Metro Emergency Operations Center
Finance Committee/Executive Board
March 31, 2026 – 10:30am

Attendance:

Board Members
Chad Jones, for Charleston Mayor Amy Goodwin
Sheriff Joey Crawford
Jeremy Young, for Commission President Ben Salango
Chuck Boggs
Dave Armstrong, via phone
Chris Settles
Chief Virgil White, for South Charleston Mayor Frank Mullens
Derek Johnson

Staff
Director Michael Rutherford
Dep. Director Russell Emrick
Dep. Director Rick McElhaney
Dep. Director Lindsay White
Tara Backus
Lisa Moore
Courtney Kidd
Paul Smith

Guests
Kara Hughes – BTI

Meeting Summary

The meeting of the Metro 911 Finance Committee and Executive Board was called to order at 10:30AM by Jeremy Young. The meeting discussed several critical updates and presentations impacting the organization's financial health, investments, operational budgeting, and future technology upgrades. The meeting began with approval of prior minutes and proceeded with a detailed presentation by Kara Hughes of the West Virginia State Treasurer's Office on the State-managed short-term investment portfolio for Metro 911. This portfolio emphasizes safety, liquidity, and returns, currently offering a competitive 3.85% interest rate through a money market pool, ensuring daily fund accessibility and stable dollar value—important for taxpayer money protection.

The discussion then transitioned to routine housekeeping: electing Board officers, ratifying personnel policies including recent raises for all full-time staff, and addressing contracts such as extending a service contract for an additional two years at a locked-in rate. The committee reviewed financial statements indicating that revenues are performing better than budget, with positive cash flow projections moving forward, partly due to conservative budgeting and vigilant revenue tracking. They noted that the public safety levy is up for renewal, with a proposal to increase Metro's share.

Technology-related expenditures were addressed next, including upgrades and maintenance of equipment and infrastructure. A notable concern revolves around costly but necessary HVAC replacements to maintain operational integrity in critical server rooms, as existing units are aging. Additionally, Metro 911 is preparing for a major Next Generation 911 (NG911) upgrade, with contract decisions and bidding processes underway, anticipated for board decision later in the year.

The meeting concluded with administrative matters including discussions on access security to Metro-owned property amid increased illegal dumping and planning for improved surveillance and physical barriers.

Motions

- Motion made to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2025 Meeting
  - Made - Chris Settles
  - Seconded - Chuck Boggs

  Motion carried.

- Motion made to elect Jeremy Young as the President of the Board for 2026
  - Made - Chris Settles
  - Seconded - Dave Armstrong

  Motion carried.

- Motion made to set the time & place for 2026 Board Meetings, as proposed in the agenda
  - Made - Chris Settles
  - Seconded - Chief Virgil White

  Motion carried.

- Motion made to appoint Chris Settles to continue as the Chair of the Personnel Committee for 2026
  - Made - Chuck Boggs
  - Seconded - Dave Armstrong

  Motion carried.

- Motion made to appoint Chuck Boggs to continue as the Chair of the Finance Committee for 2026
  - Made - Sheriff Joe Crawford
  - Seconded - Chris Settles

  Motion carried.

- Motion made to approve extension of Motorola support contract pending legal review by Chris Settles
  - Made - Dave Armstrong
  - Seconded - Chuck Boggs

  Motion carried.

- Motion made to approve the FY26 YTD financial report
  - Made - Dave Armstrong
  - Seconded - Chief Virgil White

  Motion carried.

- Motion made to ratify pay increases for full-time employees effective 12/29/2025 and purchase of 6 handheld radios from Discount Communications $23,165.00
  - Made - Chris Settles
  - Seconded - Chuck Boggs

  Motion carried.

- Motion to approve FY27 budget and 3-Year Cash Flow Projection
  - Made - Sheriff Joe Crawford
  - Seconded - Chief Virgil White

  Motion carried.

- Motion to approve renewal of Frontier support contract for the VESTA 911 phone system for a 6-month term at $44,439.66
  - Made - Chris Settles
  - Seconded - Chuck Boggs

  Motion carried.

- Motion to approve purchases from OTM Cyber and CDWG for cybersecurity services for $140,522.76 and to approve CDWG for network hardware security upgrades to new firewall security appliances and building-wide wifi upgrade (CDWG quotes of $77,704.00 and $27,812.46, respectively, plus approved allowance of extra $5,960.78 – up to the total grant amount of $252,000).
  - Made - Chris Settles

- Seconded - Chief Virgil White

Motion carried.

- Motion to approve purchase of new computers for administrative staff from ACE Computers for $44,394.00
  - Made - Chief Virgil White
  - Seconded - Sheriff Joe Crawford

Motion carried.

- Motion to adjourn @ 11:54AM
  - Made - Dave Armstrong
  - Seconded - Sheriff Joe Crawford

Motion carried.

Respectfully,