

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Minutes

August 21, 2024 – 2:00 p.m. CDT

East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office
8900 Jimmy Wedell Drive, Building B
Baton Rouge, LA 70807



The East Baton Rouge Parish Communications District Board of Commissioners met at the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office on the 21st day of August 2024 for a duly noticed regular public meeting.

The public meeting was called to order by Chairman Gautreaux.

Commissioner Waites gave the Invocation.

Commissioner Designate Branscum led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chairman called roll:

Present: Chairman Sid Gautreaux, Commissioner Darnell Waites, Commissioner Designate Stephen Branscum (by Commissioner Wade Evans), Commissioner Designate Amber Guidry (By Commissioner David McDavid, Commissioner Michael Kimble, Commissioner Myron Daniels, and Commissioner Michael Denicola

The Chairman found that a quorum existed.

Others Present Included The Following:

Director Jim Verlander, Legal Counsel Henry Olinde, Scott Lazarone CPA, Brenda Welch (EBRPCD), Todd Campbell (EBRPCD), David Luker (EBRSO), Vaughan Bourgeois (Motorola), Chief Gerry Tarleton (St. George FPD), Tammy Armand (CP), Michelle Bland (NGA911), Larry Powenski, Chief Todd Morris (City of St. George) and Mayor Dustin Yates (City of St. George).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Waites moved to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Denicola seconded that motion. The motion unanimously passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Financial Report

The financial report was presented by Scott Lazarone, CPA.

The presented financials are through June 30, 2024.

Cash was \$12.5 million and Accounts receivable of \$915,000 due to fees paid in June that will be paid in July. Total assets were \$13.2 million. Expenses are at or below the watermark. Total fund balance is approximately \$13.75 million. Much of this fund balance is non-spendable because it is a prepaid asset or committed to a capital project. Accounts payable are at approximately \$606,000 most of which (\$550,000) is a tower-related invoice from Motorola. Revenues of \$4.1 million are approximately 54% of budget and slightly ahead of the 50% watermark. Interest income was at \$260,000, which is almost 130% of budgeted interest revenue and more than double the 50% budgetary watermark. Expenses are at 37% of budget and below the 50% watermark due to vacant position and unspent furniture money. Total Capital Outlay is at \$904,000 on the \$2.2 million budgeted, \$550,000 of which is tower-related. Mr. Lazarone pointed out that the District finished July with a slight fund balance surplus, but noted that the year will likely not finish with a large surplus.

Commissioner Daniels moved to approve the financial report. Commissioner Kimble seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

North Tower Project

Todd Campbell began the discussion.

There was a kick-off conference with Motorola last week. Motorola representative Vaughan Bourgeois advised the Board that the Tower project is on track as originally planned. There will be another project meeting next week.

CAD Update

Joe Thompson reported on this.

CAD operations are going smoothly. District staff is preparing for the next update that will be rolled out by Central Square.

911 Upgrade

Joe Thompson reported on this.

Staff is working with NGA911 on this project. Some changes are being made. Staff is also working with AT&T and other company on lines and with REV on administrative lines.

NEW BUSINESS

Recent Developments

Jim Verlander reported that AT&T had a local strike that did not affect the District.

Commissioner Kimble stated that as the BUCC is built-out, the District needs to account for the different applications that each agency uses and make them available to agency users at the BUCC in a secure fashion.

Mr. Thompson advised the Board that the District has set-up V-LANS and secure “tunnels” so that agency users can securely use the applications on their laptops from the BUCC. Animal control recently used the BUCC for three days without issue. Each agency user sees his/her agency CAD screen when they log in. Mr. Thompson would like to test the BUCC further and have more agencies come in.

Administrative Matters

Director Verlander reported on the operations of the District: the District is trending in a positive direction. The BUCC is moving forward and staff is planning an open house for all agencies. Director Verlander invited all Commissioners and agency members to “drop-in” and see the BUCC. The BUCC is nearing completion. The Cybersecurity event interrupted progress, the progress is back on track.

Legal Updates

Henry Olinde advised that he has no updates.

Chairman Gautreaux introduced City of St. George Interim Police Chief, Todd Morrison. Chief Morrison in turn introduced the Interim Mayor of St. George, Dustin Yates.

Adjournment

Commissioner Waites moved that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Denicola seconded that motion. The motion unanimously passed.