

MOBILE COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Minutes of June 8, 2023

Commissioners Attending:

Roy Hodge
Robert Adams

Glenn Hodge

Chris McLean

Staff Attending:

Charlie McNichol, Director
Hayley Clough, Recording Secretary
Kristi Stamnes, 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 June 8, 2023, 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 G. Hodge made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 11, 2023, meeting, seconded by Commissioner Adams, all approved.

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

Chairman R. Hodge presented the MCCD Budget-To-Actual.

Personnel – On behalf of the MCCD operators, Director McNichol thanked the board for reclassifying their position.

Planning – Director McNichol reported that we are still waiting for the results from the FAA study, he will report to the board as soon as the results are available.

Communications – No Report

Emergency Medical – No Report

Building/Configuration – No Report

Board Attorney – No Report

Director – Director McNichol requested that the board approve a six-month CD with Renasant Bank. After last month's meeting regarding investing, he and Ashley Carlisle did research into different options. Moving \$3 million into a CD with Renasant Bank will earn interest while we wait to pay off some of the capital projects we're currently working on. The interest rate on the CD will be 4.70 %. Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the CD as well as renew the CD after the initial six months, seconded by Commissioner G. Hodge, all approved.

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

Director McNichol updated the board on the Oak Hill tower site project. We recently received notice from the City of Mobile engineering department stating that the location is not approved. The location in question is along 3-mile creek behind Mobile Infirmary, USA Medical, and Children's and Women's Hospital. The City of Mobile engineering department stated that there would need to be a retaining wall built along the creek among other

improvements to the property. The Planning Commission has also identified several issues they have with the property regarding access roads. When the idea for the project first came about, the purpose was to increase the coverage inside those hospitals for first responders. M CCD consulted an engineering firm to study the land to make sure it was suitable for the tower site, and they had no objections. Director McNichol stated that we have several options on what to do from here. One option is to build the retaining wall and improve the area as the City has requested, another is to have more conversations with them regarding the property and move from there, or we could abandon the project altogether. The Director stated that he does not recommend abandoning the project because it was to serve a good purpose, but he would like direction from the board as the cost for this is steadily increasing. Mr. Hartley stated that hearing this from the City was a surprise as the engineering firm we consulted with had no issue with the property regarding storm water. Chairman R. Hodge asked if the City was willing to contribute to resolving this issue to which Director McNichol responded that we have not had conversations with them yet as we didn't expect this to happen. He stated that the priority is to construct a tower to improve coverage in the area but specifically inside the hospitals and it's frustrating that our partners are not working with us on this. If we continue to move forward with the project, we may spend quite a bit of money improving the area or we could go back to the drawing board and find another property. The selected property was chosen and agreed upon by M CCD and the hospitals due to its location. Robert Jackson reported that if we potentially move the tower, it could affect the coverage we're trying to improve. He also made the point that there's a park local to the area that is on lower ground than the potential tower site as well as roads and other structures. Mr. Hartley stated that this is all correct information and that this is a different situation than if there was a tower being built for profit, this is simply to improve coverage for first responders. Director McNichol stated that if we want to continue with the project, we can push back and have conversations about the property with them. He also stated that there is a city ordinance that requires the fire department to conduct in building coverage testing and these building could potentially fail if this tower is not put in place, or the hospitals would have to install BDAs in their buildings. Installing BDAs would be costly and inconvenient for the hospitals to do, and this is purely a benefit for them also. Director McNichol stated that we can reach out to the hospital's legal teams for support as they are on board with this project. Chairman R. Hodge asked what the cost would look like for the hospitals to install the BDAs to which Robert Jackson responded that it would be very costly and would disrupt day to day operations having them installed. He also stated that BDAs are not reliable and emit a signal that can cause interference on our system. Director McNichol stated that he is optimistic that we can come to an agreement with the City on this issue and he will report to the board as new information emerges.

Old Business –No Report

New Business – No Report

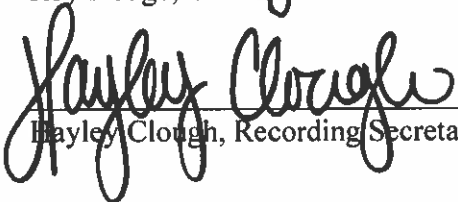
Announcement – Next board meeting to be held July 13, 2023.

Adjournment – Commissioner Adams made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner G. Hodge, all approved. Meeting adjourned by 8:29 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted:



Roy Hodge, Chairman



Hayley Clough, Recording Secretary