairman Adams stated that the board will look at it at the next meeting.

Director – Director Hodge recommended approval of a payment to Roy Lewis Construction for pay applications 6 & 7 in the amount of $148,383.00. Any amount over $50,000 must be presented to the board for approval. Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve the payment, seconded by Commissioner Linsley, all approved.

Director Hodge recommended approval of a payment to Hexagon for a milestone payment for the OnCall Project in the amount of $109,978.20. 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 recommended approval of a quote for the First Due Renewal in the amount of $52,264.00. Commissioner Linsley asked what First Due was to which Director Hodge stated that it was software for the fire departments that had a CAD integration and included fire hydrant locations, EMS reports, and other things. Commissioner Linsley made a motion to approve the quote, seconded by Commissioner McLean, all approved.

Director Hodge updated the board on the warehouse project. He stated that there has been an extreme amount of progress since the last meeting. Asphalt has been laid, and some landscaping has been done so everything should be completed by the next meeting. We are hoping to start moving equipment in by the end of next week. Commissioner McLean asked if they changed the parking to which Director Hodge stated yes, there is plenty of room for the equipment.

Director Hodge updated the board on the Mobile County Sheriff's Office fusion center video wall request. He stated that he has met with 2 MCSO employees, Corporal Tillman and Sergeant Austin, to discuss what their vision is and what they want to accomplish with the video wall. He stated that there is no doubt portions of it that will tie into the dispatch function and enhance the dispatch operations. As Mr. Hartley pointed out in the last meeting, determining the exact amount is fairly difficult and we were unable to come to an amount that was agreeable. He stated that MCCD wants to support this as much as possible based on the Attorney General's opinion, so he has reached out to a consultant for their opinion on the matter. He stated that the consultant is already on retainer with us, his name is Lee Moore with 911 Consult. He has sent Mr. Moore the AG's opinion

and the information furnished to us from MCSO about the project and asked him to help us in determining an amount that we should fund. He has already looked at everything and stated that it is a very unique ruling from the AG as he has never seen an opinion that states funds can be spent on a pro-rata basis. He will be going over everything in depth to have an official recommendation for us by the next board meeting and we will also meet with MCSO to go over his recommendation as well. Commissioner Brown asked what the figures were that had been discussed to which Director Hodge stated that figures haven't really been discussed, only percentages of what would be funded. The fusion center is going to be used for several different things, including dispatch, but determining a formula to use to recommend a percentage that we pay for has been difficult. He stated that you could look at the hours it's going to be open but that didn't seem like a fair judgement either as its still hard to determine how much is going to be used for dispatching and other things. Director Hodge stated that he is hoping that is something Mr. Moore can help us with. He stated that Chief Cassidy is here as well as Sergent Austin from MCSO and they may have more information. Chief Cassidy stated that one thing he wanted to clarify was that the proposal only listed Fusion one time and it actually states that it is going to be in the old Fusion room and that there is no intention of building a huge center. What they are wanting to build is a real-time intelligence space to provide information for the deputies on patrol in all jurisdictions when they respond to events. He stated that he noticed that an incorrect definition of the Fusion room got put into the AG's opinion and that they never asked for a Fusion room and that should not have been what was discussed with Sergent Austin. He stated that what they are talking about is people that will be there to provide information to deputies as they respond as it will primarily be used for part 1 crimes, and it will not just be used by the Sherriff's Office, but it will be open for all jurisdictions. He stated that he does not know where the Fusion room keeps coming in because they never asked for it and it's not in their proposal. The definition of Fusion room can be many different things, and it has been a data fusion center for 16 years. The City of Mobile has a Fusion Center and those 2 are not the needed. He stated that they are looking at real time intelligence that can let the person in route to an event know information before arriving that they may need to know. It's not about Fusion, they already have that and have had it for more than 15 years. Commissioner McLean stated that that was what he had envisioned for this program and being able to access LPR and other information for the agency that is responding to the hot calls. In his opinion, this is equipment that will be utilized in dispatching the first responders and is relevant in public safety. Commissioner Brown stated that he agreed and would like to move this along as the board has been talking about it for a while. Commissioner McLean asked if there were amounts for this project and what they needed from us to move forward. Sergent Austin introduced himself to the board and stated that he has about 10 years of experience in intelligence and saw where the Director brought up the point about percentages and money. For this project, they are asking the board to help them fund the walls that they can see and the computers that run them, everything else the Sheriff's Office will take care of, including construction and the personnel that will need to be hired to run the center. The components will only be the wall and the server rooms. He stated that he understands that they could not come to the board with the percentage of 100% because it may not be 100% of the time and the system may be used for other things as well. It is not feasible to say 100% of the time so in the last meeting with the Director, he decided on 90% so that the 10% gap would be covered by MCSO for any other use of the wall. On the last quote they obtained a few years ago from Atlantic Video Company, this was just for the equipment for the walls and servers in the amount of $375,000. He stated that it pales in comparison to the cost of staffing and construction that it's going to take to have the site ready. Commissioner Brown asked what the total cost would be for the whole system to which Sergent Austin stated that if we did not include personnel, they are looking at a 10-year project and then deferred to Chief Cassidy. Commissioner Linsley asked if the $375,000 was 911's cost or if that was the total cost to which Sergent Austin replied that 911's cost would be 90%. The personnel and constructions costs are covered by MCSO, they are only asking for coverage of the walls and the components for that. Vice Chairman Adams stated that he was not going to ask if this was needed but asked if this was in the purview of the board to handle or approve and if Mr. Hartley needed some time to review it. Vice Chairman Adams wanted to know if this is encompassed in what the board does. Commissioner Brown stated that it is, and Commissioner Linsley recommended that our consultant take a look at it and then give a recommendation to the board about what portion the board can pay for. Commissioner Brown stated that MCSO's explanation is pretty clear to him that it is dispatch and that it is all to do with dispatching and asked Mr. Hartley what he thought to which he responded he did not know, that he heard communications and dispatch and those are different. Commissioner

