MOBILE COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Minutes of August 21, 2025

Commissioners Attending:

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

Staff Attending:

Robert Jackson, Deputy Director
Hayley Clough, Recording Secretary
Jeffery Hartley, Attorney

The REGULAR board meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on August 21, 2025, at the Mobile County Communications Center.

Call to Order – Chairman Mitchell called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Commissioner Linsley opened the meeting in prayer.

Approval of Minutes – Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 17, 2025, meeting, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, all approved.

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

Commissioner Linsley requested the board to authorize the Deputy Director as a check signer in the absence of the Director. Commissioner Linsley made a motion to approve the Deputy Director as a check signer, seconded by Commissioner Brown, all approved.

Personnel – No Report

Planning – No Report

Communications – Commissioner Hughes stated that in the last meeting, there was discussion about the new USA Mobile Tower Site. He stated that the equipment has been ordered, and we are just waiting on Communications International to stage.

Commissioner Hughes stated that Gary Hand has been managing the Locution project and there have been some major issues that have come to light with it. Deputy Director Jackson will be discussing it later in the meeting.

Emergency Medical – No Report

Building/Configuration – No Report

Board Attorney – No Report

Director – Deputy Director Jackson recommend approval of the FY2025-2026 Holiday Calendar. He stated that the holiday calendar is the same as the County Commissions. Commissioner McLean made a motion to approve the holiday calendar, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, all approved.

Deputy Director Jackson presented the FY2025-2026 Budget Draft to the board. He encouraged the board to review it and ask any questions. He stated that the staff, especially Ashley Carlisle, has worked hard on it. He would like it to be approved at the next board meeting.

Deputy Director Jackson stated that MCEMS has a huge responsibility in dispatching their own agency as well as the volunteer fire departments. Because of this, a few years back, another MCCD administration decided to implement a service to the volunteer fire departments similar to MFRD. The service is equipped to start dispatching while MCEMS is still in the process of actually handling the call. This would make dispatching and response times much quicker. That service is Locution and it has other functions like an alerting portion that could differentiate the type of call and the type of truck needed to respond. It was originally thought to have a radio integration that it would use for dispatching however, the core upgrade and changes with Locution have made this impossible just for radio use alone and now will need an internet connection to have these features. The problem with requiring an internet connection is that the internet can be somewhat unreliable because if there is even a small glitch in the connection and the call does not get dispatched, this could be a huge problem and unsafe. He stated that there are two options to move forward. The first option is to drop the project altogether. There has already been $377,000 invested into this project along with tons of hours to make it work. The second option is to take over the internet connections at each fire station and pay for it to make it more reliable. We would install LTE modems, external antennas and use two providers at each station. This is the only reasonable solution for internet reliability as we can control the accounts and will not have to have a representative at each fire station to go through for account access, we will be able to handle any issues that arise ourselves. He stated that he has spoken with Mr. Hartley about this and would like to execute an MOU with each fire department to say that we will do everything within our control to maintain this connection but there is a bit that is out of our hands and that they understand that there may be instances where it is unreliable. He stated that the equipment would cost $8,700 for the modems and it's roughly $800-$950 a month for the connection. Commissioner McLean asked how many stations there were to which Deputy Director Jackson stated that there are 16. Commissioner McLean then asked if this is what MFRD has to which Deputy Director Jackson responded that MFRD owns their own fiber, but they do use Locution for dispatching. Their network talks directly to Locution, and it would be an astronomical cost to run our own fiber to the stations. Commissioner McLean then asked, since there is fiber everywhere, can we tie into some that is already existing to which Deputy Director Jackson stated that that is what we are currently doing and it is very unreliable with some issues already being reported. He stated that if there is a glitch in a home or work internet connection, you probably wouldn't even notice but if a call came in at that exact moment and did not get dispatched, it could be devastating. Commissioner Hughes stated that some internet providers like AT&T run on power and if the power goes out, so does the internet. Commissioner Brown made a motion to spend the money and to execute the MOU. Commissioner McLean asked if this was going to fix the problem to which Deputy Director Jackson stated that this will make it as reliable as we can possibly make it and the MOU is just a precautionary measure. He feels that this is the best solution to not have the money already spent on this project wasted. He stated that everything will be tested for each department before implementation at all the stations. Chairman Mitchell stated that he believes this will help saves lives and should move forward. Commissioner Hughes made a motion to approve the purchase of equipment and to execute an MOU with each department, seconded by Commissioner Adams, all approved.

Deputy Director Jackson stated that he had a few employees he wanted to recognize. The first is Cody Chinrock in the radio department. Cody received recognition for his unwavering dedication and discipline to the agency. His contributions extend far beyond the scope of recent projects, in particular the Locution project and the new inventory systems for the radio department. Cody received a certificate of recognition and a service recognition pin. The second and third employees were Andrea "Dre" Stuard and Gary Hand. Both have been with MCCD for 5 years this month. They were both given years of service pins. The last employee is Cynthia Burt who has achieved 1 year of service with MCCD. She was not present in the meeting, but her pin will be given to her.

Old Business – Commissioner Adams stated that in light of the Director's situation, he would like to make a motion to request the County Commission hold off on appointing a new board member to the MCCD board. Chairman Mitchell and Commissioner McLean stated that they do not think we can ask that of them and Mr. Hartley stated that statutorily, it is their call.

New Business – No Report

Announcement – Next board meeting to be held on September 18, 2025. This is the annual meeting.

Adjournment – Chairman Mitchel stated that Gary Tanner was in attendance with a presentation. He advised the board that he wrote the history of 911 and he would like to present a physical book to the South Alabama library to be a historical book. The advancements in 911 are astounding and the history is important. He spoke about the history of how the district was created and who was instrumental in its formation. He informed the board that anytime anything was needed, he would be happy to help. He plans to present the book to South Alabama next week.

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Hughes. The meeting adjourned by 9:28 AM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Pat Mitchell, Chairman

Hayley Clough, Recording Secretary