

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 2:33 PM and presided over the meeting with the following board members present: William Johnson, Susan Mattson, Ruby Baker, Carolyn Tucker, Lorinda Hale, and Rick Cowan. Others who attended the meeting included: Mark Lynam and Larry Law (ECD Admin), Stephen Martini, Angie Milliken, and Tim Watkins (Metro DEC), Cheryl Thompson and Tiffany Childress (DVL Seigenthaler), and Russell Freeman (Legal Counsel).

Minutes

Ms. Hale made a motion to accept the minutes from the March 17, 2022 ECD Board meeting. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by voice vote.

Financial Reports

Mr. Lynam went over the March financial report with board members. He reported that cash available for operations totaled \$20,369,348. This consisted of \$47,019 in our checking account and \$20,322,329 in our LGIP account.

Mr. Lynam went over the business transactions that took place during the month. He reported that income for March was \$3,454 while expenses amounted to \$577,649. This resulted in a net loss of \$574,195 for the month.

After discussion ended Mr. Cowan 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 report with board members. She reported that the click-through rate for the digital ads is triple the national average. The top zip code for viewer engagement is 37203. 911 awareness radio spots are currently running on 13 radio stations. Our video is performing very well with almost 163,000 impressions and a 92% completion rate. Ads are also being delivered on Facebook.

Ms. Tiffany Childress went over the Rescue Rex report. She reported that three new schools have been added to the participation list since the March report. One more push will be made this year for booking schools. Meetings are currently taking place to decide how the Rescue Rex program will be presented next year (virtual or in-person). Ms. Baker and Ms. Tucker asked for a list of the 39 participating schools. Ms. Childress said that she would provide such list.

Legislative Report

Ms. Mattson reported that the Tennessee General Assembly was near the end of their legislative session. All bills that would have affected 911 funding are dead for the time being. Our lobbyist, Will Denami, expects continuing issues as it seems TENA is becoming split. It appears that certain regions are working with legislators to push their own agendas.

Rules of Order

Board members went over the working document for the Rules and Procedures that Mr. Lynam had created. Mr. Freeman led discussion and it was decided that these new rules, with a few changes, would better describe how the Board operates. The recommended changes were:

IV. a. Chairperson's Duties – modify to say that a combination of two of the following signatures would be needed on checks ... Chairperson, 1st Vice Chair, and 2nd Vice Chair.

V. Other Officers – Change to “the Board shall employ such personnel or independent contractors to serve as Secretary and Treasurer”.

VI. f. Order of Business – underline sub-heading Order of Business.

VI. h. Voting – change to “a board member must be present and seated to cast a vote”.

VIII. Amendments to Rules – Change to “the Rules and Procedures may be altered, suspended, or amended by a two-third vote of Board membership”.

Mr. Freeman will make the necessary changes then share the edited document with board members. If everyone is comfortable with the new document, it will be brought before the Board at our next meeting for adoption.

DEC Directors Report

Director Martini went over the March performance report with board members. He pointed out that even though the number of 911 calls were greater than the same period last year, staff was able to answer the calls faster than the national standard. This is the first time in six years that DEC telecommunicators have been able to answer 911 calls above the national standard for two consecutive months.

The employee appreciation banquet went well. There were approximately 150 attendees. Nathan Lee from the Denise Amber Lee Foundation was the guest speaker and was well received by his audience.

The State of Metro Address will be presented by Mayor Cooper on April 27th. One of the items that Mayor Cooper will highlight is how well the partnership between DEC and hubNashville has worked to allow DEC telecommunicators to better focus on 911 emergencies.

The sewer pipes within the Compton facility are deteriorating. These pipes will have to be replaced. Metro General Services will be meeting with contractors to prepare a plan to make that happen.

Director Martini is asking for 40 additional personnel in next year's budget (a \$3 million expense). The ratio of dispatchers to calls is about 1 to 9. These forty new positions are needed to maintain compliance with the national standard for answer time. It appears that he has Council support for his request.

Metro funds, either grants or American Rescue Plan funding, will be used to make some technology purchases for the 911 Center. Funding for these purchases had previously been

requested from the District. This should free up \$500,000 - \$1,000,000 of the District's money which can then be applied to other areas of need, such as the renovation. In addition, Metro is appropriating \$320,000 from the 4% Fund to provide laptops and headsets to support dispatch DEC personnel working from other locations. Gates and fencing for the complex will also be funded by Metro.

The cost of the renovation project, which was originally estimated at \$3.5 million, has now ballooned to \$5.6 million. This is primarily due to the cost of materials and supply chain restrictions. Hopefully the additional cost can be funded by scaling back on other Metro funded projects. It's possible that the District may be asked to fund a small portion of the shortfall.

Adjournment

Upon proper motion by Ms. Hale and second Mr. Johnson the meeting adjourned at 3:32 PM.

Minutes submitted by Mark Lynam