

**EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH COMMUNICATIONS
DISTRICT**

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**Meeting Minutes
July 16, 2025 – 2:00 p.m. CDT**

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**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 16th day of July 2025 for a duly noticed regular public meeting.

The public meeting was called to order by Chairman Gautreaux.

Commissioner Kimble gave the Invocation.

Commissioner Designate Branscum led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chairman called roll:

Present: Chairman Sid Gautreaux, , Commissioner Designate Stephen Branscum (designated by Commissioner Wade Evans), David McDavid, Commissioner Michael Kimble, Commissioner Myron Daniels, and Commissioner Chris Landry. Commissioner Designate Wayne Boorman Commissioner (designated by Commissioner Darnell Waites) entered the meeting at a later time.

The Chairman found that a quorum existed.

Others Present Included The Following:

Director Jim Verlander, , Brenda Welch, Todd Campbell, Legal Counsel Henry Olinde, Scott Lazarone CPA and Fire Chief Danny Kimble.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Daniels moved to approve the minutes of the June 18, meeting. Commissioner Landry seconded that motion. The motion unanimously passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Financial Report

The financial report was presented by Scott Lazarone, CPA.

The presented financials were through a May 31, 2025.

Total cash is approximately \$11.1 million. Receivables from carriers that owe remittances are a little over \$500,000. Prepaid expenses are approximately \$600,000. Total assets are approximately \$12.3 million. Accounts payable are approximately \$200,000. This leaves a fund balance of about \$12.1 million.

With respect to revenues and expenses, the financials show four months and about 41% would be the watermark. Service revenue is at \$3 million or a little under watermark mostly because prepaid wireless fees are lower than projected. Interest earnings were \$173,000 on a yearly budget of \$200,000. This gives the District \$3.2 million in revenue. It is a little behind watermark. Expenses by category: salaries are at 38%; benefits at 30% due to workers' compensation premium lag; supplies under budget; and, contractual services are at 37% which is under budget.

There is a \$920,000 decrease in fund balance primarily due to \$1.1 million payment for tower installation.

In general, revenues are a little low, but so are expenses. The District is right where it needs to be from a budget standpoint.

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

North Tower Project

Todd Campbell reported on this item.

The Tower structure has been installed and is up. There is a small delay with AT&T, but the project is coming right along. There will be electricity to the doghouse by Friday and coaxial lines are going to be installed.

CAD Update

Director Verlander reported on this item because Joe Thompson is out of town at the ESRI GIS conference.

The CAD projects are going well.

The kick-off meeting with Central Square is this Friday, but Central Square is already at work on the project and is anxious to see it progress.

911 Phone System Transition

Director Verlander reported on this in Mr. Thompson's absence.

As of yesterday, test calls on the new ESINET started. Programming on the new phones is coming along and much progress is being made. The District's management is extremely pleased with Central Square.

PSAP Configuration for New Cloud 911 System

Jim Verlander presented this item.

Mr. Verlander advised that time is getting short and the vendors need to know the PSAP configuration as soon as possible. A couple of weeks ago there was a site visit with the EBR Mayor-President and his staff. They visited all sites including Baker and St. George. The EBR Mayor-President is out of town at a meeting but has asked that the Board delay this item. The EBR Mayor-President advised that he would meet with District management this Monday to discuss his thoughts on it. After that, this item should be ready to go. Mr. Verlander asked that this item be deferred with a special meeting next week to consider this one item.

Chairman Gautreaux advised that he spoke to Jeff LeDuff and he advised the Chairman that he is out of town and confirmed that the EBR Mayor-President requested that this would be delayed. Chairman Gautreaux recommended that the Board accede to the EBR Mayor-President's request.

Commissioner Kimble moved that this item be delayed until after the meeting with the EBR Mayor-President. Commissioner Landry seconded the motion.

The Chairman elicited dates for the special meeting and after consulting with all Board members, the Chairman advised that the special meeting would be scheduled for Thursday July 24, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

Commissioner Daniels asked Director Verlander whether he had heard from the Baker police chief on the issue of whether Baker wanted to retain its PSAP. Commissioner Daniels advised that he spoke to Baker Police Chief Dunn and was advised that Baker wanted to keep its PSAP.

A vote was taken on the motion to delay this item, and it unanimously passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Recent Developments

Director Verlander advised the BRFD/EMS merger could affect how call takers were staffed. Commissioner Kimble advised that the merger was on hold and, as of now, there will be no change.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Operations of the District

Jim Verlander reported on this matter.

Everything is moving in a positive direction. CAD to cloud transition is going great.

Legal Updates

Board attorney Henry Olinde reminded the Board that HB 242 was signed and will be effective August 1, 2025. At that time, the Metro Council will have the ability to appoint two additional Board members.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Kimble moved that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner McDavid seconded that motion. The motion unanimously passed.