

**EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH COMMUNICATIONS
DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Meeting Minutes
September 17, 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 17th day of September 2025 for a duly noticed regular public meeting.

The public meeting was called to order by Chairman Gautreaux.

Commissioner Designee Becnel gave the Invocation.

Commissioner Designate Noel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chairman called roll:

Present: Chairman Sid Gautreaux, , Commissioner Designate Stephen Branscum (designated by Commissioner Wade Evans), Commissioner Designate Amber Guidry (Commissioner McDavid), Commissioner Michael Kimble, Commissioner Designate Neal Noel (Commissioner Myron Daniels), and Commissioner Chris Landry. Commissioner Designate Chris Becnel (Commissioner Waites) entered the meeting at a later time.

The Chairman found that a quorum existed.

Others Present Included The Following:

Director Jim Verlander, Joe Thompson, Brenda Welch, Todd Campbell, Legal Counsel Henry Olinde, and Scott Lazarone CPA.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Kimble moved to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2025 and July 24, 2025 meetings. 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 July 31, 2025.

Total cash is approximately \$11.4 million. Receivables from carriers that owe remittances are approximately \$740,000. Prepaid expenses are approximately \$497,000. Total assets are approximately \$12.66 million. Accounts payable are approximately \$166,000. The current year change in fund balance is down \$500,000; i.e., expenses have exceeded revenue year to date by \$500,000. This leaves a fund balance of just under \$12.5 million.

With respect to revenues and expenses, the financials show seven months so 58% would be the watermark. Service revenue is at a little under \$4.5 million on a total budget of \$8.15 million or at 55%, which is 3% under watermark mostly because prepaid wireless fees are lower than projected. Wireless fees are \$291,000 on a \$750,000 budget, trending toward a year-end total of about \$600,000. A budget amendment will be submitted on this item. Interest earnings were \$235,000 on a yearly budget of \$200,000. In the current high interest environment, the amount budgeted for interest revenue is always low due to volatility risk.

From an expense standpoint, salaries are at 54%. Benefits are at 43%. But, the District has not yet received its workers' comp insurance premium bill yet. So, benefits are in line with budget. Supplies are well below budget due to not having any of the furniture expenditures year to date. And then in the largest category, contractual services, \$3.3 million has been expended on a budget of \$7.2 million. This is 46% of budget on this item. It should be noted that payments to PSAPs still must be made and when these payments are made, contractual services will be very close to budget.

There have been capital outlay expenditures of \$1.4 million leaving total expenses of \$5.2 million on revenues of \$4.7 million. This is the reason for the \$500,000 decrease in fund balance year to date.

A draft of the proposed 2026 budget will be presented to the Board at its October meeting.

Commissioner Kimble requested that Mr. Lazarone provide the Board with a list of employees and their salaries. Mr. Lazarone pointed out that this would be a supplemental schedule to the budget, and he will provide it to Director Verlander for dissemination to the Board members.

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

North Tower Project

Todd Campbell reported on this item.

The Tower has been installed and is up. The District has been waiting on AT&T for 45 days, but it appears that they will be testing the tower today. Mr. Campbell hopes that the tower installation will be operational by Friday.

CAD Update

Joe Thompson reported on this item.

On September 30, the District will be going to the new version of CAD, which is 25.7. It will be going live on the cloud and mobile solution.

On Monday and Tuesday of last week the District had an event dubbed “explosion day” occurred. The staff and Central Square did load testing and everything else on the new cloud CAD system. Central Square actually flew people in for this event: network engineers, a developer, a product manager, four CAD analysts, and business analyst that came in. And, basically, for two days, the parties took, built and loaded calls. They pushed the system as hard as they could. More than 3,000 calls were built in this period. The system functioned as intended.

