

## NGEN Operations Board Minutes

January 18, 2024

| Participants               | Agency                         | Representing                         | Present |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Dave Hober – Interim Chair | Monterey Police Department     | Law Enforcement Agency 1 of 3        | X       |
| Greg Greenlee *non-voting  | Monterey Fire Department       | Fire Protection Agency 1 of 3        | X       |
| Doug McCoun                | Marina Fire Department         | Fire Protection Agency 2 of 3        | X       |
| Chris Bourquin             | Del Rey Oaks PD                | Law Enforcement Agency 2 of 3        | X       |
| Matt Harris                | Big Sure Fire                  | Fire Protection Agency 3 of 3        | X       |
| Bill Mixer                 | Greenfield PD                  | Law Enforcement Agency 3 of 3        | X       |
| Keith Boyd                 | Monterey County Sheriffs Dept. | Monterey County Undersheriff         | X       |
| Brian Johnson              | Salinas Police Department      | Salinas Police Chief designee        | X       |
| Sam Klemek                 | Salinas Fire Department        | Salinas Fire Chief                   | X       |
| Eric Chatham               | Information Technology Dept    | Chief Information Officer            | X       |
| Olivia Madrigal            | Emergency Communications Dept. | Director of Emergency Communications | X       |

### Agenda Items:

- 1. Call to Order and Introductions** – The meeting was called to order by Interim Chair Dave Hober at 1539 hours.

**Roll Call of Board Members and Advisors** – Rollcall taken by Leslie Madrigal and attendees marked present above.

#### **Additions and Corrections to Agenda:**

- Noted that Monterey Fire Department Division Chief Greg Greenlee was in attendance to represent Monterey Fire as a non-voting member. Brian Johnson is in attendance as the Salinas Police Chief designee.
- Interim Chair Hober requested for agenda items to be rearranged for this meeting due to the amount of meeting material and timing.

- 2. Approval of November 16, 2023 Minutes – Action Item – (Attachment 1) – Chairperson**

**ACTION/MOTION: NO ACTION.** The board requested meeting minutes to be revised, not transcripts and presented at the next meeting for review. Keith Boyd made this motion and Matt Harris second. No further discussion or objections.

- 3. NGEN Operations Board Election of Board Chair and Vice Chair**

- Interim Chair Hober suggested it would be appropriate for the NGEN Operations Board to adopt the same newly elected ECD Operations Board Chair Keith Boyd and Vice Chair Sam Klemek.

**ACTION/MOTION: Dave Hober made a motion to approve Keith Boyd as the new NGEN Operations Board Chair and Sam Klemek as Vice Chair. Doug McCoun second. Roll call taken. All members in favor of the new NGEN Operations Board Chair and Vice Chair.**

- 4. NGEN Operations Board Action Items**

- Thomas Montoya presented action item 24-005 (attachment 8) to the board regarding the Presidio of Monterey (POM) is requesting to join the NGEN system. POM is currently using the NGEN system as a mutual-aid partner. Adding POM as a party will allow NGEN to collect additional revenue.

- This action item requests the NGEN Operations Board recommend the NGEN Executive board to approve the addition of POM to the NGEN system after details are vetted.

**ACTION/MOTION: Sam Klemek made the motion to approve the recommendation to the NGEN Executive Board to approve the addition of Presidio of Monterey (POM) to the NGEN system. Matt Harris second. Roll call taken. All members in favor. No further discussion.**

## 5. December 14, 2023 NGEN Executive Board Meeting Update

Thomas Montoya presented an overview of the last NGEN Executive Board meeting.

- **NGEN Executive Board 23-004 Mutual-aid and Interoperability Radio Use Agreement** - the Executive board approved. This will go to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on January 23, 2024.
  - The draft policy that supports this agreement was provided as attachment 9 for this board to review and provide feedback/comments.
- **NGEN Executive Board Action 23-005 NGEN Capital Fee – NO ACTION** – this request was tabled. NGEN Operations Board was asked to prioritize the projects and look at the cost projections over the next 10 years and see if there are other alternatives.

## 6. NGEN Phase-II Project

- Thomas Montoya presented to the NGEN Operations Board the importance of every agency getting on board with this project to help with completion. A report was previously provided to the Operations Board in August 2023:
  1. Phase-I only radios (133) – must be removed
  2. Phase-II capable radios (1,969) – without license, will prevent full benefit of Phase-II
  3. Phase-II ready radios (1,494) – will operate in full Phase-II capacity

Categories one and two prevent the full benefits of the Phase-II project, which increases the capacity of the system and reduces the potential for call queuing. The hope is to bring those two categories to be Phase-II ready by September 1, 2024. The only way to do this is by purchasing new radios to replace 133 radios in Phase-I and, buy a license feature for the other 1,969 radios that are Phase-II capable. The license feature can range from \$185 to approximately \$455. Attachment 4 provides cost breakdown by agencies.

- If agencies do not have the funding to cover that, Thomas and his team urge them to request funds be available for this project in FY24-25 budget request. This will drive a complete Phase-II cutover by December 1, 2024.
- Currently, there are 1,494 radios that can operate fully at Phase-II capacity.
- There will be reprogramming that is necessary for all radios. This can be done at any time by working with these agencies and the Radio team is available to help. Some agencies have their own technical liaison who does programming, but if assistance is needed the Radio Shop is available to help. The estimate is about \$50 per radio to upgrade the firmware, install phase-II license and program the iden-tables.

