

**ORLEANS PARISH COMMUNICATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
December 2, 2024 10:00 a.m.**

**Chief Warren McDaniels Board Room**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairwoman Dr. Jennifer Avegno called the OPCD Board meeting to order for Tuesday, December 2, 2024. Chair Avegno announced that today's meeting was for presentations of new Board information and members, no quorum was necessary as no Board business would be conducted.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Executive Director Karl Fasold (OPCD):

**PRESENT:** Chair Dr. Jennifer Avegno, Vice Chair Colin Arnold, LA Senator Joseph Bouie Jr., LA State Rep. Jason Hughes, Supt. Roman Nelson, Dr. Megan Marino, Michelle Woodfork, Dr. Joseph Dyson Sr., Dr. James Aiken

**ABSENT:** LA State Rep. Stephanie Hilferty; Col. Kenneth Donnelly, Col. Robert Hodges; Supt. Anne Kirkpatrick, and Dr. Brobson Lutz

**III. INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

Chair Avegno introduced new Board members Dr. Dyson and Michelle Woodfork as the appointees by the New Orleans City Council.

**IV. PRESENTATION OF THE 2025 BUDGET**

Executive Director Fasold presented the 2025 OPCD Budget adopted by the New Orleans City Council. He reviewed the budget process and described the potential impacts of not receiving all of the requested funding from the CEA with the city. Due to receiving approximately \$900,000 less than expected from the city, ED Fasold described

the trickle-down effect of a future hiring freeze for ECS positions, which leads to gaps in call taking staff as promotions to Dispatcher fill vacancies in Dispatcher positions. He described a shell game of keeping the personnel costs balanced versus the need to pay overtime to keep staffing levels adequate. He assured the Board that OPCD would do its best to work with the staff they've got. Board discussion continued about various expenses in the approved budget, with ED Fasold explaining the status of the questioned budget items.

ED Fasold updated the Board about the renovation costs to buildings on the OPCD site. In an effort to create a reasonable plan for PSAP expansion and structure reuse, he reported that the architects created a building plan costing \$10 million. Unfortunately, the plans for adaptive reuse of existing buildings on the front of the OPCD site as a childcare center have been proven unworkable and have been cut from the revised plan. ED Fasold will distribute the revised architecture plans to Board members at a later date.

Board members recognized the effort made by ED Fasold to educate the City Council about what the OPCD mission was, and to impress upon them its revised focus on answering 911 calls for the citizens of and visitors to New Orleans. ED Fasold stressed that he thought that after a year at the helm of OPCD, employee morale was better, the District was moving in the right direction, and the OPCD culture has changed to one supporting our core mission.

Chair Avegno announced the Board vote to approve the 2025 OPCD Budget will take place at the OPCD Regular Board Meeting on December 10.

There followed a discussion by ED Fasold and Board members about the lack of OPCD cash reserves, stagnating carrier remittances, and potential sources for additional revenue for OPCD operations, i.e. raising local 911 fees, tapping into tourist sales tax revenue, and property millages on Orleans Parish residents.

#### **IV. DISCUSSION OF BOARD COMMITTEES**

For the benefit of the new Board members, ED Fasold briefly discussed the history of OPCD, the struggles to consolidate all emergency communication resources under OPCD, and the changing state of telecommunication technology and its effect on lowering carrier remittances to OPCD.

Chair Avegno discussed her approach to Board Governance and is suggesting establishing a number of committees to assist in running the District using best practices. She provided her ideas in the Board packet including possible committee assignments. She suggests a basic Governance Committee, a Finance Committee, a Personnel Committee, and an Executive Committee. Suggestions from Board members included a

Board retreat, more frequent Board meetings, and widening the pool of potential committee members to include proxies and SME's on specific topics. ED Fasold welcomes any and all suggestions on ways to support the work of the committees.

Chair Avegno reported that a Board resolution creating the Board committees would be voted on during the December 10 Regular Board meeting.

ED Fasold reported that he will present a Board resolution setting the dates for the 2025 OPCD Board meetings for approval during the December 10 Regular Board meeting. A discussion about the increased frequency (every other month) of Board meetings and holding Committee meetings during the intervening months was held.

#### **V. OIG REPORT ON HEXAGON PROCUREMENT**

Chair Avegno gave a high-level report on the imminent release of the OIG Report on OPCD's procurement of the Hexagon records management system software. ED Fasold reported that after consultation with OPCD legal counsel, there was no need to enter into Executive Session for this discussion. Chair Avegno reported on the findings and ED Fasold stated the OPCD staff was openly collaborative with the OIG and has agreed with the recommendations of the report.

#### **VI. ADJOURN**

Chair Avegno reminded Board members of the next OPCD Board meeting on December 10, 2024, at 10 am in the McDaniels Board Room. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by,



Karl Fasold  
Executive Director