



**NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT
9-1-1 BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING**

Minutes – June 12, 2024
9-1-1 Training Center Room A
600 Six Flags Drive
Arlington, Texas

President, Lane Akin, called the meeting of the NCT9-1-1 Board of Managers to order at 12:30 PM on June 12, 2024.

Members of the Board Present:

1. Lane Akin (President) – Sheriff, Wise County
2. Danny Chambers (Vice President) – County Judge, Somervell County
3. Dave Cornette (Secretary) – Councilmember, City of Allen
4. Kerry Crews – Judge (JOP), Hunt County
5. Roger Deeds – Sheriff, Hood County
6. Richard Franklin – Councilmember, City of McKinney
7. Terry Garrett – Sheriff, Rockwall County
8. Darrell Hale – Commissioner, Collin County
9. Jose Hernandez – Councilmember, City of Seagoville
10. Brandon Huckabee – County Judge, Erath County
11. Paul Paschall – Mayor, Parker County
12. Skeet Phillips – Commissioner, Kaufman County
13. Randy Stinson – Commissioner, Ellis County

Members of the Board Absent:

1. Dr. Jene Butler – Councilmember, Collin County
2. Jeff Hodges – Councilmember, City of Prosper
3. Brett McGuire – Sheriff, Palo Pinto County
4. Eddie Perry – Commissioner, Navarro County
5. Mike White – Commissioner, Johnson County

Members of the Staff Present:

1. Mike Eastland – NCTCOG Executive Director
2. Monte Mercer – NCTCOG Deputy Director
3. Christy Williams – Director of NCT9-1-1
4. Steven Gorena – 9-1-1 Field Support Supervisor
5. Victoria Griffin – 9-1-1 Administrative Assistant
6. Ken Kirkpatrick – NCTCOG Counsel for Transportation
7. Maggie Lira – NCTCOG Controller
8. Norman Marquart – NCTCOG Senior Fiscal Manager
9. Kristin McKinney – 9-1-1 Visual Media Coordinator
10. Hilaria Perez – 9-1-1 Admin Program Coordinator
11. James Powell – NCTCOG Deputy Counsel for Transportation
12. Randy Richardson – NCTCOG Director of Administration
13. LeAnna Russell – 9-1-1 GIS/Data Manager
14. Jessie Shadowens-James – 9-1-1 Chief Administrative Officer
15. Megan Short – NCTCOG Fiscal Manager
16. Tommy Tran – 9-1-1 Chief Technology Officer
17. Melissa Tutton – 9-1-1 Database Analyst II

REGULAR SESSION

Action:

Item 1 Approval of the March 13, 2024, Minutes

President Lane Akin stated that the minutes to be approved were from the March 13, 2024, Board meeting.

Attachment A

Upon a motion by Sheriff Terry Garrett (seconded by Commissioner Skeet Phillips) and by unanimous vote of all members present, the Board approved the minutes as presented.

Item 2 Resolution Endorsing an Agreement with HGACBuy for Access to Cooperative Purchasing Contracts

The Houston Galveston Area Council's Cooperative Purchasing Program, known as HGACBuy, was established pursuant to Texas Interlocal Cooperation Act [Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 791]. The Act allows local governments, including emergency communications districts, and certain non-profits to contract or agree under the terms of the Act to make purchases or provide purchasing services and other administrative functions appropriately established by another government entity. An Interlocal Agreement is the required legal document that establishes a link between the Member (local governments and certain non-profits) and HGACBuy and gives the Member access to HGACBuy contracts.

Becoming a member of HGACBuy ILA provides access not only to the public safety communications services, such as Next Generation Core Services, but other contract opportunities for goods and services available through the cooperative purchasing program. Individual contracts accessed via the HGACBuy program were presented to the Board for approval consistent with the Annual Budget Resolution.

Staff requested endorsement of an agreement with HGACBuy.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dave Cornette (seconded by County Judge Danny Chambers) and by unanimous vote of all members present, the Board approved the resolution as presented.

Item 3 Resolution Authorizing a Contract with Next Generation Communications, Inc. (ComTech) for Next Generation Core Services and NG9-1-1 Call Aggregation Services

The North Central Texas Emergency Communications District (NCT9-1-1) requested authorization to contract with Next Generation Communications, Inc. (ComTech) for Next Generation Core Services and NG9-1-1 Call Aggregation Services.

Next Generation Core Services (NGCS) provides the functions and interfaces necessary to accurately route and deliver 9-1-1 calls (voice, text, images, sensors and video) and caller data to the correct Emergency Communications Center (ECCs) support the geographic location of the caller; and the acquisition by ECC, or responders, of additional data and information related to a call, a caller, or the incident being reported.

NG9-1-1 call aggregation (aggregation) provides an ingress network for originating service providers and legacy selective routers to interconnect on NCT9-1-1's NGCS via ComTech's solution. It also acts as the network-to-network interface that allows ESInets to connect to one another and will work with the NGCS to identify how to treat a call. In addition, this service will allow the ability to bridge with neighboring 9-1-1 authorities that have not yet made the transition to NG9-1-1.

Following termination of the Synergem Technologies contract, NCT9-1-1 staff evaluated options available to meet functional requirement and timeframe objectives for the acquisition of NGCS and aggregation services. After evaluation, it was determined the most expedient and cost-effective option was to procure these services via cooperative purchasing utilizing HGACBuy Contract EC07-23. This will allow access to services from a provider known by NCT9-1-1 and that consistently provides the service level expected in the 9-1-1 industry.

