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. Chair Cleo Duckworth called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM and presided over the meeting with the following board members present: Lorinda Hale, Ruby Baker, Bryan Pettus, Dan Dwyer, Rick Cowan, William Johnson, and Carolyn Baldwin Tucker. Others who attended the meeting included: Mark Lynam & Larry Law (ECD Admin), Patrice Coleman, Dwayne Vance, Jimmy Matthews, Tim Watkins, & Marty Boyce (Metro DEC), Russell Freeman (Legal Counsel), Tiffany Childress & Tracey Drennon (Finn Partners), and Will Denami (Governmental Lobbyist).

Minutes
Ms. Hale made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 19, 2026 ECD board meeting. Ms. Baker seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously by voice vote.

Financial Report
Mr. Lynam went over the March financial report with board members. Cash available for operations as of March 31st totaled $42,352,665. This consisted of $161,293 in the ECD's checking account and $42,191,372 in its LGIP account.

Mr. Lynam went over the various financial transactions that took place during the month. He reported that income for March totaled $129,583 while expenses amounted to $230,492. This resulted in a net loss of $100,909 for the month.

Ms. Hale made a motion to accept the financial statement as presented. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously by voice vote.

ECD Proposed Budget for FY 2027
Mr. Lynam, with the assistance of DEC personnel, went over the proposed operating budget for fiscal year 2027. He pointed out increases and decreases in various line items.

Revenue is projected to be $11,980,861 for FY27. Mr. Lynam communicated that revenue for FY 27 may increase by an additional $1 million if the Tennessee General Assembly passes bill SJR0048. Expenses are estimated to be $7,623,915, with $5,731,915 of that amount set aside for general operating expenses and the remaining $1,892,000 earmarked for capital expenditures. A net gain in income of $4,328,946 is projected for FY27.

During discussion it was noted that the proposed budget contained a 3% increase in fees for accounting services and legal services. Board members recommended these fees be increased to 3.5% to keep in line with what Metro employees are projected to receive in the upcoming year. It was also noted that Mr. Denami is requesting that his contract be modified. Mr. Denami was running late and had not yet arrived at the meeting to speak on this matter. Board members recommended that we leave the placeholder budget allocation of $120,000 in the proposed budget to cover any increase in the restructuring of his contract.

After discussion ended, Ms. Hale made a motion to accept the proposed budget as presented with the changes noted above. 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 provided a schedule of upcoming shows which will be taking place at various schools during the month of April. Ms. Childress communicated that the Rex program reached an all-time monthly high of 1,700 students during the month of March. Fresh photography and content is being obtained for the social media presence. Ms. Baker requested that school district be added to the school schedule of shows.

Ms. Tracey Drennon went over the advertising report highlighting the various metric points that are being used to track customer involvement with our ads. She reported that we are averaging 750,000 to 900,000 impressions on the OTT programmatic and social media, which shows strong audience engagement with Davidson County residents and tourists. A refresh of the creative model is expected for the upcoming fiscal year.

DEC Directors Report

Acting Director Patrice Coleman announced that it was National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week and different events were being held in her department to celebrate and honor our call-takers.

Ms. Coleman reviewed the monthly Director's Report with board members. Her overview included call volume, answer times, vacancies, quality assurance compliance numbers, customer satisfaction numbers, training hours, and C.O.R.E. events. Discussion took place regarding the number of text calls received by DEC and how her department responds to them.

Ms. Coleman highlighted that her department was invited to participate in the What Works City Certification program taking place in Nashville next week. This program recognizes and supports local governments in their use of data to improve decision-making and service delivery.

Members of DEC will be attending the Motorola Solutions Summit 2026 taking place in Orlando, Florida next week.

Ms. Erin Williams could not attend the meeting, so Ms. Coleman also went over the March performance statistics for HubNashville. The report included number of calls, average answer times, and top type of request.

911 Master Street Address Guide

Marty Boyce, DEC's GIS specialist, explained what the Master Street Address Guide (MSAG) was and how it is used in 911 call routing. He explained NDOT's previous role in maintaining the legacy format, how we are transitioning to the new NG911 Geo-MSAG, and DEC's role in maintaining this directory from this point forward. He pointed out that the Interlocal agreement with Metro should be changed to remove NDOT's role in maintaining the MSAG for 911 purposes and that these responsibilities will now be performed by DEC.

Legislative Update

Mr. Will Denami reported that bill SJR0048 (increases Tennessee's 911 surcharge fee from $1,50 to $1.86) passed the Senate floor vote 26-0. It will become effective September 1, 2026. The TECB will backfill funding for the months of July and August.

He also expects HB1773 (authorizes emergency communications district boards of directors to participate in board meetings electronically under the open meetings law) and HB1702 (directs the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations to perform a study of the state's emergency communications system) to pass.

After reporting on legislative issues Mr. Denami approached the Board about restructuring his contract. Mr. Denami's current contract runs from November 1, 2025 - October 31, 2026 with a annual fee of $85,000 ($7,083.33 monthly). He asked that his current contract be terminated early and a new one issued that would fall in line with the fiscal year July 1 – June 30. He also asked that his fee be increased to $120,000 annually ($10,000 monthly) effective July 1st.

The Board asked Mr. Denami to justify the increase. He cited his success in getting bill SJR0048 passed and the additional duties that will start immediately with the TACIR study. After much discussion the Board decided to take this matter under advisement until our next meeting. They asked Mr. Russell and Mr. Denami to put together a new contract that redefines scope of duties for the upcoming fiscal year. The consideration amount should be left blank. The new contract will be presented for a vote next month.

Adjournment

Upon proper motion by Ms. Hale and second by Mr. Cowan, the meeting adjourned at 3:28 PM.

The next meeting of the ECD Board of Directors will be held on May 21, 2026 at 1:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Mark Lynam