

MOBILE COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of October 20, 2022

Commissioners Attending:

Roy Hodge
Glenn Hodge

Cynthia Coleman
Chris McLean

Robert Adams
Stephen Bowden

Staff Attending:

Charlie McNichol, Director
Hayley Clough, Recording Secretary
Kristi Starnes, Operations Manager
Robert Jackson, Radio System Administrator

Jeffery Hartley, Attorney
Ashley Carlisle, Comptroller
Katrina Brewer, Communications Manager

The REGULAR board meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on October 20, 2022, at the Mobile County Communications Center.

Call to Order – Chairman R. Hodge called the meeting to order at 8:10 A.M.

Approval of Minutes – Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2022 meeting, seconded by Commissioner Bowden, all approved.

Treasurer Report – Commissioner Coleman made a motion to approve the September claims list, seconded by Commissioner Adams, all approved.

Commissioner Coleman made a motion to approve the MCCD Budget-To-Actual, seconded by Commissioner McLean, all approved.

Personnel – No Report

Planning – No Report

Communications – No Report

Emergency Medical – Commissioner Bowden asked to discuss the request from Mobile County EMS that was tabled during last month's meeting. Commissioner McLean asked if everyone was able to review the AG's opinion on this matter? He stated that his hesitation on moving forward with this is that by supplementing personnel salaries for one agency, it will open the door for more agencies to ask the same. Commissioner Bowden stated that the volunteer fire dispatch is not funded by anyone and that it was originally done by Mobile County Sheriff's Office but has since fell onto MCEMS. There has never been any funding set aside for volunteer fire dispatch. Commissioner G. Hodge asked if there was an agreement between the County Commission and MCEMS that if the County started funding the agency, that they would handle the calls? Mark Turner with MCEMS stated that he was not aware of any agreement to that nature as it was before his time with the agency. Commissioner Bowden also stated that he did not know of any agreement stating that. Commissioner McLean stated that he understands that there must be a certain level of knowledge to do dispatching to which Commissioner Bowden responded that the request is not for 9-1-1 to do the dispatching of the volunteer departments but contracting another agency to do it. Chairman R. Hodge asked if 9-1-1 ever had the responsibility of dispatching the volunteer departments to which Director McNichol stated that he was not aware of anything and that the discussions about that were on the County level. Commissioner G. Hodge stated that in his research, he has only found that it was just a verbal agreement between a Commissioner and MCEMS. Chairman R. Hodge stated that he agrees with Commissioner McLean in saying that allowing this would open the door for other agencies to request that MCCD fund their dispatch personnel costs.

Commissioner McLean stated that he would not like to see MCCD go in this direction. Commissioner Bowden asked if other agencies have funding in their budget dedicated to dispatchers from taxpayer dollars to which Chairman R. Hodge responded yes but every agency would benefit from having that cost lifted. Commissioner Bowden stated that there is currently no funding for MCEMS to dispatch volunteer fire. Chairman R. Hodge stated that there is over \$1.5 million dedicated to supplying emergency equipment and programs to MCEMS and if we start funding personnel for other agencies, we might not have the funding to provide this equipment to them. Commissioner Bowden made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Chairman R. Hodge asked who was in favor of approving this request. Commissioner Bowden and Commissioner Adams both are in favor. Chairman R. Hodge, Commissioner Coleman, Commissioner G. Hodge, and Commissioner McLean are all not in favor, motion does not pass. Commissioner McLean thanked MCEMS for all the hard work they do for our County and Commissioner Bowden thanked the board for considering this request.

Building/Configuration – No Report

Board Attorney – No Report

Director – Director McNichol asked the board to review a revision to the retiree insurance policy. Now that MCCD has had several employees retire, we have learned what is needed from this policy. After speaking with other agencies, we have found that most still require for you to have 25 years of service with the Retirement Systems of Alabama but require at least 15 of those years need to be with the agency they are retiring from. The revision we would like to make is to require the employee to have 25 years of service with RSA but 15 of those years with MCCD. Commissioner McLean made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner G. Hodge, all approved.

Director McNichol presented to the board a payment to Ryan Public Safety. Any amount over \$50,000 must be presented to the board for approval. Commissioner McLean made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Bowden, all approved.

Director McNichol presented to the board two payments to Communications International. Any amount over \$50,000 must be presented to the board for approval. Director McNichol stated that the funding for these payments will come out of the radio bond. Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve both payments, seconded by Commissioner McLean, all approved.

Director McNichol presented to the board payments to Hexagon and Dell Technologies. Any amount over \$50,000 must be presented to the board for approval. Commissioner McLean made a motion to approve both payments, seconded by Commissioner Bowden, all approved.

Director McNichol informed the board that MCCD received extra funding from the State 9-1-1 Board from the excess cost recovery funds. At the end of the fiscal year, we typically get money back from the state. This year, we received \$95,623.96.

Director McNichol congratulated Operations Manager Kristi Stamnes for completing 1 year of service with MCCD.

Director McNichol read a resolution honoring Belinda Brown's retirement. Director McNichol spoke about Belinda's career with MCCD and presented her with a plaque. Belinda has been with MCCD for 18 years as a 9-1-1 operator and supervisor. Prior to her career with MCCD, she worked for Mobile County Health Department and Mobile Police Department.

Director McNichol informed the board that we have been presented with a new 36-month lease from Xerox for copy machines at the Center. We will be getting all new machines on state contract at a lower cost than we currently have. Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner McLean, all approved.

Director McNichol informed the board that we have received an offer from another bank for a substantially better rate on the operating account than what we currently have. Our current bank is not offering any kind of better deal for a rate on the operating account, so we are seriously thinking about moving banks. Commissioner Bowden asked to see a comparison of rates before moving forward with the switch.

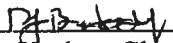
Old Business –No Report

New Business – Director McNichol stated in last month’s meeting that officer elections would take place this month. Commissioner Bowden nominated R. Hodge to remain Chairman, seconded by Commissioner Coleman, all approved. Commissioner Coleman nominated Jeff Reeves to remain Vice Chairman, seconded by Commissioner G. Hodge, all approved. Commissioner G. Hodge nominated Cynthia Coleman to remain Treasurer, seconded by Chairman R. Hodge, all approved.

Announcement – Next board meeting to be held November 10, 2022.

Adjournment – Commissioner R. Hodge made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Reeves. Meeting adjourned by 8:54 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted:



Roy Hodge, Chairman



Hayley Clough, Recording Secretary