NCT9-1-1 requested approval to contract with Next Generation Communications, Inc. for a maximum eleven (11) year term and in an amount not to exceed \$29,000,000.

Upon a motion by Mayor Paul Paschall (seconded by Sheriff Terry Garrett) and by unanimous vote of all members present, the Board approved the resolution as presented.

Item 4 Resolution Authorizing Receipt of Proposition 8 Funding from the Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC)

In November 2023, Texas voters approved Constitutional Proposition 8 establishing the Texas Broadband Infrastructure Fund. While the majority of funding is for other purposes, the enabling legislation directed \$155.2 million to the next generation 9-1-1 service fund. The Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC) is responsible for distributing these funds to eligible 9-1-1 entities statewide. CSEC has announced the distributions and NCT9-1-1 anticipates receiving approximately \$10.2 million. Staff is seeking Board authorization to accept the funds, enter into any necessary funding agreements, and incorporate into the appropriate fiscal year(s) budget. The funds may be used only for the purpose of supporting the deployment and reliable operation of next generation 9-1-1 service, including the costs of equipment, operations, and administration.

Staff requested authorization of receipt of Proposition 8 funding. Upon a motion by Councilmember Jose Hernandez (seconded by Councilmember Dave Cornette) and by unanimous vote of all members present, the Board approved the resolution as presented.

Item 5 Resolution Amending Contract Authorization with Mission Critical Partners, LLC, for next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) Related Consulting Services.

In May 2021, the Texas Legislature passed House Bill 2911 (“HB2911”) amending Health and Safety Code Chapter 771 to establish September 1, 2025, as the target date for “all parts of the state [to] be covered by next generation 9-1-1 service.” HB 2911 includes new Health and Safety Code § 771.0713 creating the Next Generation 9-1-1 Fund (“NG9-1-1 Fund”) and authorizing it to be funded with “Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under Section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Pub. L. No. 117-2) or from any other federal governmental source for purposes of this chapter.

The Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC) is the administrative agency for these funds and the North Central Texas Emergency Communications District (NCT9-1-1) was awarded approximately \$9,000,000 in initial funding for projects towards the NG9-1-1 efforts. As part of NCT9-1-1’s CSEC-approved application, \$400,000 was designated for operational planning. At its September 2022 meeting, the Board of Managers authorized a contract between NCT9-1-1 and Mission Critical Partners for these services (Item # 2022-09-05). All services under this agreement are related to the execution of NG9-1-1 projects and may include items such as: network design, security policy documentation, contract negotiation, technical requirement writing, and pre-procurement research. These consultants are utilized to supplement in-house expertise and third-party contractors.

Staff requested authorization to amend the contract authorization with Mission Critical Partners, LLC, increasing the not to exceed amount by 25% for a revised total of \$500,000 and extending the term to December 31, 2026.

Upon a motion by Judge Kerry Crews (seconded by Councilmember Richard Franklin) and by unanimous vote of all members present, the Board approved the resolution as presented.

Item 6 Resolution Repealing the Existing Emergency Communications Center Management Policy and Adopting the Following NCT9-1-1 Policies: Requesting to Operate as an Emergency Communications Center, Closing an Emergency Communications Center, Consolidating Emergency Communications Centers, Requesting to Add a Call Handling Workstation, Requesting an Emergency Communications Center Move

NCT9-1-1 originally brought the Emergency Communications Center (ECC) policy to the Board of Managers for approval at the June 2020 meeting. The original policy encompassed the following scenarios:

- Adding an ECC
- Closing an ECC
- Consolidating ECCs
- Adding call-taking positions
- Reducing the number of call-taking positions

All of these changes impact the NCT9-1-1 operational budget and therefore, a policy was established outlining the criteria that must be met to make a change, as well as the information required for a request to be considered.

The Strategic Advisory Committee (SAC) worked extensively with staff to refine the policy which included discussions at several quarterly meetings, creation of a subcommittee, and a specially called meeting to finalize the recommendations. Following the original approval, it was determined that an appeal/escalation process should be included for ECCs. NCT9-1-1 staff has again worked with the SAC to develop amended language.

Additional scenarios and considerations continue to arise that would require policy updates. It was determined that each of the scenarios above warrants its own policy. In addition, it is now necessary to also address ECC moves. This reduces complication and allows for policy updates to be made more easily.

Again, the SAC worked with staff to refine the policies, including discussions at quarterly meetings. The SAC has reviewed and recommended these policies for adoption.

Staff requested approval of the attached policies.

Attachment B

Upon a motion by Sheriff Terry Garrett (seconded by Councilmember Dave Cornette) and by unanimous vote of all members present, the Board approved the resolution as presented.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Item 7 Quarterly Financial Report

Megan Short presented the Financial Status Report for the period ending March 31, 2024.

Attachment C

Item 8 Performance Report Feedback

LeAnna Russell surveyed Board members to gather their preferences for the types of data to be included in the quarterly performance report.

Item 9 Director's Report

Culture Champion – Melisa Tutton was selected as the second-quarter culture champion for NCT9-1-1.

Attachment D

Accomplishments – NCT9-1-1 accomplishments and achievements were reviewed for the period of March 2024 – May 2024.

Attachment E

Quarterly Reporting – Quarterly reporting for the previous quarter was included for review.

Attachment F

Board Attendance – Attendance from the previous Board meetings was included for review.

Attachment G

OTHER BUSINESS

Item 10 Other Business

Item 11 Adjourn

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dave Cornette (seconded by County Judge Danny Chambers) and by unanimous vote of all members present, the meeting was adjourned at 1:41 PM

Next Meeting: September 18, 2024