

**MOBILE COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Minutes of July 13, 2023**

***Commissioners Attending:***

Roy Hodge  
Glenn Hodge  
Robert Adams

Cynthia Coleman  
Chris McLean

Jeff Reeves  
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

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The REGULAR board meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on July 13, 2023, at the Mobile County Communications Center.

**Call to Order** – Chairman R. Hodge called the meeting to order at 8:03 A.M.

**Approval of Minutes** – Commissioner G. Hodge made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 8, 2023, meeting, seconded by Commissioner Bowden, all approved.

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

Commissioner Coleman presented the MCCD Budget-To-Actual.

**Personnel** – No Report

**Planning** – Commissioner G. Hodge asked about the potential property for the new center to which Director McNichol responded that we have received FAA approval to have a tower up to 130 feet. While we were hoping to be approved for up to 199 feet, Robert Jackson is still under the impression that 130 feet will be enough. We are currently undergoing microwave testing and should have an official report back in August.

**Communications** – Commissioner Reeves reported that the radio department is still busy with usual work and maintenance.

**Emergency Medical** – No Report

**Building/Configuration** – No Report

**Board Attorney** – No Report

**Director** – Director McNichol presented to the board two payments to Communications International. Any amount over \$50,000 must be presented to the board for approval. Commissioner Reeves made a motion to approve both payments, seconded by Commissioner Adams, all approved.

Director McNichol updated the board on the Oak Hill tower site project. The Director, Robert Jackson, and two attorneys from Mr. Hartley's office met with the City Engineer and their associates to discuss the project. There will be a meeting soon with the City Engineer, Director McNichol, Robert Jackson, and Neel Schaffer soon to discuss the matter further. The City Engineer is concerned about the floodplain and storm water if a retaining water is not built. Commissioner G. Hodge asked if we knew what the cost would be to build the wall to which Director McNichol responded that we don't have an idea of cost yet because the amount of wall has not been decided on. He will report back to the board in August after the meeting.

Director McNichol reported that budget preparations are currently underway. A FY 2023-2024 budget draft will be presented in August.

Director McNichol reported on an event that happened back in June regarding the P25 radio system. During the week of June 5<sup>th</sup>, there was significant radio interference effecting the downtown area with the Government Plaza tower being directly affected. There was an individual causing various levels of interference on the radio system with the most occurring on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Robert Jackson, Gary Hand, Jesse Sluder, and Cody Chinrock were the primary team involved with identifying and locating the interference throughout the week until Friday night when the individual was arrested. Robert Jackson was able to take equipment we already had and modify it to concentrate in on the signal to identify the location it was coming from. On June 9<sup>th</sup>, they were at the location the interference was coming from and using the equipment Robert had modified, they were able to confirm that the signal was coming from an apartment on the ninth floor. Robert then worked with the Mobile Police Department to issue a search warrant for the apartment and inside were several pieces of equipment used to jam radio signals. MPD then arrested the individual inside the apartment and turned off the equipment which immediately restored the signal. Director McNichol has received messages from peers all over the state and country commending the radio department for doing such a good job and acting quickly. He has also received a request from Commissioner McLean to buy the equipment that will make identifying these threats easier if this ever happens again. Director McNichol read a Director's Commendation for Robert Jackson highlighting his hard work and dedication to getting the issue resolved and read Director's Commendations for Gary Hand, Jesse Sluder, and Cody Chinrock highlighting their dedicated teamwork in stopping the interference.

**Old Business** – No Report

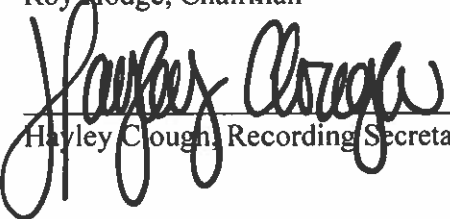
**New Business** – No Report

**Announcement** – Next board meeting to be held August 10, 2023.

**Adjournment** – Commissioner Reeves made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Bowden, all approved. Meeting adjourned by 8:24 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

  
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Roy Hodge, Chairman

  
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Hayley Clough, Recording Secretary