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

Commissioners Attending:

Robert Adams | Eric Linsley | Donnie Brown
Timothy Hughes

Staff Attending:

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

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

Call to Order – Vice Chairman Adams called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM. Commissioner Linsley opened the meeting in prayer.

Approval of Minutes – Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 19, 2025, meeting, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, all approved.

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

Personnel – No Report

Planning – No Report

Communications – Commissioner Hughes deferred to Director Hodge for an update on the USA Mobile Tower site. Director Hodge stated that there is a tentative completion date of mid-November for the project. Jesse Sluder stated that microwave parts are on backorder and once received, Communications International will conduct testing and then we can continue moving forward.

Emergency Medical – Commissioner Hughes stated that he has met the new director of Mobile County EMS and spoke with them regarding collaborating with the hospitals and radio use.

Building/Configuration – No Report

Board Attorney – No Report

Director – Director Hodge informed the board that MCCD had a few new employees to introduce. Alec, Megan, and Hope are all new PSTs, and Tony is new in the IT Department. Vice Chairman Adams thanked them for joining the team.

Director Hodge recommended adding four additional PST positions to the organizational chart. He stated that MCCD exists for the public to contact when they need fire, EMS, or law enforcement service and none of that would be possible without the PSTs. Since he has been Director, we have had difficulty keeping the PST positions staffed and we are currently 6 positions down. Director Hodge stated that he and Deputy Director Jackson have discussed options on how to get new employees into these positions and there was a big discussion with staff about the same topic on Monday. We did a substantial social media push on Monday, and the response has been overwhelming with over 200 resumes received. He would like to hire an additional person per shift so that there is a total of seven operators per shift which would fill every console. We currently only have six positions per shift on the organizational chart. Due to us being understaffed, we are having to pay people to be on standby in case someone cannot report to work, and we are also paying a lot of overtime to keep the shifts covered. Vice Chairman Adams stated that he wanted to know the objective to hiring four more and would like a recommendation from the board. He

asked if a motion was needed by the board to hire four more and stated that he didn't think the Director needed guidance to hire more employees. He suggested that the Director be able to hire at their discretion. Commissioner Hughes stated that he agreed with Vice Chairman Adams because overtime is a killer and budget buster and you do not want people working a lot of overtime because they need to be rested. Vice Chairman Adams stated that he did not like the idea of operators working overtime because they should have decent time off. Commissioner Linsley stated that the County Commission approves the number of positions per department but is not necessarily involved in hiring. Commissioner Brown asked if Commissioner Linsley was saying that the County Commission has to approve our positions to which Vice Chairman Adams stated no that it was only for the County Commission positions. Commissioner Brown asked if the four additional positions would bring us to fully staffed to which Director Hodge stated that this will bring us to a total of 10 open positions. Vice Chairman Adams asked if we should only limit ourselves to four additional positions to which Director Hodge stated that we can only have four additional positions due to the lack of space for more than that. Commissioner Brown stated that he agreed that we should hire to be fully staffed. Director Hodge stated that the call floor can function with four on duty, however he would like to have five. Commissioner Brown stated that he would like to give the Director permission to hire ten positions. Commissioner Hughes stated that he would even like to potentially hire some part time employees. Vice Chairman Adams asked if part time employees would work to which Director Hodge stated yes, but that training would be difficult because they need to be in the classroom some as well as spending four to six months on the call center floor. Vice Chairman Adams stated that he would like the Director and Ashley Carlisle to look at this in the budget and potentially consider part time positions. He also asked what the probationary period was to which Director Hodge stated that new employees go through Cypress Employment Agency and are with them for training. Hayley Clough stated that operator trainees do go through Cypress Employment Services for the duration of training and then they transition over to an MCCD employee with a one-year probation. Vice Chairman Adams stated that he would like to ensure we are not abusing the layoff and that they take their vacation and sick leave appropriately. Director Hodge stated that we don't really have that issue here as most employees are tenured, but our biggest issue is that we are shorthanded. Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve the four additional PST positions, seconded by Commissioner Linsley, all approved.

Old Business – Director Hodge stated that the audit report was given to the board last month to review and asked if anyone had any comments. Commissioner Linsley stated that he read it, and it looked like a clean audit with only one to two discrepancies, but they have already been cleared and that is reflected in the report. Director Hodge stated that one of the discrepancies actually dates back to 2006 before Ashley was even here. Vice Chairman Adams stated that the audit was so thorough that they asked to see a piece of equipment that was listed. Director Hodge expanded on this by stating that that particular piece of equipment was actually the State audit that was done last year and not this audit but that they did request to see a different piece of equipment and checked it against the serial numbers to ensure proper documentation. He stated that he did not realize that an audit was as involved as it is. Vice Chairman Adams thanked Ashley for everything that she does and for keeping everything straight. Commissioner Linsley stated that he would like the audits to continue in the future.

