MOBILE COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Minutes of March 26, 2026

Commissioners Attending:

Pat Mitchell	Frank Cassady	Brina Bolden
Donnie Brown	Timothy Hughes	

Staff Attending:

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

The REGULAR board meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on March 26, 2026, at the Mobile County Communications Center.

Call to Order – Chairman Mitchell called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM.

Approval of Minutes – Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 19, 2026, meeting, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, all approved.

Treasurer Report – Commissioner Cassady made a motion to approve the February claims list, seconded by Commissioner Brown, all approved. Mr. Hartley stated that the budget-to-actual is just a report.

Personnel – No Report

Planning – No Report

Communications – Commissioner Hughes stated that he would leave the bulk of the communications report to Director Jackson but would report on a few things. The board appointed a radio subcommittee made up of himself, Commissioner Linsley and Commissioner McLean. The subcommittee met last week to discuss the radio system RFP. They considered three options. The first option is to maintain the Harris infrastructure that is close to end of life and understand that this will be an issue in the future. This option would require the purchase of equipment and upgrades for years to come, including the master 5 units in the towers as they have been phased out. This would also require the purchase of new cards from Harris. The committee made the decision regardless of plan option, that the APX platform is the superior platform. The radio equipment used in the field moving forward would be acquired on state bid from Motorola. Using this first option with old infrastructure and new radio equipment in the field, there is compatibility with the two brands, but the biggest drawback is that we alienate ourselves from the rest of the state and would not have interoperability across the state. When this discussion began, the goal was to have interoperability across the state and especially with Baldwin County. There has been some dialogue with them, and they are very receptive to the project. The first option has a lot of downsides, but it is the most cost effective. The subcommittee does not really want to choose this option. The second option would be a total overhaul of the entire system. Maintaining ourselves as an independent district would end and we would join the statewide network and would require a maintenance agreement with the vendor to keep up interoperability with the rest of the state. We would be tied into Birmingham because of their core. The third option is the preferred option and would completely overhaul to the APX platform including all new end user and dispatch equipment. This would increase interoperability across the state and especially with Baldwin and we could share resources with them. Director Jackson has had conversations with Baldwin County, and they are ready to move forward. Commissioner Hughes stated that the board needed to get this RFP moving quickly because the process takes roughly 12-24 months and the current system is already at end of life, but this was the recommendation that the subcommittee had. Commissioner Brown asked what the cost would be for a complete overhaul to which Commissioner Hughes stated that the total cost remains to be seen but spit balling would be in the $30-$40 million range. Director Jackson stated that that was a safe estimate of cost based on other country-wide projects. Commissioner Brown stated that if we're going to do it, we need to do it

right. Commissioner Hughes stated that we are spending money either way. Director Jackson stated that some of the main points over the years have been interoperability across the state but especially with Baldwin. One of the main issues has been coverage over Mobile Bay and the Bayway. We do have a unique opportunity to advance where we are now. The board approved in 2015 to unify the county to be on the same radio system but now we have the opportunity to unify across the state especially now that we are at a crossroads where we have to make some upgrades anyway. He stated that he has had conversations with Baldwin and they are very receptive to the project. Commissioner Hughes stated that if you go back and look historically at the APCO P-25 legislation, that started on the heels of the 9/11 debacle, the intent of that project was connectivity and interoperability. At the time, there was always some type of glitch in having different vendors' equipment work together and trying to do this now is not using the equipment to the best of their abilities. Commissioner Brown stated that we should give our law enforcement and fire and EMS the best.

Emergency Medical –No Report

Building/Configuration – Commissioner Bolden stated Director Jackson will cover all of the details but essentially, there is an outstanding invoice for architecture drafting services from a previous plan to build another building. After talking to Director Jackson, he has since gathered all of the dates and the minutes to review the percentage of the drafting services that was attached to the value of the overall cost of the project. We have received that invoice, and the discussion needs to be how much does Mobile County owe on that invoice but overall, there is a bill to pay.

