BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 5761
October 6, 2020
Regular Business

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 5761: PSERN Operator Interlocal Agreement	☐ Discussion Only ☒ Action Needed:
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Approve Resolution No. 1583, authorizing the City Manager to sign the Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network (PSERN) Operator Interlocal Agreement.	☒ Motion ☐ Ordinance ☒ Resolution

DEPARTMENT:	Police
STAFF:	Dave Jokinen, Police Commander
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Resolution No. 1583 2. Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network (PSERN) Operator Interlocal Agreement
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	$ n/a

SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to review and approve the Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network Operator (PSERN) Interlocal Agreement.

BACKGROUND

The **Eastside Public Safety Communications Agency ("EPSCA")** is one of four owners of the current public safety emergency radio communications system in King County. The other three are Valley Com, Seattle, and King County. In 1992, EPSCA was formed as a separate nonprofit corporation by interlocal agreement, whose members are the five cities of Bellevue, Issaquah, Kirkland, Mercer Island, and Redmond (the "Principals") and Issaquah joined in 1993. Each of the five Principals has a seat on the Executive Board which has final decision-making authority on policy issues and oversees the work of the Executive Director.

EPSCA's primary responsibilities are to maintain the public safety 800 MHz radio system in the north and east King County area, and to maintain the handheld radio sets and public safety dispatch consoles that communicate via that system. The EPSCA portion of the 800 MHz system is interoperable with the Seattle, King County, and Valley Com portions, but maintenance decisions are separately controlled by the four owners.

The current system was initially funded by a 1993 county wide property tax levy.

The **Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network ("PSERN")** is the successor to the current emergency radio communications system. Instead of four separate public owners, a single public owner/operator will be created - the "PSERN Agency"- which, like EPSCA will be a nonprofit corporation whose members are local governments (cities and the County). PSERN was approved by nearly two-thirds of King County voters in April 2015. The project cost is $273 million, or 7 cents per $1,000 in assessed property value over nine years.

The new PSERN system is currently under construction. Construction is being managed by King County under terms of the *"PSERN Implementation Period ILA"* to which all five EPSCA Principals are party. The City of Mercer Island signed the ILA in January of 2015.

The new system will operate on the 800 MHz spectrum. Motorola is building the new system and providing the new radio technology. Motorola will no longer maintain the 800MHz system technology used in the current radio system, which was a major impetus for the PSERN project.

The new PSERN system is expected to be fully operational at the end of 2022. The new PSERN Agency will assume ownership and control of the new system at the point the system is accepted – "Full System Acceptance." At this point EPSCA's system will no longer operate, and it will be fully replaced by the countywide PSERN system.

The PSERN Agency does not yet exist. It is proposed to be created one year before anticipated "Full System Acceptance" of the new system. The current project schedule anticipates creation of the PSERN Agency in June 2021. The PSERN Agency will be structured, funded, and governed in accordance with the *"PSERN Operations Period ILA."* The parties to the *Operations Period ILA* are proposed to be the same entities that are party to the current *Implementation Period ILA.*

The basic terms of the *Operations Period ILA* were approved back in 2015 as part of the negotiations to fund the new system. The *Operations Period ILA* terms have been finalized and fully vetted by a team of county and city attorneys. The EPSCA Principals and other Parties have been asked to approve the *Operations Period ILA* in the Fall of 2020.

PSERN AGENCY GOVERNANCE

The new PSERN Agency will be governed by an Executive Board with similar membership to the current PSERN Joint Board. There will be four voting members, each with one vote. All voting members must agree for the Board to act, with limited exceptions (acting in event of repeat unexcused absence of a Board member; removing a Board member; calling for development of a plan to dissolve the agency).

The four Executive Board members are (1) the Mayor of Seattle or his/her designee, (2) the King County Executive or his/her designee, (3) "a mayor or city manager representing the five EPSCA Principal Cities or his/her designee, selected in a manner agreed to by all EPSCA Cities", and (4) a mayor or city manager representing the five Valley Com cities or his/her designee, selected in a manner agreed to by all Valley Com cities.

There will continue to be two non-voting PSERN Executive Board members, one appointed by the King County Police Chiefs Association and one selected jointly by the King County Fire Commissioners' Association and King County Fire Chiefs Association. Each appointing agency is also responsible for providing the name of an alternate board member.

Powers of the PSERN Agency Executive Board will be similar to those of the EPSCA Board.

RADIO RATES (COSTS)

Radio rates for PSERN agencies are expected to be within the range of rates previously charged by EPSCA, King County, Seattle, and Valley Comm. The cost allocation model for PSERN was adopted by the 12 owner agencies of the current King County Emergency Radio Communications System (KCERCS) through the Implementation Period Interlocal Agreement (IPILA).

RECOMMENDATION

Approve Resolution No. 1583, authorizing the City Manager to sign the Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network (PSERN) Operator Interlocal Agreement creating the PSERN Operator, which will undertake the ownership, operations, maintenance, management and ongoing upgrades/replacement of the PSERN System.