

**ORLEANS PARISH COMMUNICATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, November 17, 2020, 10:00 a.m.
Orleans Parish Communication District
Meeting Held Online Via Zoom**

MEETING MINUTES

I. ROLL CALL AND CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Collin Arnold called the meeting to order. OPCD Public Engagement Specialist, Chelsea Porche, called the roll with the following members present:

Josh Cox (proxy for Chairman Michael Tidwell, CNO), Vice-Chairman Director Collin Arnold (NOHSEP), Lt. John Stelly (proxy for Capt. Donovan Archote, LSP), Dr. James Aiken (proxy for CEO Danny Hardman, Medical Center of New Orleans), CSM Greg Wilson (proxy for Maj. General Keith Waddell, LNG), Chad Brown (proxy for CAO Gilbert Montaña, CNO), Supt. Roman Nelson (NOFD), Supt. Shaun Ferguson (NOPD), Dr. Emily Nichols (NOEMS), Dr. Jennifer Avegno (NOHD), and Dr. Brobson Lutz (Orleans Parish Medical Society).

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (SEPTEMBER 8, 2020)

Vice Chair Arnold asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2020 regular Board meeting. There was a motion made by Lt. Stelly to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Mr. Cox. The Board members unanimously approved the minutes.

III. FINANCIAL REPORT

- Director Morris stated OPCD's revenue is down by \$1.4 million. (This number does not include 3rd quarter remittances or 4th quarter revenue which could change the final amount in revenue.
- There is \$1.1 million in savings from Salaries account. (There was a 3-month hiring freeze to avoid financial impact due to COVID-19.)

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S QUARTERLY REPORT

- NOLA-311 is focusing on supporting City of New Orleans Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness by registering citizens for the citywide COVID-19 meal assistance program and keeping records to ensure FEMA is correctly reimbursing the city.

- The agency began to utilize new technology including Text-2-911, Rave Mobile Safety App, Smart 911, the deployment of Premiere One Mobile CAD to NOPD, NOFD and NOEMS, and the use of FIRSTNET.
- The Louisiana Telecommunicator Emergency Response Team, which includes some members of the OPCD staff, was deployed to Baldwin County (AL) 9-1-1 after the effects of Hurricane Sally effected their call center staff.
- OPCD Emergency Communications Specialists were featured on the ABC series "Emergency Call," which gave viewers a look into what it is like to be a 9-1-1 dispatcher and operator.
- Project Unity, a program that allows OPCD staff to extend their service to the community beyond taking 9-1-1 calls by volunteering in New Orleans.
- Director Morris reported that Police, Fire and EMS public safety responses are down by 63,000, and public safety calls for service are down by approximately 20,000. This decrease correlates with the reduced number of events in the city due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, NOLA-311 call volume is up by about 30,000 calls compared to 2019, and 13,000 more service requests have been received compared to last year. The significant increase is due to NOLA-311 offering COVID-19 related assistance and resources.
- Director Morris discussed the agency goals and projects for 2021:
 - Upgrade Emergency Services Internet Network (ESINet)
 - Bring picture and video to the 9-1-1 center
 - Enhance indoor mapping technology for emergency calls
 - Upgrade 9-1-1 telephony system
 - Deploy a parish-wide law enforcement and jail management system
 - Deploy text to 3-1-1.

Director Morris provided an update on the Emergency Communications Center (ECC) expansion project. Although the Board approved the agency to spend about \$450,000 in the next stage of design of the building, Director Morris decided to hold that expenditure during the pandemic. Also, OPCD has submitted a capital outlay request to the State to fund 75% of the project, which will be voted on in Spring during the 2021 State Legislative session. The New Orleans City Council has indicated they will send a letter of support for the project.

IX. RESOLUTION 20-07

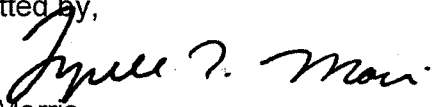
Director Morris provided the Board with the 2021 Budget Summary. The agency is proposing a reduction in salary expense by about \$377,000, primarily due to multiple retirements at the agency and new hires costing significantly less. An increase in operating expenses by about \$93,000 is due to increasing cybersecurity protection and text/video to 9-1-1 services. Vice Chair Arnold called for a motion to pass Resolution 20-

07 to adopt the OPCD 2021 budget. It was moved by Dr. Nichols and seconded by Dr. Lutz. The resolution was unanimously passed by the Board.

X. End of Board meeting

Chairman Arnold called for a motion to adjourn the Board meeting. It was moved by Dr. Lutz and seconded by Supt. Ferguson.

Submitted by,



Tyrell Morris
Executive Director