McLean stated that we have already received an AG's opinion on it and didn't think we needed more opinions on the matter. Vice Chairman Adams asked the board what action they needed to take on it to which Commissioner Hughes pointed out that the board just approved the fire service software and under it is personnel management, hydrant management, occupational management and those are all operational things and have zero to do with communications. Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve the funding of 90%, seconded by Commissioner McLean. Commissioner Linsley asked if it was of the $375,000 to which Commissioner Brown stated that yes, whatever the cost is and deferred to Chief Cassidy who stated that the total cost was $387,000. All approved.

Director Hodge stated that there were several employees he would like to recognize. A few weeks ago, there was significant rainfall that caused flash flooding. A crew of 4 ladies were on duty that night and handled all the calls extremely well. He asked Arnita Jones, Jenni Bodiford, Nyadra Merery, and Emily McCoy to come forward to be presented with Certificates of Recognition for their diligent work and dedication to public safety. He presented Arnita, Jenni, and Nyadra with certificates and service pins, Emily was not present at the meeting. He commended them for a job well done and stated that good work should not go unnoticed. Vice Chairman Adams commended them for a job well done also.

Old Business – Commissioner Brown asked if the board had discussed the Director's annual evaluation to which Commissioner McLean stated no. Vice Chairman Adams asked if the board needed to go into executive session to which Mr. Hartley responded yes if they would be discussing the Director's good name and character. Mr. Hartley ensured that the requirements for an executive session were met and announced the statement for an executive session. A roll call vote was taken and all approved to go into executive session beginning at 9:43 AM. The executive session ended at 10:03 AM. Commissioner McLean made a motion to give Director Hodge a 10% merit raised based on his performance this year retroactive to his one-year date of March 18, 2025, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, all approved.

New Business – No Report

Announcement –Next board meeting to be held May 15, 2025.

Adjournment – Commissioner Hughes made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Brown, all approved. The meeting adjourned by 10:06 AM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Pat Mitchell, Chairman

Hayley Clough, Recording Secretary