MOBILE COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Minutes of July 16, 2026

Commissioners Attending:

Pat Micthell	Eric Linsley	Frank Cassady
Donnie Brown	Brina Bolden	Timothy Hughes
Chris McLean		

Staff Attending:

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

The REGULAR board meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on July 16, 2026, at the Mobile County Communications Center.

Call to Order – Chairman Mitchell called the meeting to order at 8:58 AM and welcomed Chaplain Tony Legear from the Mobile Police Department to open the meeting in prayer. Commissioner Hughes stated that since the last meeting, Sheriff Sam Cochran has passed away. He asked for all to keep his family in their thoughts and prayers and dedicated today's work to his memory. A moment of silence was held in his honor. After the moment of silence, Commissioner Brown stated that he was a good man and this was a big loss.

Approval of Minutes – Commissioner Hughes made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 18, 2026, meeting, seconded by Commissioner McLean, all approved.

Treasurer Report – Commissioner Cassady made a motion to approve the June claims list, seconded by Commissioner Brown, all approved. Commissioner Cassady presented the MCCD Budget-To-Actual. Commissioner Hughes made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Brown, all approved. Commissioner Cassady stated that we are good on the budget and there are no overages.

Personnel – Commissioner McLean reported that Director Jackson called him last week in reference to filling the Assistant Director position. He stated that he would like to come up with a description and advertise the position to the public then accept applications. He suggested putting an interview board together to help Director Jackson in making a decision. He really feels like it should be open to the public. Commissioner Brown asked what the specs on it were to which Director Jackson stated that there is a job description, but it probably needs to be updated. Commissioner McLean stated that it does need to be updated because it has been a while. Chairman Mitchell asked Commissioner McLean if he was trying to form a committee to which he responded that he would like to have an interview committee but its ultimately up to the Chairman. Chairman Mitchell stated that he felt that a committee was appropriate and asked if the board wanted to appoint the committee now to which Commissioner Mclean stated that if everyone is in favor, he was okay with it. Mr. Hartley stated that Chairman Mitchell, as Chairman, could just appoint a committee. Chairman Mitchell stated that he would do that tomorrow.

Planning – No Report

Communications – Commissioner Hughes reported that there is a lot on the plate currently, but he will be brief so that Director Jackson can give updates. He stated that along with the board packet, there is information regarding the Vesta phone system agreement, and he believes it is appropriate to approve at this time. The board has already had discussion and approved the vendor and done the appropriate vetting.

Commissioner Hughes stated that the ongoing issues with CAD are still ongoing with continued crashes. He stated that after continuous and numerous attempts with Hexagon, we are still being stonewalled. We now have a viable solution to that problem. He believes that we are in a very good place with the radio project and the

overall purchase. The MOU has been finalized and has been sent to Baldwin for approval, but their Commission has not met yet. Brian Peacock with the radio system in Baldwin County does not see any issues with it being approved.

Emergency Medical – Commissioner Hughes reported that he has spoken with Director Turner at Mobile County EMS and everything is good.

Building/Configuration – No Report

Board Attorney – No Report

Director – Director Jackson recommended approval of a quote from CMA Technology Solutions for the Palo Alto renewal in the amount of $60,940. He stated that this is the license for the main firewall. We pay for a license because security infrastructure changes daily and the firewall is updated frequently. Commissioner Hughes made a motion to approve the quote, seconded by Commissioner Bolden, all approved.

Director Jackson recommended approval of the Vesta Phone System Contract for the 911 Call Handling System in the amount of $2,110,736.90. He stated that we went through the RFP process for this a while ago but there was an enormous amount of work done to it by Ryan Lanier and Mr. Hartley. He would like to ask for approval of this agreement so that either him or Chairman Mitchell can sign it. Commissioner Brown asked if the contract had been reviewed by Mr. Hartley to which he responded he had reviewed it extensively. Commissioner Linsley made a motion to approve the contract, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, all approved. Mr. Hartley stated that he is frequently seeing vendors add language in their contracts so that they cannot be held responsible for failures, warranties or other things and that it takes lots of negotiating with their legal teams to get the wording removed. Commissioner Brown asked if he was successful in this contract to which he responded that he was.

