Metro Emergency Operations Center
Finance Committee/Executive Board
March 31, 2025 – 11:00am
DRAFT

Attendance:

Board Members
Sheriff Joey Crawford
Chuck Boggs
Dave Armstrong
Chris Settles
Jeremy Young for Commission President Ben Salango
Chad Jones for Charleston Mayor Amy Goodwin
Derek Johnson
Chief Virgil White for South Charleston Mayor Frank Mullens
Courtney Kidd
Lisa Moore
Treena Krahl

Staff
Director Michael Rutherford
Dep. Director Russell Emrick
Dep. Director Rick McElhaney
Lindsay White

Guests
Jeff Bishop (City National Bank)
Kenya Perry (City National Bank)

Meeting Summary

The meeting of the Finance Committee & Executive Board primarily focused on critical financial and operational discussions, including the selection of City National Bank as the new banking services provider, updates on infrastructure projects, particularly the replacement of a structurally unsafe radio tower, and a detailed financial review with a fiscal year budget proposal. City National Bank was selected over competitors due to their competitive proposal involving no fees for five years, attractive interest rates, and strong local customer service. However, it was decided to maintain credit card services with United Bank due to their local support and user-friendliness.

The board also discussed the urgent demolition and reconstruction of the Clendenin Tower, a critical radio communications infrastructure that was found to be at imminent risk of collapse. The new tower, engineered to double infrastructure capacity, is scheduled for erection by June and will support public safety agencies, backed significantly by county funds. Discussions around funding revealed $170,000 in the tower fund, with expected expenses and revenue sources such as grants and potential new leases with communication companies.

The committee reviewed fiscal year (FY) 25 and FY 26 financials, reporting that revenues and expenses are generally on track despite expected challenges like declining revenue ahead of recent landline fee increases, rising expenses tied to inflation, health insurance costs, and building maintenance on a 20-year-old facility. Payroll accounts for roughly 80-85% of expenses, compounded by the cost of extensive training for dispatch staff. Health insurance premiums are anticipated to increase significantly, impacting the budget.

The FY 26 budget was discussed, noting a 42% increase in landline fees effective February 2025 and the dependency on wireless and landline fee revenues. Despite rising expenses leading to projected operating deficits, cash reserves are expected to cover shortfalls temporarily, with potential legislative support sought for future relief. The board touched on the inequity in state 9-1-1 funding distribution and the challenges in legislative attempts to adjust it.

Additional operational topics included pending requests for proposals (RFPs) for phone systems upgrade due to Frontier's limited offerings and potential vendor changes, IT infrastructure investments including a costly server room HVAC replacement, and the ongoing efforts to resolve past call dropping issues. The meeting concluded with a confidential discussion on building security and routine approvals for committee positions and budgets.

Motions

- Motion made to approve the minutes from the December 10, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting
  - Made - Chuck Boggs
  - Seconded - Chris Settles

  Motion carried.

- Motion made to approve switch banking services, excluding credit card services, to City National Bank, per bid
  - Made - Chuck Boggs
  - Seconded - Dave Armstrong

  Motion carried.

- Motion made to establish times and place of 2025 meetings
  - Made - Sheriff Joey Crawford
  - Seconded - Chris Settles

  Motion carried.

- Motion made to name Chris Settles as Chairperson of the Personnel Committee
  - Made - Jeremy Young
  - Seconded - Sheriff Joey Crawford

  Motion carried.

- Motion made to name Chuck Boggs as Chairperson as the Finance Committee
  - Made - Dave Armstrong
  - Seconded - Chris Settles

  Motion carried.

- Motion made to ratify the emergency purchase order of $253,320 to All State Tower
  - Made - Sheriff Joey Crawford
  - Seconded - Derek Johnson

  Motion carried.

- Motion made to approve the FY26 Budget and 3-Year Cash Flow Projections
  - Made - Chuck Boggs
  - Seconded - Chris Settles

  Motion carried.

- Motion made to for a resolution to update the United Bank credit card signers to include Mike Rutherford
  - Made - Dave Armstrong
  - Seconded - Chris Settles

  Motion carried.

- Motion made to subsidize health insurance Plans A & C
  - Made - Chris Settles
  - Seconded - Chad Jones

  Motion carried.

- Motion made to approval renewal of support for Motorola VESTA software via Frontier for a 6-month term
  - Made - Chris Settles
  - Seconded - Sheriff Joey Crawford

  Motion carried.

- Motion made to approve renewal of VMWare Licensing for the Metro network for $49,117.44
  - Made - Chris Settles
  - Seconded - Chad Jones

  Motion carried.

- Motion made to approve renewal of VMWare Licensing for the KCPS network (total $88,236 with Metro responsible for one half)
  - Made - Chris Settles
  - Seconded - Dave Armstrong

  Motion carried.

- Motion made to enter Executive Session @ 1207
  - Made - Mike Rutherford
  - Seconded - Sheriff Joey Crawford

  Motion carried.

- Motion made to resume regular session @ 1212 (No decisions made during Executive Session)
  - Made - Dave Armstrong
  - Seconded - Sheriff Joey Crawford

  Motion carried.

- Motion made to adjourn @ 1214
  - Made - Dave Armstrong
  - Seconded - Chris Settles

  Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,