Board Attorney – No Report

Director – Director Jackson recommended approval of a quote from Motorola Solutions for additional vehicular radios for Mobile Police Department in the amount of $364,865.16. He stated that MPD has increased the number of sworn personnel under the new Mayor and they do not have enough mobile radios to issue all of them one. They have been pulling radios from administrative vehicles for these officers and we don't want that. This would be a total of 60 mobile radios. Commissioner Bolden asked if the 60 would cover the entire fleet to which Director Jackson stated that the 60 would cover the shortfall. Commissioner Bolden asked if this would keep them from having to pull from the administrative vehicles to which Director Jackson stated yes. Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Bolden. Chairman Mitchell asked where this would put them with handhelds to which Director Jackson stated that they would be part of the larger radio project, but these radios were an immediate need. Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Bolden, all approved.

Director Jackson recommended approval of a quote from CMA for Arctic Wolf Cyber Security in the amount of $58,922. He stated that Arctic Wolf helps keep us secure and helps train the employees on cyber hygiene. Commissioner Hughes made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Brown, all approved.

Director Jackson requested approval to start the bid process for the data center chiller cooling overhaul. He stated that the radio system core, the data center core and the 911 phone system are all housed in the data center. There is separate cooling to keep that center at 68 degrees. The handlers in the center are original to the building, and this is an urgent need. The project is large enough that it needs to be bid, possibly around $250,000-$300,000. Commissioner Bolden made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, all approved.

Director Jackson stated that Commissioner Hughes pretty much covered everything with the radio system RFP. Commissioner Hughes asked if we needed a motion to move forward to which Mr. Hartley stated yes. Commissioner Hughes made a motion to proceed as discussed, seconded by Commissioner Brown, all approved.

Director Jackson stated that the 911 phone system bid closes today. Commissioner Hughes asked if we had received any bids to which Director Jackson responded that we had received one but there may be more that come into today before the opening at 2:30.

Director Jackson reported that he started working on a plan to have readiness levels at the center. This would be similar to EMA or a military facility. He will continue working on it.

Director Jackson reported that we are the first 911 center in the state to be CALEA accredited. The County Commission presented a resolution to MCCD to recognize this accomplishment, and Director Jackson thanked them for taking the time to do this. Commissioner Hughes stated he would like to have the resolution framed and Chairman Mitchell sent congratulations to the team.

Director Jackson stated that he had an employee he wanted to recognize. Ryan Lanier is our IT Operations Director. Director Jackson stated that there were many issues with the CAD system and while most of those are still being worked on, one thing that was not going to have resolution was the agencies being able to playback their tracks of vehicles. This was something available to us in the old system for years until we switched over to the new system. Ryan took it upon himself to create a program to be able to do this and showed the board a demonstration of how it worked. Director Jackson stated that most of the agencies have received the program to use and it will continue rolling out. Ryan showed some of the features of the program and explained that the information can be exported from the program as a report as needed. He stated that he took what we had before and made it better. Commissioner Hughes stated that we should sell the program to Hexagon. Director Jackson presented a certificate of recognition and pin to Ryan.

Old Business – No Report

New Business – No Report

Announcement – Next board meeting to be held on April 16, 2026. National Public Safety Telecommunications Week is April 12-18, 2026.

Commissioner Cassady asked about the outstanding invoice previously mentioned. Commissioner Bolden asked if the board needed to go into executive session. Mr. Hartley stated that he was unsure of the need as he did not know the board meeting had been rescheduled until 6:00AM this morning. Chairman Mitchell stated that there was a need. Mr. Hartley announced the statement for an executive session and asked if the board needed to reconvene after to which Chairman Mitchell responded no. Commissioner Brown made a motion to go into executive session, seconded by Commissioner Hughes. A roll call vote was taken and all approved to go into executive session beginning at 9:34 AM.

Adjournment –The meeting adjourned by 9:34 AM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Pat Mitchell, Chairman

Hayley Clough, Recording Secretary