

**MOBILE COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Minutes of November 10, 2021

***Commissioners Attending:***

Roy Hodge  
Chris McLean

Jeff Reeves  
Glenn Hodge

Robert Adams

***Staff Attending:***

Charlie McNichol, Director  
Hayley Clough, Recording Secretary  
Ruben Robinson, IT Director

Jeffery Hartley, Attorney  
Ashley Carlisle, Comptroller  
Kristi Stamnes, Operations Manager

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The ANNUAL board meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on November 10, 2021 at the Mobile County Communications Center.

**Call to Order** – Chairman R. Hodge called the meeting to order at 8:02 A.M.

**Approval of Minutes** – Commissioner McLean made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 14, 2021 meeting, seconded by Commissioner Adams, all approved.

**Treasurer Report** – Commissioner Reeves made a motion to approve the October claims list, seconded by Commissioner G. Hodge, all approved.

Commissioner Reeves made a motion to approve the MCCD Budget-To-Actual, seconded by Commissioner Adams, all approved. Director McNichol stated that we are early in the budget year, but you can watch the numbers throughout the year and monitor the budget.

**Personnel** – No Report

**Planning** – Director McNichol spoke on the progress of the Oak Hill tower site. We're looking to place a small tower around the hospitals to boost coverage in the area. The hospital has come back to MCCD and stated they would like us to put the tower site on their property. Mr. Hartley stated that we were originally looking to buy some property, but it was not feasible. We are now looking at leasing property from the hospital long term with the option of making changes if necessary. Commissioner G. Hodge asked if we were still looking to purchase land from the City of Mobile to which Director McNichol stated no, the land would not work for what we needed it for and that the hospital property is better.

**Communications** – Commissioner Reeves stated that Gary Hand is currently at the Hobson site working on the UPS installation. The EDACS system is down except for 1 tower site, but it should be coming down this week. The radio guys are currently programming 100 radios for the jail and MCCD is hiring a 4<sup>th</sup> employee for the radio department. He should start before Thanksgiving. Director McNichol stated that the Hobson site is very impressive, and we may even do a ribbon cutting for it.

**Emergency Medical** – No Report.

**Building/Configuration** – Director McNichol stated that the lay down yard on the new property is finished.

**Board Attorney** – No Report

**Director** – Director McNichol presented the annual employee longevity pay to the board. Commissioner McLean made a motion to approved, seconded by Commissioner Reeves, all approved.

Director McNichol presented to the board a payment to Taylor Sudden Services. Any amount over \$50,000 must be presented to the board for approval. Commissioner Reeves made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Adams, all approved.

Director McNichol had a meeting with Washington County Communications District chairman and board members recently. They are wanting to dissolve the ECD and become a part of ours. Director McNichol asked the board for direction to see if this is something they would even like to consider. Commissioner Adams inquired about why they would like to do this to which Director McNichol stated that the future is not bright for Washington County Communications District, and they would like to enhance their county like Mobile has. Commissioner Adams then asked what the downside to this would be to which Director McNichol stated that if the funding was right, there would be no downside. We would only take their 9-1-1 calls and they would still dispatch for police, fire, and EMS. M CCD would not absorb any of their employees, but they have requested to have representation on the board. Chairman R. Hodge asked what type of infrastructure we would need and what equipment would be supplied to which Director McNichol stated that we would have to investigate those answers a little more. Commissioner Reeves stated that if the money is right, he thinks we should help our neighboring county and agrees with them having representation on our board. Director McNichol stated that the funding for ECD's is based on population, and we would be paid all of Washington County's funding. Commissioner G. Hodge asked if we would combine Mobile and Washington County's revenue to which Director McNichol responded that the funding goes by ECD or County but either way the funding would be about the same. Commissioner G. Hodge then asked if their population went down, would our funding go down as well to which Director McNichol responded yes, but so would the call volume. Chairman R. Hodge asked what it looked like to build another tower site in Washington County to which Robert Jackson responded that it would look almost identical to Hobson. Director McNichol stated that it would be cheaper to build than Hobson because Harris did all the work, and we would do most of it ourselves for a new tower site. Robert Jackson stated that the MOWA site is technically in Washington County, and it would be turned up to its full potential and with the addition of Hobson, and possibly another new tower site, coverage would be in the high 90's. Mr. Hartley then asked if any of their existing equipment was usable to which Robert responded that it is completely different than we are currently using on the P-25 system. Commissioner Reeves stated that we should also look into using the property they already have. Commissioner R. Hodge asked how the 9-1-1 calls would come to which Director McNichol responded that we would receive the calls and then transfer them to the responding agency like we currently do. Chairman R. Hodge asked if we could take the 9-1-1 portion of communications and not the radio system portion to which Director McNichol stated that we currently certainly negotiate the terms of the agreement. Commissioner Adams made a motion to pursue and have questions answered, seconded by Commissioner Reeves. Chairman R. Hodge asked if the board and staff can submit questions to the Director to have answered to which Director McNichol responded of course and that we will have multiple meetings with our staff and their staff and do some number crunching. Mr. Hartley stated that he would like an MOU from the Washington County Commission. He would also like the board to think about what will have happen if another county comes along and would like to consolidate as well. Director McNichol stated that he would put Mr. Hartley in touch with the legal counsel in other counties who have consolidated as well as the legal counsel in Washington County. Mr. Hartley stated that he cannot find anything legally saying that the counties must be touching because this is all very new and that we may have other counties that would also like to do this. Everything would have to be approved by the Washington County Commission and would like it to be agreed upon that when we take it over, we have taken it completely over. Commissioner McLean asked if we would accrue any assets or debts to which Director McNichol responded that they do have a building that we would not care to acquire, and they say they do not have any debts. After discussion, motion was approved to pursue and inquire about consolidating the Washington County Communications District.

Director McNichol stated that we have multiple positions at M CCD that need to be reclassified. Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the adjustments to the positions, seconded by Commissioner Reeves, all approved.

Director McNichol stated that M CCD participated in in Heart Walk this past weekend. He was very impressed with the turnout of employees and their families and thanked the board for allowing us to participate.

Director McNichol requested permission to Zoom into the December board meeting as he will be at the ACCA Legislative Conference. The board approved.

**Old Business** – No Report

**New Business** – Commissioner Reeves stated that MCCD was well presented at the Barry Steam Plant Safety Symposium. Gary Hand and Jesse Sluder brought the mobile command truck and Amanda Salas and Arnita Jones did a great job speaking about Smart 9-1-1.

Director McNichol stated that the annual meeting is the time to elect officers for the board. Commissioner McLean made a motion to keep the officers as is, seconded by Commissioner Adams, all approved.

Commissioner Reeves thanked the president of the Washington County Fire Chiefs association for coming to elaborate on the consolidation of the Washington County Communications District. In turn, the fire chief thanked the board for considering consolidating.

**Announcement** – Next board meeting to be held December 9, 2021.

**Adjournment** – Commissioner Reeves made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Meeting adjourned by 8:50 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

  
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Roy Hodge, Chairman

  
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Hayley Clough, Recording Secretary