Director Jackson reported on the change in direction of radio system project that was approved by the board last month. He stated that there has been a significant amount of work being done to get us close to having a solution. There have been continuous and numerous negotiations with Motorola Solutions. The goal of the upgrade is to refresh the radio system and to combine entirely with Baldwin County. This combination would make it one complete system so that the agencies of Mobile and Baldwin County can operate seamlessly together in each other's jurisdictions. With those goals in mind of connecting to Baldwin, it was deemed to be sole source in nature because Baldwin County already operates under a particular manufacturer. He has spent a lot of time in the last month working with Motorola on the agreement, but it is just not ready yet. In principle, both parties have agreed on what is deemed beneficial to the district. He stated that this is a large operation and with this big of a project in mind, he approached Motorola about the possibility of obtaining their CAD system. They have a prominent CAD system that is used across the country. He thought it was pertinent due to the size and scope of the operation that it would be appropriate to inquire about it. He stated that there is still a lot of technical work to be done and it needs legal review before it can be presented and signed. The MOU also still needs to be signed and there are some legal requirements with financing that need to be reviewed as well. He informed the board that this is an early proposal to not only replace the subscribers but to also replace the CAD system. He stated that Hexagon has not been responsive and feels like it is appropriate to try and find another opportunity and we have a unique opportunity to have a replacement CAD system at a reduced cost. The major things that still need to be worked on in the agreement are the MOU, the technical terminology, and the funding for it to which Mr. Hartley can speak on. Commissioner Hughes stated that he and Director Jackson have worked extremely closely and under the guidance of LMR, our consultant, on this project. He stated that because of the urgency of CAD, even though the CAD system project is a separate issue, this is kind of a package deal with Motorola, and they have to be approved at the same time. He stated that he would represent to the board that everything Director Jackson and the radio guys can do, they have done and he thinks it's an excellent opportunity to move forward. He stated that his motion would be approval contingent on legal review, finding the adequate funding which he believes is just finding the best interest rate, and refining the technical

stuff. Within the contract, there is no difficulty with the district's ability to be self-maintained or SUA's, that is all resolved. He believes that we are in a position to move forward now because the contract should be ready by the end of the week or beginning of next week and this would keep us from having to call a special meeting. He would like to go ahead and approve the contract contingent on appropriate clearance and legal review, firming up the financing and these final technical terms. Chairman Mitchell asked for any discussion. Commissioner McLean stated that the radio system is on state bid but asked if the CAD system was to which Director Jackson responded yes, because it falls under the T300 contract and that is likely the most straight forward avenue to purchase the CAD system. He stated that as Commissioner Hughes stated, the CAD system cannot be a part of the radio system project. Commissioner McLean stated that that was what he was wondering. Commissioner Cassady stated that the state law states that software is considered professional services, so it wouldn't be required to be bid. Mr. Hartley stated that while having the contract ready by the end of the week was ambitious, it will not be ready by the end of the week. The contract he received yesterday afternoon was 147 pages. The Vesta contract was only 18 pages, and it took weeks of negations. He stated that the fourth paragraph in the Motorola contract is exactly what he was referring to earlier about vendors including terms that are not beneficial for the company, and the company would waive their right to pursue. Commissioner Hughes asked if this was Vesta to which Mr. Hartley stated no, Motorola. He stated that the board can vote however they please but that is not what he would recommend. There is still a lot of work to be done on the contract and on the financing because that has to be taken to market under law and that cannot be done quickly. He stated that approving something now is incredibly premature and feels like the board is headed down the right path but it's just not ready yet. He did not want to give the board a false hope that it would be ready by the end of the week because it's not. The banks and bonding companies haven't even looked at it, and he still has to create a red line to get back to Motorola. Commissioner Hughes stated that that was one of his stipulations. Mr. Hartley stated that he feels like the board is headed in the right direction and until the board tells him to slow down, he will be working on it. Commissioner Hughes stated that there is just a sense of urgency because of CAD and Mr Hartley stated that there is no question about that. Commissioner Brown stated that this is such a large project that we don't need to rush it and we need to do it right. Mr. Hartley stated that the board can start working on the CAD piece because it's different. Director Jackson stated that this is something Motorola offered and he negotiated it due to the price and speed that we could get it due to everything that is going on. Unfortunately, because of that, this would need to be done at the same time as the other per the manufacturer even though they are separate. Director Jackson stated that he approached Motorola about this because of where we are with CAD, but we have not gone through the funding yet and he could do that now, but he is here for any questions. Commissioner Linsley stated that he liked the direction this is going but he does not feel comfortable voting on something today because he doesn't have it to look at and review. If the board is going to embark on a project, we need to have the funds secured at the same time so that when the contract is approved, the funding has also already been approved and then the contract can be awarded. We do not have the money in the bank to just write a check for it so we need to have the money secured first so that should be the first order of business for this project. Commissioner Cassady agreed and stated that the project is great and going in the right direction but until we know exactly what the payment is going to be, maybe we can bank it. Motorola is going to want a check at some point, and we need to make sure that that check is good. Commissioner Brown stated that this is too important and expensive of an issue and we really need to vet this. He shared that he appreciated all of the work already done to get us here. Chairman Mitchell asked Commissioner Bolden if she had any comment on the matter to which she responded that she is good with the path the board is on.

Director Jackson stated that Mobile Fire Rescue Department sent over some analytics from the HAAS Alert system and they are included in the packet. He stated that they feel it is having a positive impact. Commissioner Linsley stated that the numbers are fantastic, already having over 52,000 drivers alerted since the beginning of the year. He stated that this is really helping the community and making the gulf coast safer.

