

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 1:03 PM and presided over the meeting with the following board members present: Ruby Baker, Rick Cowan, Lorinda Hale, Susan Mattson, and Carolyn Tucker. Board member William Johnson was not in attendance. Others who attended the meeting included: Mark Lynam (ECD Admin), Paul McCallister, Tim Watkins, Dwayne Vance, and Michael Bateman (Metro DEC), Neil Pickering & Tiffany Childress (Finn Partners), and Russell Freeman (Legal Counsel).

Minutes

Ms. Hale made a motion to accept the minutes from the March 21, 2024 ECD board meeting. Ms. Baker seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously by voice vote.

Financial Report

Mr. Lynam went over the March financial report with board members. Cash available for operations as of March 31, 2024 was \$26,415,038. This consisted of \$226,118 in our checking account and \$26,188,920 in the LGIP account.

Mr. Lynam went over the various financial transactions that took place during the month. He reported that income for March was \$117,898 while expenses amounted to \$117,503. This resulted in a net gain of \$395 for the month.

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

ECD Proposed Budget for FY 2024

Mr. Lynam discussed the proposed FY 2025 operating budget with board members and DEC staff. He reported that we will see an increase in our TECB base funding due to the recent passing of legislative bill SB1975 - HB 2362. The new legislation changes how base funding is calculated for districts. We will now see the one-time excess revenue distribution that was dispersed each November rolled into our bi-monthly distributions. He also conveyed to board members that the TECB is providing a \$100,000 reimbursement grant to districts to help offset cybersecurity expenses. As things stand now, our district will receive \$36,000 from this grant in 2025, \$36,000 in 2026, and \$28,000 in 2027.

Mr. Lynam went over the budgeted expenses of the operational budget, pointing out increases and decreases to various line items. Mr. Neil Pickering and Tiffany Childress from Finn Partners discussed the changes that were being made to expenses associated with the Rescue Rex and Public Awareness programs. Tim Watkins, DEC's Technology Division Manager, reviewed the various capital expenditures that were being considered for FY 2025.

In summary, Mr. Lynam communicated that revenue for FY 2025 is projected at \$11,988,861. Expenses are estimated at \$8,075,769, with \$5,413,769 of that amount set aside for general operating expenses and the remaining \$2,662,000 earmarked for capital expenditures.

Ms. Tucker questioned if a plan was in place to relocate the backup center in the event the Airport Authority did not extend our lease. Mr. Vance stated that the Department of General

Services is addressing this issue. Ms. Tucker indicated that she knew of several public-school buildings that were vacant and suggested we might want to consider using one of them as an option for an alternate sight.

After discussion ended Ms. Hale made a motion to accept the proposed budget that was presented by Mr. Lynam. Ms. Baker seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Lynam went on to inform board members that he will send the proposed budget to the Clerk's Office who will distribute it to the Mayor's Office and Council. A public hearing will be held in June, at which time the ECD Board will officially adopt the budget.

Public Awareness Update

Mr. Pickering went over the advertising report with board members. He conveyed that the new creative was launched in mid-March. The report contained images of the new ads for digital, billboards, and video. Mr. Pickering stated that he expects these new ads to perform as well as the previous year's ads.

Ms. Childress provided board members with a report showing Rex school appearances for April. She reported that this is the busiest April since she has been running the program. The month of May is also gearing up to be a busy month with eleven shows currently scheduled. Ms. Childress communicated that News Channel 5 wants to cover a show in May. She will let us know the date, school, and time when she has more information.

Street Name Change

Ordinance BL2024-307 was submitted requesting approval to rename "J.B. Estille Drive" to "Donelson Station Blvd". Mr. Lynam reported that DEC was in support of the street name change. Ms. Hale made a motion to approve the name change. Ms. Mattson seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously by voice vote.

DEC Directors Report

Assistant Director McCallister went over the highpoints of the director's report. He reported that 911 call answer time is the best that it has ever been and exceeds NENA compliance standards. Calls answered in 15 seconds is at 95.94% while calls answered in 20 seconds is at 96.56%.

HubNashville is taking between 1100 – 1500 public safety related calls per month, thus easing the load on emergency call-takers and allowing them additional time to concentrate on 911 calls.

Of the 1,128 medical and fire related calls that were reviewed for quality assurance purposes, 928 received a score of 100 (perfect), 138 received a score of 80 – 99 (good), and 62 received a score of 50 – 79 (needs improvement).

Citizen survey responses showed customer satisfaction at 86.38%.

Emergency call-taker vacancies across the United States is averaging 30%. Nashville is averaging 2%.

Legislative

Ms. Mattson updated board members on legislative matters affecting emergency communication districts. She reported that the bill to move the TECB from the Department of Commerce to the Department of Safety (SB 2184 – HB 2345) was the only bill still open. She didn't expect to see any action on it for the remainder of this legislative session.

Adjournment

Upon proper motion by Ms. Hale and second by Ms. Baker, the meeting adjourned at 2:26 PM.

Board members decided not to meet during the month of May unless something comes up that requires the board's action. The next regular scheduled meeting of the ECD Board of Directors will be held on June 20, 2024

Minutes submitted by Mark Lynam