Commissioner Brown asked where we were with the Saraland Fire Department Locution as this has been going on for quite a while to which Director Hodge stated that Saraland Fire Department is unique compared to other agencies and that they want features not offered in the version of Locution we have. We have the basic version of Locution and the features they want are in the advanced version. We are having to obtain an additional board because we cannot add an additional board to the existing cabinet. Locution requires this to be a new project, and we are working on obtaining a quote. The last quote received was around $48,000. The existing cabinet will have to be removed, and a new one put in its place. Commissioner Hughes asked if the existing cabinet could be used somewhere else to which Director Hodge stated yes, it will go into storage until it can be moved to another agency for use. Commissioner Brown stated that this project has been going on for a awhile and he believes that we should just bite the bullet to get it going. Chief Lovitte with Saraland Fire Department stated that when the Locution project was first introduced that he listed everything they wanted out of the software, but it does not open the doors to the fire station when a call comes in due to the lack of enough relays. He stated that they currently have that feature but would not with Locution. Commissioner Hughes asked if this was something that was requested from Locution and they did not deliver or if it was not requested to which Director Hodge stated that he has had Cody Chinrock looking into this but cannot find where this feature was requested specifically for the project and Captain Lovitte stated that he could not find where he had specifically requested it either however, he was not aware that he needed to be specific with

this request because most systems have that feature. Commissioner Brown stated that we just need to do whatever needed to get this fixed. Director Hodge stated that we are currently working towards getting this fixed by obtaining a quote for the new cabinet, but the board would need to approve the quote prior to moving forward due to it being over the allowable amount that is required to go before the board. Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve up to $60,000 for Saraland Fire Department Locution so that it does not have to go before the board again. Mr. Hartley stated that the motion may need to be specific about where the funds will come from to which Ashley responded that they would come from Capital. Mr. Hartley suggested amending the motion to reflect this statement. Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve up to $60,000 from the Capital Projects budget for the Saraland Fire Department Locution project, seconded by Commissioner Linsley, all approved.

Commissioner Brown asked the Director if he could go over OnCall versus StreetWise to which Director Hodge stated that Chief Lovitte may be able to explain better. Chief Lovitte stated that Tyler Crum had done a demo of OnCall and it has come to his determination that OnCall will not work for fire service due to the lack of pre-planning capabilities. He stated that Saraland will be keeping StreetWise and paying for it, however, Tyler informed him to expect a quote from Hexagon for an integration fee for StreetWise and OnCall. He stated that he is still waiting for that quote but would be coming back to the board to ask for their consideration for covering the costs of it. Director Hodge stated that he spoke with Commissioner Brown yesterday and then spoke with Tyler about this. Tyler stated that MCCD will be paying for the integration, and he also mentioned that First Due had pre-planning capabilities. Chief Lovitte stated that First Due is a reporting software and cannot be used for pre-planning because that feature is web based and cannot be used in dispatching therefore, First Due will not work for them for this. Director Hodge stated that Tyler will be back in the office Monday so he will get with him to plan a meeting with the Chief. Commissioner Brown asked what Mobile Fire Rescue used to which Chief Harrington stated that they use Intterra however, they do have to use a separate program for pre-planning. Chief Lovitte stated that MFRD has a tablet and MDT in their units and Saraland does not.

New Business – Commissioner Hughes stated that he knows there has been an issue with Mullinax taking a while for maintenance to be completed on the vehicles and issues with getting fuel. He suggested speaking with Mobile County about possibly moving to their fuel centers and having Mobile County Maintenance complete oil changes and such on the vehicles. He also stated that we may need to get with the County about access to Camp 3 because they are moving away from having the Camps guarded and will be moving to card access. He stated that the Citronelle tower site is behind the Camp 3 gates and an access card will be needed to get in soon. Director Hodge stated that using County fuel has been discussed before and he thought it had something to do with taxes on fuel and Vice Chairman Adams asked the Director to look into this being a possibility for MCCD.

Announcement – Next board meeting to be held on August 21, 2025.

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Linsley. The meeting adjourned by 9:45 AM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Pat Mitchell, Chairman

Hayley Clough, Recording Secretary