

The Board of Directors of the Emergency Communications District (ECD) of Nashville and Davidson County met in regular session at the Metro Emergency Communications Center, 2060 15th Avenue South. Vice Chair Susan Mattson called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM and presided over the meeting with the following board members present: Lorinda Hale, Ruby Baker, William Johnson, and Rick Cowan. Board members Cleo Duckworth and Carolyn Tucker were not in attendance. Others who attended the meeting included: Mark Lynam (ECD Admin), Stephen Martini, Paul McCallister, Patrice Coleman, Dwayne Vance, and Tim Watkins (Metro DEC), Kimberly Nichols & Tiffany Childress (Finn Partners), and Russell Freeman (Legal Counsel).

Minutes

Ms. Hale made a motion to accept the minutes from the October 17, 2024 ECD board meeting. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously by voice vote.

Financial Report

Mr. Lynam went over the October financial report with board members. Cash available for operations as of October 31, 2024 totaled \$30,799,026. This consisted of \$201,583 in the ECD's checking account and \$30,597,443 in its LGIP account.

Mr. Lynam went over the various financial transactions that took place during the month. He reported that income for October totaled \$1,916,027, while expenses amounted to \$267,090. This resulted in a net gain of \$1,648,937 for the month.

After discussion ended, Ms. Hale made a motion to accept the financial statement as presented. Ms. Baker seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously by voice vote.

Public Awareness Update

Ms. Tiffany Childress went over the Rescue Rex report. She reported that the new coloring books have been printed. She will bring copies to share at our next meeting. Ms. Childress informed board members that 21 shows have been booked for the November – December period and will reach approximately 2500 students. She added that show surveys are now being done online which seems to be bringing in better feedback.

Ms. Kimberly Nichols reviewed the advertising report with board members. She conveyed that both the digital and outdoor advertising continues to perform well. The top zip code for both the Adults 18+ audience and the New Mover audience was 37211. She highlighted the fact that the Facebook campaign reach increased by almost 15%.

DEC Directors Report

Director Stephen Martini went over the Director's Report with board members. He reported that his department is performing better this year than any of the previous 5 years. Call answer time dipped slightly in October due to staff being pulled from the Operations floor area for employee training.

DEC currently has nine vacant positions. Five of these positions will remain vacant through the end of the fiscal year due to a mandate from the Mayor's Office that all departments achieve a 1.5% reduction in their expense budget.

The TECB is considering increasing the 911 surcharge fee from \$1.50 per month to \$1.87. A potential change to the distribution model by which these funds are distributed to emergency communication districts is also being considered. The TECB will hold a public hearing on December 10, 2024 to obtain public comment and answer questions regarding this matter. Whatever changes are brought forward will have to be in the governor's package by April 2025 to be considered during the 2026 legislative session.

Vanderbilt University, in partnership with DEC, received a \$300,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to further develop an AI based training solution for call takers. This application will be custom designed for our center so that call takers are presented with as close to existent environment scenarios as possible.

DEC is currently engaged in finding a way to amend Tennessee's EMAC agreement with Virginia. Presently, all the technology is in place which would allow 911 calls to be routed to the Fairfax, Virginia Emergency Communications Center (and their calls to us) in the event of a complete network failure. As things stand now, the governor must declare a state of emergency before mutual aid can be requested from a neighboring state. With the help of our lobbyist, Will Denami, DEC is advocating that the following language be added to the EMAC, "At the point of a network failure that precipitates a governor's declaration of emergency, the event of the network failure itself allows the EMAC agreement to go into effect." This would give DEC an additional layer of redundancy since our neighboring counties could not sustain our call volume if we attempted to pass our calls to them.

Quotes are in for the design of the new 911 facility. A team has been put in place to review the quotes. The architectural design phase will take place during the remainder of this fiscal year. Construction costs will be requested in Metro's next capital plan.

DEC has purchased Motorola's new software product Rave Link. This package will be used to share CAD incident data with non-Metro public safety agencies. This will allow these other agencies to monitor CAD calls and possibly respond to them, thus freeing up Metro resources. This information will be provided to them at no cost. The Airport Authority, Vanderbilt Police, and Regional Med Comm will be the first participants. February 1st is the projected go live date.

Adjournment

Upon proper motion by Ms. Hale and second by Ms. Baker, the meeting adjourned at 2:06 PM.

There will be no ECD Board Meeting during the month of December.

Minutes submitted by Mark Lynam