MOBILE COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Minutes of October 20, 2016

Commissioners Attending:
Stephen Bowden     Richard Landolt     Robert Adams
Trey Oliver         Cynthia Coleman

Staff Attending:
Charlie McNichol, Director       Jeff Hartley, Attorney
Nancy Lowery, Recording Secretary Hayley Clough, Administrative Assistant

The REGULAR board meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held October 20, 2016, at the Mobile County Communications Center.

Call to Order – Chairman Bowden called the meeting to order at 08:05 A.M.

Approval of Minutes – Chairman Bowden called for a motion to approve the minutes from September 8, 2016. Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve, Commissioner Landolt seconded, all approved.

Chairman Report – No Report

Treasurer Report – Commissioner Coleman presented the September claims list for approval, no one opposed the claims list. September claims list was approved.

Personnel – Request for GIS Analyst II Cathy Baker to attend ESRI GIS Training, Commissioner Oliver called a motion to approve, Commissioner Coleman seconded, all approved. FMLA Request for Linda Casoria-Scott, Commissioner Oliver called a motion to approve, Commissioner Adams seconded, all approved. FMLA Request for Hope Davis, no one opposed request, all approved. FMLA Request for Elaine White, no one opposed request, all approved.

Planning – Commissioner Landolt brought to the board the possibly of a predictive software to identify hot spots, gaps in EMS, and dashboard data. The software would take data from the last 5 years including, GPS locations and date/time, to help determine where calls could possibly be. He has requested 2 proposals from Tyler Technology, one for the City of Mobile and one for Mobile County, and hopes to present to the Board once he receives it. Ruben Robinson stated we do currently have an application for obtaining this type of data through BI. Chairman Bowden states we use this data to post units based on history and that it is a very useful tool.

Communications – Jeya Salvaratnam presented to the Board findings of the P-25 Phase 2 Communication Project. TUSA has identified a serious deficiency with the microwave system design which is not acceptable for any Public Safety system. MCCD’s microwave system design has been incorrectly installed using microwave antennas having only a maximum operational wind velocity of 68 miles per hour although the original RFP required towers and appurtenances rated at 150 miles per hour. This means, that the new public safety emergency communications system will fail during a Category-1 hurricane. Jeya presented email exchanges between TUSA consulting and Harris Corporation. Representatives from Harris Corporation were present at the meeting and the Regional Manager came to meet with Director McNichol and Jeya after the Board Meeting regarding these findings. Commissioner Adams would like a timeline of completion for these upgrades from Harris Corporation. Director McNichol will email the Board Members an update after his meeting with the Harris Corporation representatives.
**Emergency Medical** – No Report

**Building/Configuration** – No Report

**Board Attorney** – No Report

**Director** – Director McNichol acknowledged his appreciation of Nancy Lowery for her 10 years of dedication to the Mobile County Communications District. Commissioner Adams made a motion of appreciation for Nancy, all approved.

Director McNichol educated the Board on the NENA Conference that multiple MCCD staff members as well as staff from Mobile Fire Rescue and Mobile County EMS attended. The NENA conference was held in Orange Beach, AL and focuses on Customer Service. Director McNichol would like to continue this class in efforts to keep an open line of communication between all agencies. On November 4, 2016, MCCD will host a NENA class for our dispatchers from all agencies in the county. The class is titled “Take Seconds, Save Minutes.” 35 slots are available for this class and is free of charge for dispatchers.

Director McNichol presented the FY 2016-2017 Budget. Commissioner Oliver called a motion to approve, Commissioner Landolt seconded, all approved. A monthly report of the budget will be sent out with the agenda to Board Members monthly.

Director McNichol presented the election of 2016-2017 Board Officers. Commissioner Adams made a motion to keep all board officers at their current positions, Commissioner Coleman seconded, all approved.

Director McNichol presented the Board with the 2016-2017 Holiday Calendar, Commissioner Oliver made a motion to approve, Commissioner Adams seconded, all approved.

Director McNichol presented the topic of radios being placed at the guard gates of plants in the county. At first it was presented that it was a MCCD project, but it in fact is an EMA project. Each plant is responsible for purchasing their own radios.

Director McNichol presented an update on the GUS, Government Utility Services Board, requesting 13 new radios. Jeff Hartley stated in his opinion, it is inappropriate to use emergency equipment as consideration in the contract. He does not suggest to the Board that the radios be made available. Director McNichol asked who is going to carry the radios. If we are going to issue them on our system, we need to know who is going to carry them. Commissioner Adams states we cannot have others out there using radios that our emergency personal could be using. Director McNichol states the radios are about $5,000 each and the board is looking at an estimated $60,000 value. Jeff Hartley suggested to lease the radios or have some type of memorandum of understanding. Commissioner Oliver asked who owned the property and Director McNichol stated the tower is on the School Board’s property but the access to the tower is owned by the GUS Board. Commissioner Oliver asked if we do not supply the radios, will our access be cut off. To which Director McNichol responded he would think not since GUS is appointed through the County Commission. Jeff Hartley said no accusations have been made and the GUS board has not made any statements about cutting the access off.

