

# NGEN Executive Board Minutes

**January 25, 2024**

<b>Participants</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Present</b>
David Sargenti (Chair)	Monterey County Regional Fire	District Fire Chiefs	<b>X</b>
Steve Adams (Vice Chair)	City of King	South County City Managers	<b>X</b>
Sonia De La Rosa	County of Monterey	County of Monterey	<b>X</b>
Tina Nieto	Monterey County Sheriff	Monterey County Sheriff	<b>X</b>
John Guertin	City of Pacific Grove	City Managers South Peninsula	<b>X</b>
Vibeke Norgaard	City of Sand City	North Peninsula Cities	
Jim Pia	City of Salinas	City of Salinas	<b>X</b>
<b>Non-Voting Advisors</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Present</b>
Eric Chatham or Designee	Information Technology Dept.	Chief Information Officer	<b>X</b>
Lee Ann Magoski or Designee	Emergency Communications Dept.	Director of Emergency Communications	<b>X</b>
Keith Boyd – Ops Board Chair	Monterey County Sheriff	NGEN Operations Board	<b>X</b>

**Agenda Items:**

1. **Call to Order and Introductions** – The meeting was called to order by Chair David Sargenti at 1345 hours.
  - Roll Call of BOARD Members and Advisors** –
    - Rollcall taken by Leslie Madrigal and attendees marked present above.
2. **Additions and Corrections to Agenda:** None
3. **Public Comment for items not on the agenda:** None
4. **Approval of Minutes**
  - December 14, 2023 – Attachment 1 – **Action Item** – David Sargenti

**ACTION/MOTION:** Steve Adams made a motion to approve December 14, 2023 minutes. Jim Pia seconded. Roll call taken. All members were in favor of approving minutes.

**5. NGEN Operations Board January 18, 2024 Overview**

Thomas Montoya presented the following:

- NGEN Operations Board action item 24-001 – Election of Board Chair and Vice Chair – the board approved Keith Boyd, Monterey County Undersheriff as the new chair and Sam Klemek, City of Salinas Fire Chief as the new vice chair.
- NGEN Operations Board Action Item 24-005 New NGEN Member Presidio of Monterey (POM) – the board approved the recommendation to add POM as a new NGEN member. Currently, POM fire and police use the NGEN system as non-paying Mutual-aid partners. Thomas and his team met with POM to obtain details of their quantities and inventory. No action item for the Executive Board at this time. Thomas and team plan to bring this to this board in February’s meeting as an action to add POM to the system and provide the NGEN O&M fee and the capital fee.
- NGEN Mutual-aid and Interoperability Radio Administrative Policy – last meeting in December the NGEN Executive Board approved the agreement template to go for approval to the Board of Supervisors and was passed on consent at their January 23, 2024 meeting. The policies are currently being routed to NGEN Operations Board and NGEN Executive Board and will be brought back to both boards next month for approval.
- NGEN Operations Board Action 24-003 NGEN L3Harris Core Upgrade and action 24-004 NGEN Analog Overlay Upgrade were both tabled until the approval of the NGEN Capital fee.

- NGEN Operations Board Action Item 24-002 This board requested the NGEN Operations Board prioritize the projects, evaluate cost projections over the 10 years and look at different ways to implement procurement, whether it's by downpayment or financing. Thomas and team prepared several options for the Operations Board to consider and looked at ways to drive the capital fee down. Operations Board recommends that a reserve be maintained, avoid reducing collection amount, and took action to approve motion recommending maintaining \$850,981 for FY 24-25 while NGEN CIP plan is being finalized.

## 6. NGEN Capital Fee

Thomas Montoya presented the following:

- NGEN Capital Fee 10-Year Cost Projections – there are five projects that need to be prioritized. Thomas presented a slide with two options. One to partially finance projected capital costs at \$4.9M and the second to fully finance these costs at \$5.6M. This slide also showed prioritization of projects with present value capital costs:
  1. NGEN L3Harris Core upgrade - \$1,832,000
  2. NEGN Analog Overlay Upgrade - \$1,000,000
  3. Post Ranch Site Development - \$285,000
  4. Motorola SmartConnect – Cloud Hosted Option - \$1,192,000  
Previously presented at \$2.6M. After further coordination with Motorola and internal collaboration, a cloud hosted option is available and has a smaller capital cost. This wouldn't require a future replacement cost and would have a lower recurring fee. The reduced amount for this would be \$1.1M.
  5. NGEN Coverage Assessment (System Expansion) - \$ 100,000  
Previously presented plan was a \$3M system expansion, which included constructing sites or putting systems in strategic locations to alleviate any type of coverage deficiencies. Plan now introduces coverage of seven post implementation of SmartConnect, this will augment the coverage and provide an idea of where there still are deficiencies. This would provide a more detailed scope of work and budget to provide recommendations for this board to consider any future expansions.