Commissioner Kimball asked if the District could reimburse client agencies for the time that their representatives spend on this “explosion day” event. Mr. Thompson replied that the testing was done for each agency’s benefit because it is up to each agency to make sure that its CAD interface works. Director Verlander stated that it was great seeing the cooperation from the agencies, which was just a request for assistance to help thoroughly test the system for their agencies. Director Verlander stated that he would like to see continued cooperation from the agencies in helping fund this type of testing for the agencies’ benefit.

Commissioner Kimball also asked about issues that may have occurred at LSU between fire, EMS, and BRPD relating to codes. Mr. Thompson said there were issues with “tags” for calls. He believes that the issue may be resolved by just checking permission boxes for dispatchers so they can access the tags.

911 Phone System Transition

Mr. Thompson reported on this.

There are 2 parts to the cloud 911 phone system: (1) core services provided by INdigital; and (2) Vertex call handling with Central Square.

On the INdigital side, things are going well. It took a little longer than anticipated to obtain connectivity with AWS, but the result has been more redundancy and a superior network. The network is complete.

The District is working with Central Square to route the Vertex system through the INdigital network. A meeting is planned for tomorrow to start putting together go live dates AT&T will require at least a 6-week lead time to go live.

Mr. Thompson also reported that a new 911 texting platform, Texty, went live today at all PSAP locations. Texty will provide a backup to the text-to-911 that will be going live in the Vertex system.

NEW BUSINESS

Recent Developments

Director Verlander and Henry Olinde presented and explained the proposed LERN MOU to the Board.

Commissioner Landry provided factual background on LERN and explained why it was important to East Baton Rouge Parish and the region.

Commissioner Kimble moved to approve the proposed MOU. Commissioner Landry seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried.

Director Verlander advised the Board that the District is working on a new IGA for the new PSAP arrangement that the Board has approved. Director Verlander has forwarded a draft of the proposed IGA to all parties so talks and negotiations can begin. He made it clear to all parties that the Board will have to approve any agreement the parties reach.

Commissioner Landry stated that he had received the draft and had some questions and issues relating to it. He stated that he would discuss those with Director Verlander in a different setting.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Operations of the District

Jim Verlander reported on this matter.

The staff did a phenomenal job during explosion day. They had to orchestrate this very large event and make sure everything went smoothly. They did this and performed flawlessly.

Commissioner Kimball asked when Mr. Verlander foresees the BUCC becoming operational. Mr. Verlander advised that it will be fully operational once cloud 911 is up and running.

Commissioner Landry asked if Mr. Verlander still believes that cloud 911 will be running in November. Mr. Verlander responded that he had a call today with the vendor who proposed a new final installation date of December 3rd. He cautioned that this means that testing will still be happening. It may not yet be fully operational and that may take more time because the holiday season may slow things down. He believes that cloud 911 will be fully operational and District will start rotating people through the BUCC in January.

Commissioner Kimball asked if January time frame is when work can start at the ATM building. Director Verlander responded that once the BUCC is stable with the new CAD and new 911 system, and the agencies feel comfortable with the BUCC, looking at the ATM building would be the next step.

Legal Updates

Board attorney Henry Olinde advised the Board of a new ordinance introduced by Councilman Gaudet to remedy the current Board membership ordinance that does not comply with state law. This ordinance will bring City-Parish ordinances in line with state law, including the recent statutory addition of 2 more Board members. Mr. Olinde advised that this ordinance does not actually appoint the 2 additional Board members.

Commissioner Kimball stated that he thought the Board discussed having one of the new members from the City of St. George area and the other a City/Paris appointee. Mr. Olinde stated that his recollection was there was consensus that one new member would be appointed from St. George but there was not a consensus regarding the second one. Mr. Olinde pointed out that it would be the council's decision.

Chairman Gautreaux state that it was his position that the Board should remain balanced, and that is the best thing for the Parish.

Mr. Verlander reported that when he reported to the Council a couple of weeks ago, different council members appeared to have differing views on who should be appointed to the second new Board seat.

ADJOURNMENT

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