**Old Business** – No Report

**New Business** – No Report

**Announcement** – Next board meeting to be held November 10, 2016

**Adjournment** – Commissioner Adams made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Bowden, all approved. Meeting was adjourned at 8:47.
Respectfully Submitted:

______________________________
Stephen Bowden, Chairman

[Signature]
Hayley Clough, Recording Secretary
Mobile County Communications District
P-25 Phase 2 Communications Project

Project Update, October 18, 2016

TUSA has identified a serious deficiency with the microwave system design which is not acceptable for any Public Safety system. MCCD’s microwave system has been incorrectly installed using microwave antennas having only a maximum operational wind velocity of 68 miles per hour although the original RFP required towers and appurtenances rated at 150mph. That means that this new public safety emergency communication system will fail during a Category-1 hurricane event. Attached are some of the email exchanges between Harris and TUSA.

The contract document is clear that the tower must withstand 150mph wind. The contract states that the tower shall be designed to meet the 150mph wind when loaded with all the antennas. The Harris work plan description contained in its original proposal does not take an exception to this requirement nor does the Harris project kickoff meeting indicate any change to the design was allowed by the District.

We recommend the following steps.

1. Continue with mobile radio installation;
2. Continue the project with programming profile creations;
3. Continue with radio programming;
4. Continue with site inspection, including site work.
5. Engage with Harris on their deficient microwave design -a gulf coast public safety system they designed that is operable only to 68mhp;
6. Do not conduct any infrastructure acceptance testing until the microwave issue is resolved.
Jeya Selvaratnam  
Thu 9/29/2016 10:45 AM  
Sent Items  
To:  
Smith, Stephen (ssmith08) <ssmith08@harris.com>;  
...  
Cc:  
Jim Sullivan;  
Nick Tusa;  
...  
Recently, there were some microwave failures and we were told that the microwave dishes were twisted or turned. According to Harris, this was caused by high wind, and that you are in the process of adding extra brackets to remedy the situation.

We did not come across any serious storm advisory during this time. These dishes are supposed to withstand hurricane force winds. In Mobile County, the towers are built to withstand 150MPH wind speed due to their location near the gulf coast, and the expectation is that all the equipment on the tower must be capable of handing the same capacity.

I have requested for additional information to review the microwave dishes, their installation and windloading capacity. On my Aug. 25th e-mail, I have requested specific information such as how the wind speed was calculated, who has done the engineering and how it was engineered. So far, I have not received any response.

Jim Sullivan with TUSA looked into this further and came up with some disturbing information. The microwave dishes used on this project are Commscope PAR6-59, which are rated for 68MPH operational capability. I am attaching the manufacturer's specification for reference. I would like to think that Harris will not use a 68MPH (maximum operational) capable microwave dish along the Gulf Coast, and there has to be some good explanation to this matter. But the manufacturer's specification sheet is very clear and I verified the dishes' model number from Harris's data sheet.

With the available facts, this is not an acceptable installation, and will not meet the contractual obligations or system specifications.

Your immediate attention and response is appreciated.

Jeya Selvaratnam  
225-603-3734  
Tusa Consulting Services
From: Smith, Stephen (ssmith08) <ssmith08@harris.com>
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2016 3:17 PM
To: Jeya Selvaratnam
Cc: Jim Sullivan
Subject: RE: Follow up

Jeya,

The topic is being reviewed by management / legal. I do not have a firm time line but I have indicated the need for a response in advance of the Board meeting.

Steve Smith
Project Manager, PMP
COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS / HARRIS CORPORATION
harris.com / ssmith08@harris.com
12860 E. Lynchburg Salem Tpke / Forest, Virginia 24551 / USA

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From: Jeya Selvaratnam [mailto:jeya@tusaconsulting.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 16, 2016 7:29 PM
To: Smith, Stephen (ssmith08) (U.S. Person) <ssmith08@harris.com>
Cc: Jim Sullivan <jim.sullivan@tusaconsulting.com>
Subject: Re: Follow up

Steve, it was my understanding from our communication last week, Harris's response to all the four issues will be provided last week.

Can you provide me with a timeframe for the microwave system response? I was clear about the upcoming board meeting next week and that I need to provide a report on all the issues.

Jeya Selvaratnam
225-603-3734
Tusa Consulting Services
MOU between the County and MCCD: There is no progress in developing an MOU between both parties. This is hampering the efforts to secure the guy wires, weed control, site access and other site issues. I encourage both parties to address this matter as soon as possible.

TUSA has arranged and participated in an interoperability meeting between Baldwin County and Mobile County. TUSA is still engaged and working towards a resolution. Since the MCCD system will be used by all public safety users, this P-25 system will be the system of choice for all the public safety agencies for interoperability with other local, State and Federal users. Recommend that MCCD continue their dialog with Baldwin County with the participation of Mobile County public safety users.

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Total Mobile Radios for Project: 1091
Total Mobiles Remaining to Complete: 266
Percent Complete: 76%