MOBILE COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Minutes of May 11, 2017

Commissioners Attending:
Stephen Bowden  Richard Landolt  Chris McLean
Trey Oliver        Bob Adams

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

The REGULAR board meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held May 11, 2017, at the Mobile County Communications Center.

Call to Order – Commissioner Bowden called the meeting to order at 08:02 A.M.

Approval of Minutes – Commissioner Adams called for a motion to approve the minutes from March 9, 2017, seconded by Commissioner Landolt, all approved.

Chairman Report – No Report

Treasurer Report – Commissioner McLean made a motion to approve the March and April claims lists, seconded by Commissioner Adams, all approved. Commissioner McLean made a motion to adopt the amended budget, seconded by Commissioner Adams, all approved. Commissioner McLean made a motion to approve the transfer of $1,185,710 from the operating account to the debt service account, seconded by Commissioner Adams, all approved.

Personnel – Commissioner Oliver brought before the board a discussion on the contract/agreement with the board attorney, Jeffery Hartley. When the previous board attorney left and Mr. Hartley came in, there was no contract or agreement drawn up for him. A motion passed for him to bill MCCD his hourly rate and it has been that way for 22 months. The board asked Mr. Hartley to form a contact in the amount of $2,500 a month for his services and litigation would be billed at an hourly rate if needed. Commissioner Adams asked if this was public record and Mr. Hartley confirmed. Commissioner Adams made a motion for Mr. Hartley to form a contract for his services, seconded by Commissioner McLean, all approved. Mr. Hartley states it would be what is considered a blended contract. Commissioner Adams would like the contact to include an annual review on June 1. Mr. Hartley should be able to bring a contract before the board at the next meeting.

Planning – Director McNichol informed the board that Marvils did a webinar at MCCD for the predictive software. They should be preparing a quote soon.

Communications – Jeya Selvaratnam reports that progress is slowly being made on the radio project. Programming has been done with three agencies and more are coming up. Testing is coming up within the next couple of weeks as well. If anyone has a specific area they would like tested, please let Jeya know. Tusa is still waiting for a no cost change order from Harris for the microwave antennas. Harris has completed the work but they have not provided a new contract for it. The final payment will not be made to Harris until 30 days after everyone is on the system with no problems. The board would like Director McNichol to draft a letter to Harris stressing the importance of finishing this project. Tusa Consulting and the MCCD Board of Commissioners feel that Harris has not allocated enough resources to this project and that they are simply taking their time to finish it. Dirk Young with Hurricane explained some of reasons why the project is behind schedule. Commissioner
Oliver states that payments were made on time, why has the work not been completed? Jeya has found things that has been left out and Harris has agreed to fix these things. A coverage test will be completed soon and Jeya would like it known that they have contracted the project out but he does feel that the contractor will be satisfactory. Jeya wanted to thank Phillip Ballard, Jesse McLaughlin, Roy Hodge and his assistant Robert for participating in the project. Commissioner McLean asked if the project was still moving forward even with the microwave issues? Jeya says and that there is testing and programming that needs to happen before the microwave antennas will be used but that does not mean that the antennas don’t need to be fixed quickly.

**Emergency Medical** – No Report

**Building/Configuration** – Commissioner Adams asked if using the County Commission or a private company is better for maintenance? Director McNichol states he has heard from the County Commission and has given permission to use private companies for various things as they are short staffed. MCCD still uses the County Commission for certain tasks but private companies are used as well.

**Board Attorney** – No report

**Director** – Director McNichol presented to the board a grant request from Mobile Fire Rescue Department for $125,000. Chief Phillip Ballard informed the board that the grant will be used to purchase new laptops for all agency vehicles. He also stated that they will be shopping around to find the best price and he is hoping to purchase 50-60 laptops. Commissioner Bowden asked what the budget was for grants? Director McNichol informed the board that this grant in well within budget. Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the grant for MFRD, seconded by Commissioner Landolt, all approved.

Director McNichol asked for any feedback from the board on the new personnel handbook. He hopes to bring the new handbook before the board in July.

Director McNichol presented to the board a proposal from Jay Ross with the Mobile County Commission. The proposal is an amendment to a contract approved in 2015 between the MCCD Board and the GUS Board. This amendment specifically identifies 13 positions in the County Public Works who the radios in the contract will be issued to. The positions are first responders in an emergency/disaster situation. Director McNichol recommended the Board approve the proposed amendment and that he and Mr. Hartley be authorized to resolve the issue. Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Landolt. All commissioners approve the request except for Commissioner Oliver, motion passed. Commissioner Adams wants to ensure that there will not be traffic on the radios for first responders. Director McNichol states they will be on their own talk group.

**Old Business** – Commissioner Oliver asked the status of the Homeland Security Grant. MCCD has submitted their proposal after denying the first suggestion. We are waiting to hear back from the County Commissioner. Jeya and Director McNichol have a meeting with Baldwin, Motorolla, and Harris to find out how to have interoperability. The new proposal is to still connect to Baldwin County but not using the old system. Commissioner Oliver wants to know how much money goes to maintenance on the old system and who will maintain it afterwards?

**New Business** – Commissioner Adams mentioned to a County Commissioner that he wanted to continue to have an open line of communication between MCCD and the County Commission. Commissioner Adams will attend the County Commission meetings and report back to MCCD.

Commissioner McLean asked if the 75/25 percentage for grants can be evaluated for some of the smaller agencies. The smaller agencies might have a tough time coming up with the 25% for a grant from MCCD and therefore would be discouraged from applying. Director McNichol states if they would like to apply for a grant, they should, and it would be put before the board to allow for an exception.
**Announcement** – Next board meeting to be held June 8, 2017

**Adjournment** – Commissioner Adams made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner McLean, all approved. Meeting was adjourned at 9:07 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Stephen Bowden, Chairman

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Hayley Clough, Recording Secretary