MOBILE COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Minutes of December 13, 2017

Commissioners Attending:
Cynthia Coleman  Roy Hodge  Chris McLean
Bob Adams  Glenn Hodge  Jeff Reeves

Staff Attending:
Charlie McNichol, Director
Hayley Clough, Administrative Assistant
Jeff Hartley, Attorney

The ANNUAL board meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held December 13, 2017, at the Mobile County Communications Center.

Call to Order – Commissioner Coleman called the meeting to order at 02:02 P.M and welcomed newly appointed board member Commissioner Glenn Hodge. Commissioner Coleman asked to move the Election of Officers up on the agenda as there was no Chairman or Vice Chairman. Commissioner Adams stated that he spoke with Commissioner Bowden and confirmed that agreed to remain Chairman. Commissioner Adams made a motion to keep Stephen Bowden as Chairman, seconded by Commissioner Reeves, all approved.
Commissioner McLean nominated Commissioner Coleman as Vice Chairman. Commissioner Adams stated he would like to keep Commissioner Coleman as Treasurer. Commissioner respectfully declined the nomination for Vice Chairman and nominated Commissioner Roy Hodge. Commissioner Coleman made a motion to approve Roy Hodge as Vice Chairman, seconded by Commissioner Adams, all approved. Commissioner Adams then made a motion to keep Commissioner Coleman as Treasurer, seconded by Commissioner Roy Hodge, all approved. Commissioner Coleman asked for discussion on the various committees held by the board of commissioners. She asked Commissioner Reeves if he would remain with communications, to which he agreed. She then asked Commissioner McLean if he would head Personnel, to which he accepted. Followed by Commissioner Coleman asking Commissioner Adams to remain with Building/Configuration, to which he agreed. Lastly, she asked Commissioner Glenn Hodge if we would head Planning, to which he accepted. Commissioner Bowden will remain as Emergency Medical.

Approval of Minutes – Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 9, 2017 meeting, seconded by Commissioner Roy Hodge, all approved.

Emergency Medical – No Report

Treasurer Report – Commissioner Reeves made a motion to approve the November Claims list, seconded by Commissioner McLean, all approved. Commissioner Roy Hodge made a motion to authorize the transfer of $533,748 from the Operating Account to the Debt Service Account for the month of December, seconded by Commissioner McLean, all approved.

Personnel – No Report

Planning – No Report

Communications – Commissioner Reeves referred to Robert Jackson to report on the radio system. Programming is proceeding and going well with the volunteer fire departments currently being programmed. Cutover should be sometime in January but does not have an exact date. Director McNichol reports that it is still a rolling cutover meaning some agencies are on the system while others are being programmed. It was planned to cutover the smaller agencies first to be able to test it as the cutover progresses.
**Building/Configuration** – Commissioner Adams referred to an item in the board packet of a proposed drawing for the multipurpose building the board previously approved. The building will house the Radio System Administrator’s office, a storage room, and a fitness center that can convert to dormitories in the case of an emergency. Director McNichol stated that the first drawing will be presented in January and will have an actual budget. The building will also be put out for bid.

**Board Attorney** – No Report

**Director** – Director McNichol presented to the board a request for a grant from Mobile County EMS. They have added a few vehicles to their fleet and need communication equipment. The amount is well within the grant budget. Commissioner Reeves made a motion to approve the grant, seconded by Commissioner McLean, all approved.

Director McNichol presented to the board the Employee Longevity Pay. Commissioner McLean made a motion to approved, seconded by Commissioner Reeves, all approved.

Director McNichol presented to the board a line item transfer in the budget. April is usually the mid-year review of the budget but there are some things that need to be moved around. He spoke with the board last month about some responsibilities that MCCD is now in charge of with the overtaking of the radio system, the Radio System Administrator needs a service truck and towable generator among other equipment. The equipment will all be coming off State Contract and the money will be transferred from Consultants in the budget. Commissioner Roy Hodge made a motion to approve the purchase of the equipment for the Radio System Administrator, seconded by Commissioner Reeves, all approved. Commissioner Hodge asked how much the service was truck was going to cost, to which Director McNichol responded less than $50,000.

Director McNichol presented to the board a dilemma with the City of Mobile radios. When the original count for radios was done, the City of Mobile was somehow left out. The City had purchased new radios a few years prior to the count and the thought was to program those radios to work on the new radio system but now that programming is happening, the radios are having issues due to their age. The programming was going well and the radios are compatible with the new system but the encrypted channels are not. MCCD could either spend a little money now and take the change of the radios have issues shortly down the road, or spend the money and purchase new radios for the City. The money for the new radios will come from the bond issue for the radio system. The bond was originally issued for $39+ million. When the contract with Harris was renegotiated a few years later to save an estimated $4 million, the price of the project went down but the bond was still the same. Director McNichol and Robert Jackson both previously told the board about extra radios at Hurricane Electronics. There are enough of the radios in storage to cover Mobile Fire Rescue Department but not Mobile Police Department. Mobile Police Department needs a total of 610 radios for a cost of about $1.7 million. Commissioner Reeves commented that 7-8 years may not seem like a long time for the radios to age but that is a long time is the world of electronics, he also recommends purchasing the new radios. The old radios will be handed over to MCCD for use on non-encrypted channels Commissioner Glenn Hodge asked if the radios could be used for public works, to which Director McNichol stated yes when they are in a first responder situation. Commissioner Roy Hodge stated that the problem is only with the portable radios. Mr. Hartley asked if there was a written contract, to which Director McNichol responded that he had a quote for the radios. Mr. Hartley stated that there must be an actual document to vote on because it is in the bond issue. Commissioner Reeves made a motion to move forward with obtaining a contract, seconded by Commissioner McLean, all approved. Commissioner McLean then asked if the programming on the new radios will be completed by Mardi Gras as he did not want that to get in the way. Commissioner Roy Hodge replied that it all depends on when the radios are received and how quickly programming can be done. Director McNichol stated he will work on this and have it back before the next meeting.
Old Business – No report

New Business – Commissioner Reeves stated he will be bringing some items to the board next month.

Announcement – Next board meeting to be held January 11, 2017

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 2:34 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Stephen Bowden, Chairman

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Hayley Clough, Recording Secretary