

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS Public Hearing and Meeting Minutes November 16, 2022 – 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 Communications District Board of Commissioners met at the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office on the 16th day of November 2022 for a duly noticed public budget hearing and regular public meeting.

I. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2023 BUDGET

The public hearing was opened by Chairman Gautreaux.

Commissioner Kimble gave the Invocation.

Commissioner Barrow led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chairman called roll:

Present: Chairman Sid Gautreaux, Commissioner David Barrow, Commissioner Darnell Waites, Commissioner Michael Kimble, Commissioner Michael Denicola, and Commissioner Myron Daniels

Absent: Commissioner David Amrhein

The Chairman found that a quorum existed.

Others Present at Meeting Included The Following:

Director Jim Verlander, Legal Counsel Henry Olinde, Scott Lazarone CPA, Joe Thompson (EBRPCD), Brenda Welch (EBRPCD), Todd Campbell (EBRPCD), Fire Chief Dan Kimble (ZFD), Fire Chief Gerry Tarleton (SGFPD), Fire Chief Stephen Branscum

(CFPD), Eric Romero (CPIS), Tammy Armand (CPIS), George O'Connor (365 Labs), Chance Delome (Motorola), and Ricky Klug (EBRSO).

Presentation and Hearing of Proposed 2023 Budget

Director Verlander presented the proposed 2023 budget and his budget message.

Scott Lazarone, CPA commented on the proposed 2023 Budget.

A public hearing was held on the proposed 2023 budget and an opportunity for comments by the Public and Board members was provided. There were no public or Board comments.

Commissioner Waites moved that the Public Hearing be closed. Commissioner Daniels seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

Chairman Gautreaux declared the public hearing closed.

II. REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gautreaux.

Commissioner Daniels moved to dispense with the preliminary matters covered in the public hearing. Commissioner Waites seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Daniels moved to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2022 meeting. Commissioner Waites seconded that motion. The motion unanimously passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Back-Up Unified Communications Center (BUCC)

Joe Thompson presented on this. The BUCC is progressing. The District is currently waiting on a proposed lease from Stirling Properties, the agent for the Bonne Carre owner.

Final Drawing from the electrical engineers have been received. The administration is still putting together a total cost estimate.

Financial Report

The financial report was presented by Scott Lazarone, CPA.

Revenues are tracking slightly behind budget (actual revenues for 9 months are at 73.4% of projected budget total but should be at 75%). Mr. Lazarone is optimistic that revenues will catch up to projections before year's end. The District has approximately \$11 million in cash. Operating expenditures are in-line with budget. Notable, there was a \$87,000 milestone payment to NGA911 for the new 911 system.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was a CAD issue and all agencies pulled together and cooperatively resolved the problem.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Proposed 2023 Budget and Amendments to the 2022 Budget

Scott Lazarone, CPA presented the proposed 2023 Budget and the adjustments to the 2022 Budget. He offered to answer questions from Board members on proposed 2023 Budget. There were no questions. Commissioner Waites moved that the proposed 2023 Budget and the proposed 2022 Budget amendments be adopted as presented. Commissioner Daniels seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

Chairman Gautreaux complimented the financial presentations by Scott Lazarone, CPA.

Report on Operations

Director Verlander reported on equipment failures and equipment that needed replacing. The BUCC is progressing.

At Rowdy Gaudet's invitation, Director Verlander presented to the Metro Council. The Metro Council had questions about the recent 911 issues. The Metro Council was also very enthusiastic about the new BUCC.

Legal Updates

Mr. Olinde reported on the status of proposed new revenue legislation. He also reported on new legislative efforts.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Gautreaux commented on the good flow of recent Board meetings and noted his belief that it was the result of better communication between Board members. He encouraged the continuance of this trend.

Chairman Gautreaux requested an update on the status of the Zachary tower. Todd Campbell reported that the property that was initially targeted for the tower is not available. He has identified an alternate site and is working on arrangements with the property owner. This location was discussed by the Board. Tammy Armand joined in the conversation. Commissioner Waites mentioned that the City of Baker has a piece of property available at 1500 Groom Road that can be used for this tower if it works. Chance Delome described the differences between a self-supported tower and a tower with guidewires and advised of the amount of space needed for each. Director Verlander pointed out that this tower is not just for the city of Zachary, but for all agencies that cover the northwest portion of East Baton Rouge Parish (including EMS and EBRSO).

Director Verlander presented the proposed 2023 regular meeting schedule. Commissioner Waites moved to approve that schedule. Commissioner Daniels seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

Chairman Gautreaux announced that the Board's December meeting would be cancelled if the Board had no objections. There were none.

Joe Thompson briefly updated the Board on the progress of the new 911 system.

Commissioner Waites moved to adjourn. Commissioner Barrow seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.