Director Jackson stated that we received a letter from Commissioner McLean thanking the board and staff for supporting the Citronelle Police Department over the last few months.

Director Jackson informed the board that we have an employee with a milestone year of service. Leah Lucky is in the IT Department and has been here for five years this month. He also stated that Leah was recognized as the Executive Staff Member of the Year by Alabama APCO. He presented her with a service pin. Commissioner McLean stated that his agency spends a lot of time with Leah and everyone loves her.

Old Business – No Report

New Business – Commissioner Brown stated that concerning procurement of the funding for these projects, he would like us to consider Regions as he was approached with a request for it. Mr. Hartley stated that the board can go two different ways in financing this. The first is to reach out to traditional banks, like Regions, or you can do a bond like what was done on the Harris project a few years ago. Commissioner Brown stated that we could listen to both to which Mr. Hartley stated yes, because you need to figure out the money first so that you can budget for this and plan accordingly. He stated that it really does need to be shopped. Commissioner Brown stated that if we're going to do this, we really need to examine the finances to make sure it covers everything and make sure we have enough. Director Jackson stated that Commissioner Linsley suggested reaching out to a financial consultant, so we did that. They have provided a letter that is included in the packet that discusses some of these options. Also included is a sheet that he and Ashley Carlisle put together to show where the initial capital investment will come from. This is not final, but it is just how he envisions the funding working. The total project cost was initially in the $50 million range but after extensive work, we got it down to about $40 million. When he approached Motorola about the CAD system, there were some things that he had to remove from the project, but it will not impact the overall project. Some of those things are overlap products that Baldwin County already owns so we do not need to purchase them. He stated that the $40 million is for the total project of CAD and the radio system. He stated that the Motorola CAD system and hardware is valued at $4.8 million so that amount would be taken out of the total. He stated that we would take the CAD at the reduced price and budget for that for a few years since they have offered us an interest free, milestone-based payment plan and then the remaining $36 million would be made up of $10 million from capital and financing the other $26 million. None of this is final as it is the board's decision to make but that is where we are right now. He stated that we only need to secure financing for $26 million. The reason for financing the $26 million instead of increasing the initial investment from the capital is because MCCD has enormous obligations financially for other things as well and this keeps the outflow of funds at an acceptable level. This is also for capital to still be available to us in case we need it for other expenses. The breakdown sheet included explains where the $10 million comes from and breaks that down. It comes from an excess in the operating account, the Raymond James investment accounts and the CD that recently matured. He welcomed any scrutiny or suggestions but currently the financing on the $26 million would allow us to afford it and would not affect the overall budget. He stated that the amount of money we would have left in reserve is a number that we are comfortable with, and he wanted to ensure the board that a lot of work has been put into the financing side of this as Ashley has put significant work into it. It is very important that we maintain fiscal reasonability because of the large amount of responsibility we have in the county. Commissioner Linsley asked if the money that the board identified several months back to be used for the radio system is the money that has been identified to be used for this to which Director Jackson responded yes, it was approximately $7.3 million and that would be the bulk of the $10 million. We have identified some additional funds that are excess in the operating account because we are able to save every month and we would still be able to continue to save every month if the board elects to proceed with this project. He stated that the financial part is extremely important and welcomes any suggestions from the board. Commissioner Brown stated that Regions has requested to be considered and mentioned that the representative may have already approached MCCD. Director Jackson stated that we have already talked to him and we are trying to schedule a meeting with him. He stated that there will be some direction due to having to bring it to market that Mr. Hartley will provide guidance on, but we will have to procure multiple offers from banks and bonds. Mr. Hartley stated that they should all give a term sheet and you have to price it out. Commissioner Brown requested the figure of interest we are earning on the operating account. Director Jackson stated that as of last month, the top account is the operating account and that amount is what is in there. Commissioner Brown asked if we were earning any interest on that to which Mr. Hartley stated that it is included in the packet and the interest earned is $470,100.81. Director Jackson stated that he cannot promise

that that is the best rate on that account, but it can be negotiated and it has been in the past, but we do earn interest on the account. Commissioner Linsley asked if we were working with the financial consultant on this to which Director Jackson stated yes, he has had several calls with them, but they have not given us a formal proposal for their services yet. Commissioner Linsley stated that that is what we would need to which Director Jackson stated that he cannot present anything until he receives it, but he has spoken with them several times. Commissioner Linsley stated that they are essentially a power tool to help us through this process so the faster they can get us that proposal, the better. Commissioner Brown stated that this project is big enough that he would not mind having a special meeting if needed.

Announcement – Next board meeting to be held on August 20, 2026.

Adjournment –The meeting adjourned by 9:40 AM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Pat Mitchell, Chairman

Hayley Clough, Recording Secretary