

**COLUMBIA 9-1-1 COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT**  
**Minutes of the Board of Directors Regular Meeting and Budget Hearing**  
**May 26, 2022**

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**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** Board President Anderson called the Board of Directors Regular Meeting to order on Thursday, May 26, 2022, at 9:01a.m. at the C911CD Meeting Room, St. Helens, Oregon and via Zoom.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Rob Anderson in person  
Jeff Flatt via Zoom and Henry Heimuller via phone

Staff Present: Mike Fletcher, Nancy Edwards, Nathan Hughes, Dannell Hooper, Chandra Egan, Maryjo Beck

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Nancy Ward  
Scott Reilly  
Anna Del Savio, Spotlight  
Sheriff Brian Pixley, Columbia County Sheriff's Office  
Senator Rachel Armitage  
Christina Stephenson, Attorney / Labor Commissioner candidate  
Alex Rains, Scappoose City Manager  
Tyler Miller, Scappoose City Counselor

Roll call was done.

**OPENING OF BUDGET HEARING:**

There were no public comments made.

9:02am Closed hearing, opened regular board meeting.

Anderson explained that due to quorum issues, the agenda will be modified to table everything, but the financials and minutes approval.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Sheriff Brian Pixley expressed his appreciation to the City of Scappoose and City Manager Rains for all the hard work they've done to try and make sure they get the right radio system.

Alex Rains, provided a brief statement offering a partnership between the City of Scappoose and C911CD to plan, select and implement a new public safety radio system; the City of Scappoose would fund an engineering report that could assist with determining the best path forward for a radio system. Rains provided a written statement to Anderson to be included in District records. Attached is a copy of the statement.

Senator Rachel Armitage provided testimony in support of the City of Scappoose's proposal.

Employment and civil rights attorney and candidate for Labor Commissioner, Christina Stephenson, gave testimony in support of the City of Scappoose's proposal.

**Minutes of the Board of Directors Regular Meeting, 5/26/22**

**April 28, 2022 Regular Meeting and May 9, 2022 Budget Meeting Minutes:**

Heimuller moved and Flatt seconded to approve the 4/28/22 Regular Meeting and 5/9/22 Budget Meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

**Acceptance of Budget Variance Report – April:**

Heimuller moved and Flatt seconded to accept the Budget Variance Report for the month of April as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Expenditures:**

Heimuller moved and Flatt seconded to approve the expenditures starting with check #30778 through #30821 including the electronic payments in the amount of \$251,640.15. Motion carried unanimously.

**OTHER BUSINESS AND MEMBERS COMMENTS:**

Members agreed to table the remainder of the agenda until next month.

Heimuller: Thanked the City for being in attendance and making their offer; we'll take it under advisement.

Flatt: (Wrote via Zoom chat) Sounds good, thank you.

Anderson: Apologized to members of the public for the inconvenience.

Next meeting will take place on Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00a.m. at the C911CD meeting room.

9:27a.m. Board Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Maryjo E. Beck

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Date Approved

Good morning, my name is Alex Rains and I am the City Manager for the City of Scappoose. I am here today on behalf of the City to offer the 911 District assistance by partnering on the planning, selection and implementation of a new public safety radio system. We are aware that replacing the current 20 year old system is a topic that has been before the board for several months and I believe it would be beneficial if we could work together towards implementation of a replacement system that will meet the needs of the public safety agencies who rely on the system to fulfill their duty to the communities they serve.

This project is a significant undertaking and there are specific concerns held by the City, first and foremost of which is the safety of our police officers, as well as all other first responders, and the effectiveness with which they are able to deliver services to the community. Currently, our officers are often expected to respond to areas where the radio coverage is poor to non-existent, this includes areas within City limits, such as our school buildings and areas outside of City limits such as Scappoose Vernonia Highway and Dutch Canyon Rd. Given recent events in Texas surrounding the school shooting that took place in Uvalde, the issue of radio coverage in schools is more pressing than ever – we must have all tools available to us to stop active shooters in order to protect children and educators in our community. Secondary to safety concerns is the reality that the City as an employer of first responders could have some liability in the event that an officer were to be hurt, or worse, because of a radio system failure. Finally, a radio system that does not meet industry standards presents a recruitment and retention issue at a time when finding qualified police officers is already at an all time high. For example, most agencies in the County are understaffed and are competing with jurisdictions within a short commute that offer much higher compensation packages.

It is with these concerns in mind and in the spirit of collaboration that I come to you with a proposed solution I hope you will support. I've made connections with certain engineers and other public safety professionals who could complete a thorough engineering report that would assist with determining the best path forward for the 911 District, the safety of first responders and public safety in general. This report would not require a financial commitment from the District – the City has the resources available to implement this project. We estimate the report and proposal would take 4 to 6 months to complete and the process would include updates to the District and stakeholders to ensure transparency and inclusivity. The finished product would give all the public safety agency stakeholders complete information to consider and answer many of the questions we are hearing from various public safety agencies throughout the county.

If this is something the District is interested in pursuing, I will need an answer relatively quickly and would be happy to provide additional information if that would assist with your decision making process.

I know this is an unorthodox proposal and that you are the governing body tasked with this important issue and I want to be respectful of that. I am here today because this issue impacts

us all and its critically important for the community I serve and advocate for. Thank you for allowing me the time to speak on this issue.