

The Board of Directors of the Emergency Communications District (ECD) of Nashville and Davidson County met in regular session at the Metro Emergency Communications Center, 2060 15th Avenue South. Chair Cleo Duckworth called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM and presided over the meeting with the following board members present: William Johnson, Susan Mattson, Ruby Baker, Carolyn Tucker, and Lorinda Hale. Board member Rick Cowan was not in attendance. Others who attended the meeting included: Mark Lynam and Larry Law (ECD Admin), Stephen Martini, Angie Milliken, and Dwayne Vance (Metro DEC), Dustin Owens (Metro Budget Office), Cheryl Thompson (DVL Seigenthaler), and Russell Freeman (Legal Counsel).

Board Members

Ms. Duckworth started the meeting by recognizing the passing Mr. Eliud Trevino. Board members reflected on his friendship and his twenty years of service on the ECD Board.

Ms. Duckworth also informed board members that Mr. David Gleason had submitted his resignation from the ECD Board due to a change in job responsibilities with his present employer. He too was acknowledged for his many years of service with the ECD Board.

Minutes

Ms. Hale made a motion to accept the minutes from the January 20, 2022 ECD Board meeting. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by voice vote.

Financial Reports

Mr. Lynam went over the February financial report with board members. He reported that cash available for operations totaled \$20,943,543. This consisted of \$1,424,435 in our checking account and \$19,519,108 in our LGIP account.

Mr. Lynam went over the business transactions that took place during the month. He reported that income for February was \$1,534,566 while expenses amounted to \$179,760. This resulted in a net gain of \$1,354,806 for the month.

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

Public Awareness Update

Ms. Cheryl Thompson went over the advertising and Rex reports with board members. She reported that the new creative work for all the ad campaigns (digital, billboards, radio, and video) started on February 14th. The CTR (click thru rate) for the digital ads is triple the national average. The completion rate of 81.23% for the video ad is also far above the national benchmark.

Ms. Thompson reported that the virtual Rescue Rex program is being promoted on social media and through email. This has brought about a 400% increase in participation from last year. From October thru February of this year, 36 schools have utilized the video and it has reached 1,777 students. Ms. Baker and Ms. Tucker asked if the board could get a list of the schools and daycare centers that have participated. Ms. Thompson said that she will make that information available.

Legislative Report

Ms. Mattson updated board members on the various legislative matters that are being monitored by our lobbyist, Will Denami. She reported that Representative Bricken and Senator Gardenshire were using three caption bills to try and meet their goal of using 911 reserves for other local government purposes. One bill has been defeated and Mr. Denami is trying to stop the other two. One of the remaining bills that Mr. Denami is trying to stop (SB1975 / HB 2049) would change the funding for 911 districts. The proposed legislation would require that the base amount of funding be recalculated each year following the release of a federal census.

There is another bill that Mr. Denami is watching closely, but doesn't think will move, that would establish uniform standards for 911 emergency communications. One part of it states that all employees must be employed by the District, not local government.

A bill that would have allowed local governments to impose a public safety surcharge on residents was deferred by the House to the Clerk's desk, which basically killed it.

A bill that dealt with how higher education institutions get emergency services was amended to have TACIR look at both public and private colleges and do a study on how they have access to emergency services.

A final bill that is currently on the way to the House floor would give early service retirement to emergency communications personnel.

Virtual Attendance and Voting Authority

At the January 20, 2022 meeting of the ECD Board of Directors, Mr. Freeman was asked to review and give his opinion on the ability and procedures necessary for virtual (and/or electronic) attendance of board members and voting authority on matters before the Board. Our current rules require that board members convene in person and be present to vote. Mr. Freeman explained that subsection (d) of TCA 8-44-108 would allow an ECD board member to participate in meetings by electronic means. He added that if the Board opted to pursue this matter, he would recommend that it be referred to the board's Rules Committee so that it could be brought before the full board as a Motion to amend our current Rules of Order.

During discussion, both the pros and cons of virtual meetings were discussed. Ms. Tucker also pointed out that we are not following our Rules of Order as they were written, and that we should

change them to reflect what we actually do. In the end, no action was taken regarding virtual meetings but there were two proposals regarding rule changes.

The first recommendation came from Ms. Tucker. Since there is no Rules Committee, Ms. Tucker made a motion to amend Rule 24 to state that the Board “as a whole” would serve as the Rules Committee. Ms. Hale seconded the motion. During discussion it was pointed out that we could eliminate the Rules Committee and achieve the same thing. Ms. Tucker and Ms. Hale then withdrew their original motion. Ms. Hale then made a motion that we remove the Rules Committee as a requirement of the Board (the 2/3 vote majority would still remain a part of Rule 24). Ms. Tucker seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by voice vote.

Ms. Mattson brought attention to the fact that there were most likely a number of rules that would need to be amended. She then made a motion for the Board to review all of our Rules of Order, and at our April meeting, bring forth proposed changes for discussion. Ms. Tucker seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by voice vote.

DEC Directors Report

Director Martini went over the March performance report with board members. He pointed out that even though both 911 calls and non-emergency call were higher than the same period last year, they were still able to decrease abandoned calls and improve their answering times of 9-1-1 calls. All 21 vacant positions have been filled and are part of the March 7th training academy.

The APCO IntelliComm Guidecard software package is still in contract negotiations.

Motorola is still working on getting the NICE Intelligence software to interface with the CAD system. This will provide performance reporting showing where the call came from, how it was processed through the CAD system, how it was dispatched, and quality assurance evaluation. This performance monitoring package is expected to be online in the next couple of months.

DEC is working with Brentwood, Murfreesboro, Rutherford County, and Williamson County on the regional design of an ESInet for shared phone and Internet connectivity in the event that one of the entities loses a carrier.

The facility renovation at Compton has been delayed until June due to the fact that the contractor cannot acquire materials.

The gates at Compton have been replaced and speed limit signs have been added in the parking lot.

Updated ID badges have been issued and are in use at the Harding backup center.

Metro's budget contains funding for design of the new 911 facility. Williamson County has shared their design plans with Metro General Services so that they can be used as a model in the construction of Metro's new 911 Center.

Several board members expressed interest in attending this year's APCO Conference. Director Martini indicated that his department will be recognized by APCO for both its CALEA recertification and training program accreditation. In addition, numerous employees are in line to receive public safety achievement awards and Director Martini is running unopposed for the 2nd Vice President position on the APCO board of directors.

Miscellaneous

The employee appreciation banquet will be held on April 14th at the Music City Center.

Mr. Lynam indicated that the proposed ECD operating budget for FY 2023 should be ready for discussion at the April ECD Board meeting.

Adjournment

Upon proper motion by Ms. Hale and second by Mr. Johnson the meeting adjourned at 4:02 PM.

Minutes submitted by Mark Lynam