### *Board discussion:*

- Would the \$3M cost (for site development / system expansion) still be coming?
  - Possibly. Budgetary numbers presented previously were not based on a precise scope of work making it difficult to accurately budget. The coverage assessment would yield a scope of work based on confirming where coverage issues still exist after upgrades. This will enable this board to decide how to move forward based on verification of system performance.
- Projected costs with both options using full financing and partial financing include interest and inflation is applied to projects that are commenced in future years. Downpayments impact the amount of interest.
- A summary of the capital fee amounts that would be required to fund either option and the amount of downpayment needed with the partially financed option were reviewed. Thomas also mentioned that in discussing these projects with the NGEN Operations Board, they recommend that capital fee included a reserve, that would cover items such as future expansion, or any unforeseen circumstances that would require immediate repair within the 10-year cycle.
- This board also inquired about the host fees for the SmartConnect project and if they would be absorbed into O&M. Alex Zheng responded that there would be an ongoing subscription fee as with all other cloud services. The cost sharing of the subscription fee is still being discussed at the Operations Board level. The board then discussed the NGEN Operations Board discussion on

bringing the SmartConnect project forward as part of the capital improvement plan for both the Operations and Executive board to discuss who would pay that fee. Thomas then discussed the future benefits of all agencies utilizing the system as they buy new radios.

- Thomas then discussed with this board, how the Operations Board agrees that funding should be in place for the capital fee and motioned and approved to keep the fee at \$850K during the first year, while a plan is finalized. Thomas then concluded his presentation and opened the discussion to the board. At this time Thomas noted the information provided to this board was for discussion and request this board provide guidance to the Operations Board as to how much the reserve and capital fee could be. Then, a finalized cost plan can be made and brought back in February for approval.
- Vice chair Adams added he liked the idea of building a reserve. Chair Sargenti added for this board to consider what type of options would the board like to see and how would they like them outlined, so direction can be provided to the Operations board and ITD. Sheriff Nieto added, they would like to start building a reserve. The board then discussed on the reserve and what the reserve is for. Thomas stated these would be the replacement of the old master three radios, which have reached end of cycle and replacement parts, which can't be obtained for the vendor anymore. Currently, the radio shop has enough to keep the system alive but will need to replace eventually. The reserves would also include the core upgrades, and replacing servers and everything that controls that system. Also, Harris has produced a new radio, and eventually will begin announcing end of life on current radios and within five to seven years the end of support.
- The Operations Board chair added that none of the recommended costs have been approved or recommend by the Operations board. These are ITD proposals, and the Operations board is yet to make a recommendation, and this is why they recommend continuing the \$850k fee in the next year due to timing with budgets. This would allow for further guidance from the Executive Board on potential funding. The Operations board will then work with ITD to refine plans.
- The Executive board then discussed the funding options again with the Capital fee 10-year cost projections. Sonia De La Rosa shared some concerns about potentially reducing the capital fee and later having to raise it and suggested maintaining the fee at \$850k. Eric Chatham provided additional insights, proposing agencies to pay \$850k annually, which would result in a reserve of about \$4M. He also discussed the possibility of shorting leases to reduce total costs. Eric added, ITD could build any option that this board would like for them to present back to the Operations Board for approval.
- The board discussed and requested the Operations Board to build a plan paying \$850k annually for the projects in the first five years, and plan to bring back the capital improvement plan for revision and review yearly. The Operations Board chair confirmed this was enough direction to take back to the Operations Board. The Executive Board agreed and no further discussion.

## 7. Phase-II Project

Thomas Montoya presented the following:

- Proposed schedule for Phase-II, which includes the following three categories:
  1. Phase-I only radios (133) – ideally all these radios should be replaced before 9/1/24
  2. Phase-II capable radios (1,969) without license feature set – agencies should include these in their FY 24-25 budget, to be procured and installed before 9/1/24
  3. Phase-II ready radios (1,494) – radios have feature set licenses and ready to go. These radios only require to be programmed in order to facilitate cutover
- Currently, O&M budget is not set to provide agency radio programming. The radio shop can install Phase-II license and program IDEN table for \$50 per radio. An attachment with meeting material was provided to this board, which breaks down radio type and costs by agency.
- Thomas noted that this schedule is aggressive and contingent on agencies having funding. The

Radio team will work closely with the agencies and refine this schedule as they move forward.

## 8. Project Report

Thomas Montoya presented the following

- **Lobos Ridge Site Buildout (Carmel PD)** – Grant claim process was completed, and Carmel received their reimbursement check. Currently, the radio team is working on the site lease.
- **Mid-Coast (Glen Devon) Fore Repeater Site** – Lab testing of the Starklink backhaul has been completed, which was an interim solution while waiting for the site leases.
- **FY 24-25 True-Up inventory** – This was completed. Modifications were made and an update should be provided by February for approval.

## 9. NGEN Operations Board Update

Keith Boyd provided the following overview:

The NGEN Operations Board elected Keith Boyd as the board chair and Sam Klemek as the Vice Chair. He also suggested for future agendas, to have the NGEN Operations Board report presented before ITD provides their reports.

### *Board's closing comments:*

The board discussed if representatives are reaching out to the agencies for the Phase-II. It was confirmed that efforts were underway to communicate that the capital fee is coming for budgeting purposes.

Executive board chair thanked ITD for their presentation and breakdown of the NGEN Capital fee and taking direction from last meeting.

## 10. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 1422 hours.