

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Minutes

June 30, 2021 – 2:00 p.m. CST

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 Sheriff's Office on the 30th day of June 2021 for a duly noticed regular (but rescheduled) meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sid Gautreaux at 2:34 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Entremont.

The Invocation was given by Mayor Waites.

Roll was called by the Chairman:

Present: Chairman Sid Gautreaux, Mayor David Barrow, Mayor Darnell Waites, Mayor David Amrhein, and Joseph Entremont.

Absent: Chad Guillot and Chief Myron Daniels

The Chairman found that a quorum existed.

Others Present:

Director Jim Verlander, Part-time Assistant Director Todd Campbell, Legal Counsel Henry Olinde, Chad Major (BRFD), Scott Lazarone, CPA (Faulk & Winkler), Chance Delany (Motorola) ZPD Police Chief David McDavid, ZPD Assistant Police Chief Darryl Lawrence, Ricky Klug (EBRSO), David Luker (EBRSO) Chief Joel Hancock (District 6), Mary Jane Marcantel, Bassam Harb (365 Labs), Amber Guidry, Denise Boudreaux, Joyce Wales and others.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Amrhein moved to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2021 meeting. Mayor Waites seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Cloud 911

Director Jim Verlander presented on Cloud 911 and reported that the District cannot piggy-back on the Livingston Parish Cloud 911 contract because of the District's relative size. Director Verlander, therefore, requested authority to partner with the Livingston Parish Communications District and possible other parishes to issue an RFP for Cloud 911. Mayor Amrhein moved to approve this request. Mayor Barrow seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

RMS - Status/Issues

Director Verlander opened the discussion on RMS. Denise Boudreaux (EBRSO) reported to the Board on behalf of the RMS committee and discussed several issues that were ongoing. Amber Guidry from ZPD also spoke.

Mayor Waites moved that the District's Administration and professionals come up with a plan to fund RMS. Mayor Amrhein seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

CAD Project- Status/Issues

Director Verlander reported to the Board on CAD and related matters. Director Verlander and personnel from other agencies are preparing for their trip to Austin to obtain practical training from Austin 911, which is a Beta testing center for Central Square (f/k/a Tritech) CAD system.

NEW BUSINESS:

Procurement Card

Director Verlander reported to the Board that he was unable to obtain a purchase card from City-Parish purchasing. The lack of a purchase card creates practical problems such as the upcoming trip to Austin. Mayor Waites moved that the the Board issue a letter to the City Parish formally requesting a purchase card. Mayor Amrhein seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

Financial: Faul & Winkler Proposal

Director Verlander, Scott Lazarone, CPA and Henry Olinde presented on the Faulk & Winkler proposal to provide accounting and financial consulting services to the District and Board.

Mayor Waites mover to accept Faulk & Winkler's proposal and to notify the City Parish, pursuant to the Intergovernmental Agreement, that the District will be terminating the City-Parish's accounting, budgeting and purchasing services effective January 1, 2022. Mayor Barrow seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

Banking/Fiscal Agency RFP

Henry Olinde presented on this: In light of the Board's vote to terminate the City Parish's services, the District will need a bank/fiscal agent to keep its funds and provide related services. Mayor Amrhein moved that the District prepare and issue a request for proposals for fiscal agency and banking services. Mayor Waites seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

Other Recent Developments

Director Verlander reported that Radio Shop Supervisor Joyce Wales retired last week.

(Whereupon the Chair recessed the meeting for approximately 15 minutes)

Director Verlander reported to the Board that it appears that 69.2 % of radio shop services (2019 thru 2021 to date) was for City Parish entities; 30% were for Baker, Zachary, Central and other entities.

Additional Radio Tower (Zachary Area)

Director Verlander and David Luker (EBRSO) presented on this matter. Director Verlander has been interfacing with Tara Zachary at MOSEP. Motorola quoted a price of \$575,000 to install equipment on an existing tower and leasing space on it. MOSEP has obtained an \$85,000 grant for the tower. The net cost to the District would, thus, be approximately \$490,000 to place equipment on the tower and lease space on it. David Luker advised that the Board would be responsible for lease and maintenance (building and equipment) and the state would pay the other expenses associated with the site. The tower site is owned by Crown Castle and is at the end of Hope Road. Coverage would be optimal.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Winbourne Consulting

Director Verlander reported to the Board on the status of the Winbourne audit. It is proceeding.

Website Update

The District's website (www.ebr911.org) is up and running. Board agendas and minutes are available on that site.

Reports on Operation of District

Jim Verlander outlined how the majority of his time is currently being used.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Amrhein moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Entremont seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.