### *Board discussion:*

The board discussed the information presented on the Phase-II project and other possible options as well as possible grants to assist with these radio costs. Thomas Montoya also presented estimated costs for the agencies for phase-I radios that need to be completely replaced. He also provided estimated cost for phase-II

feature set license fee radios. The board shared some concerns with some of the agencies ability to pay these fees. It was suggested by the Chair to table this discussion and bring it back next month for the Radio Shop to receive some direction from the fire agencies.

## **7. NGEN Operations Board Action Item 24-002 NGEN Capital Fee 10-Year Cost Projections**

Thomas Montoya presented the following:

- NGEN Operations Board approved the NGEN Capital Fee in Oct. 2023, to match the previously approved debt collections in the amount of \$850K.
- This action was taken to the NGEN Executive board, and they asked for alternatives, project prioritization, and cost projections considering financing options or partially paying upfront.
- Thomas provided two different options for consideration where they prioritized the projects based on internal discussion with radio staff and engineers. The projected timeline for these projects:
  1. FY 24-25 (year1) NGEN L3Harris Core Upgrade
  2. FY 24-25 thru FY 25-26 (year 1 and 2) NGEN Analog Overlay Upgrade
  3. FY 25-26 (year 2- pending lease) Post Ranch Site Development
  4. FY 27-28 (year 4) Motorola SmartConnect – Cloud Hosted Option. Tabled at last discussion. The cloud hosted option is suggested, not the on-prem. Thomas and his team believe the on-prem solution wouldn't be the best option, due to having to replace the core again in seven to ten years. The Cloud Hosted option requires a one-time capital cost and only pay a recurring subscription fee.
  5. FY 28-29 (year 5) NGEN Coverage Assessment this previously had a \$3M project for a system expansion, but now the radio team has taken a step back and introduced a full coverage assessment post SmartConnect, for approx. \$100K. SmartConnect will augment the coverage and the team would like to reevaluate then if they will have deficiencies post implementation. This would allow Thomas and the radio team to prepare a more accurate scope of work for possible future funding requests and future CIP costs projections.
- Option 1 would look at partially financing some of the projects mentioned above, and contribute a down payment, followed by annual payments which adds up to \$4.8 million. Included in that cost is accrued interest and inflation which is anticipated to be approx. \$439K. Option 2 fully finances the projects mentioned but will have more interest included, totaling \$5.6 million. The projected interest for this option would be \$1.1 million.
- NGEN currently has a surplus of \$300k funding these proposed 10-year capital costs with either option one in the amount of \$4,850,000 or option two in the amount of \$5,600,000. Thomas presented how the annual collection would occur over the 10 years with either option.

### *Board discussion:*

Vice Chair Sam Klemek inquired about the SmartConnect relying on leveraging LTE on the subscriber units and additional costs as part of that projected costs. Thomas clarified that the capital cost is included for both options, but the recurring additional \$100K would have to be paid by either NGEN O&M fee or charge the actual members who subscribed to the SmartConnect. There was some concern regarding the cost of upgrading these radios for those agencies who do not have LTE capability or those who recently purchased new radios. The board discussed more on the future benefits of Motorola SmartConnect as agencies upgrade/purchase new radios as well as possible costs. Thomas then offered the board more detail on how cost projections were obtained for both options of the 10-year Capital fee. Both options have the same timeline, but at different projected grand total costs. Eric Chatham offered additional comments on the capital fee cost projections and alternatives provided the Radio Shop team as requested by the NGEN Executive Board. After further discussion, the Chair suggested this item to be tabled and returning to the NGEN Executive Board and advising them of the NGEN's capital infrastructure needs, and desire for a reserve fund as well as requesting guidance on how much money is available to build that

plan. The board then came to a consensus that they would recommend to the NGEN Executive Board to continue with the \$850K fee for FY 24-25 while building an operations plan for the 10-year CIP projects.

**ACTION/MOTION: Chief Dave Hober made the motion to recommend to the NGEN Executive Board to continue for one more year to pay \$850K for FY24-25, so the NGEN Operations Board has some time to evaluate what they will do for the 10-year plan. Chris Bourquin second. Roll call taken. 8 members in favor, 1 abstain. No further discussion. Motion passed.**

## **8. NGEN Projects Report**

Thomas Montoya presented:

- **Lobos Ridge Site Buildout (Carmel PD)** – Grant claim process was complete. Carmel PD received reimbursement check. The site lease is pending.
- **Mid-Coast (Glen Devon) Fire Repeater Site** - Starlink lab testing is completed. Field test will begin 1/22/24. Site leases are pending.
- **NGEN Mutual-aid and Interoperability Radio Administrative Policy DRAFT** – Draft document was attached to meeting material (attachment 9) for the NGEN Operations Board to review and will be brought back in February for action.
- **FY 24-25 True-Up** – The Radio team obtained the updated True-Up device count.

## **9. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 1644 hours.