

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Directors of the Emergency Communications District (ECD) of Nashville and Davidson County met electronically via WebEx. Chair Cleo Duckworth called the meeting to order at 2:34 PM and presided over the meeting with the following board members present: Susan Mattson, Ruby Baker, Lorinda Hale, William Johnson, David Gleason, Eliud Trevino, and Rick Cowan. Board member Charlane Oliver was not in attendance. Others present included: Mark Lynam and Larry Law (ECD Admin), Russell Freeman (Legal Counsel), Stephen Martini, Angie Milliken, Paul McCallister, Tim Watkins, and Dwayne Vance (Metro DEC), Philip McGowan, Tiffany Childress, and Stephanie England (DVL Seigenthaler).

Opening Statement

Chair Duckworth read an opening statement which explained why it was necessary to meet by electronic means in light of the COVID-19 threat. She stipulated that Governor Bill Lee's executive orders 16, 34, 51, 60, 65, and 71 allowed us to do so.

Minutes

Ms. Hale made a motion to accept the minutes from the January 21, 2021 ECD Board meeting. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Financial Report

Mr. Lynam discussed the January 2021 financial report with board members. He went over the business transactions that took place during the month. He reported that income for January was \$1,933 while expenses amounted to \$147,493. This resulted in a net loss of \$145,560 for the month.

Mr. Lynam reported that cash available for operations totaled \$16,211,707. This consisted of \$449,225 in our checking account and \$15,762,482 in our LGIP account.

After discussion ended Ms. Mattson made a motion to accept the financial statement as presented. Ms. Baker seconded the motion and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Training Requests

Director Martini reported that there were no training requests to bring before the board.

Public Awareness Update

Ms. England reported on the advertising campaign. She stated that the new creative work started running on the first of January. The new campaign is outperforming last years and has a CTR (click thru rate) that is triple the national average. The new video is slated to be shot on Monday, February 22nd, and tentatively scheduled to begin running by mid-March.

Mr. McGowan reported on Rescue Rex. He stated that his firm has officially launched the animated version of the Rescue Rex program. Eight schools have incorporated the virtual program as part of their lesson plans. During February it is estimated that 883 children will benefit from the program.

Mr. McGowan also announced that Monday, March 11th is National 311 Day. He felt that this would be a good time for us to draw attention to our new advertising campaign that distinguishes the difference between 311 and 911. To accomplish this the DVL/Finn team, Director Martini, and Erin Williams from HUB Nashville will meet next week to discuss a media component that hopefully will bring attention to our campaign through the local media and possibly an op-ed.

Street Name Change

Ordinance BL2021-622 was submitted requesting approval to rename “Carney Street” to “Bianca Paige Way”. Mr. Lynam reported that DEC had reviewed and signed off on the street name change. With that said Ms. Baker made a motion to approve the name change. Mr. Gleason seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by roll call vote.

DEC Directors Report

Standards Compliance with NFPA and NENA – Highest that it has been in three years. This has come about due to the partnership that is taking place with 311. Non-emergency calls are being passed on to 311 and allowing telecommunicators to focus on 911 calls.

Staffing – Five vacancies. Moving two employees to quality assurance so that more emphasis can be placed on this topic over the next year. Succession planning is taking place with some middle management employees being moved to leadership roles. DEC is striving toward having two training academies per year as we move forward.

Legislation – A number of bills are moving through the Tennessee General Assembly which relate to the 911 industry. Not all of these bills will impact Davidson County. Director Martini gave an update on those bills which could possibly affect Davidson County, including observations that were made by our lobbyist, Mr. Will Denami. The bills that Director Martini reported on were ... (HB0173/SB0182), (HB0362/SB0616), (HB0280/SB0055), (HB0872/SB0996), (HB0964/SB1327), and (HB1450/SB1314).

Resolution – Stephen Martini currently serves as a member of the Tennessee Emergency Communications Board (TECB). There is a provision that to serve on the TECB one must be either a director of an emergency communications district or a district board member. By way of our interlocal agreement with Metro, Mr. Martini is employed by local government and serves in an advisory capacity to the Davidson County ECD. So as to prevent any possible dispute regarding Mr. Martini’s qualifications to serve on the TECB, Mr. Martini has requested that language be drawn up by our district board which would define his role with the Davidson County ECD. After some discussion Mr. Gleason made a motion for Mr. Martini, Mr. Russell, and Mr. Lynam to work together and draft a resolution showing that Mr. Martini serves as both Director of Metro’s Department of Emergency Communications and, in an advisory capacity, Director of the Davidson County ECD. Ms. Mattson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by roll call vote.

2022 Budget – numbers are being put together so that discussions can take place with the ECD Technology Committee in late March and early April.

Cyber Security – Tim Watkins provided an update on the cyber security solution. Quotes have been received. He had to reach out to one vendor to gather more information regarding scope of work. Metro IT's chief security officer, John Griffey, will assist in the evaluation of the quotes. Mr. Watkins hopes to have a recommendation by the March board meeting.

Redundancy Plan – Metro's IT department is assisting with developing the requirements for a redundant fiber ring. DEC will meet with them the morning of February 25th. On the afternoon of February 25th, a meeting will take place with between DEC, Rutherford County, and Mission Critical Partners to discuss requirements for connecting the networks. Ms. Mattson asked if there were any legal ramifications that may come into play with this arrangement. Director Martini noted that Metro's radio authority already has something similar in place for sharing radio systems which may establish some sort of precedence.

AT&T Outage – AT&T has sent a letter stating their regret for what happened and their efforts to identify solutions to prevent this from happening again. The TECB has appointed Director Martini to represent the 911 industry across Tennessee and lead discussions with AT&T about the redundancy that wasn't there. AT&T doesn't want to have these discussions in a public forum. Director Martini is pushing AT&T to get these discussions started so we don't see this happening again.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Lynam pointed out that term limits have expired for Ms. Mattson and Mr. Gleason. He stated that the Mayor's Office will be contacting them to see if they might be interested in being reappointed. He also notified the board that Charlane Oliver's term has ended and that she has decided not to seek another term.

Adjournment

Upon proper motion by Ms. Hale and second by Ms. Baker the meeting adjourned at 4:09 PM. Ms. Duckworth reminded everyone that the next meeting of the ECD Board will take place on March 18th.