

**NWX-DOC-NTIA-FIRSTNET**

**Moderator: Janell Smith**

**August 18, 2020**

**8:37 am CT**

Operator: Welcome and thank you for standing by. Today's call is being recorded. If you have any objections, you may disconnect at this time. All participants are in a listen-only mode for the duration of today's call. I would now like to turn the call over to the Chairman of the Board, Edward Horowitz. You may now begin.

Edward Horowitz: Thank you Operator, and good morning everyone. Sorry for our technical difficulties getting on this morning, but it looks like we are all gathered together. Today we're convening for the FirstNet's Board and Finance Committee meeting on Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 budget. The August meeting to review the budget for the coming year is typically a WebEx meeting, so we are on a standard schedule today. I want to thank everyone for joining us today.

Before moving into today's program, I'd like to spend some time on the announcement yesterday, that my friend and colleague, Robert (Tip) Osterthaler, has been named to be the next Chair of the Board, by Secretary Ross. This appointment will be taking effect on Thursday, August 20, 2020. With Tip's long and successful career of Executive Leadership in both the public and private sectors, he has the right mix of qualifications and experience needed to lead the FirstNet Authority Board into the future, and assure our continued success. Tip is an ideal fit to the Chair of the organization as we move into the next phase of the program. On behalf of the Board, I'd like to extend our congratulations to Tip, and we look forward to working with him.

Robert Osterthaler: Thank you very much, Ed. It's certainly an honor and privilege to be appointed Chair, and I'd like to thank Secretary Ross for the appointment. With the demands our first-responders are facing today, I'm reminded why the visionaries created FirstNet, and I'm proud that the National Public Safety Broadband Network is operational and available to support them in these challenging times. I also want to thank you and the other members of the Board for being excellent stewards of this program. And I pledge to continue to maintain focus on what we're here to do, and that's to support the men and women who put it on the line every day - police, firefighters, and medical first-responders. Back to you, Ed.

Edward Horowitz: Thanks, Tip. With this development, it also means that today is my last Board meeting as Chair of the FirstNet Authority as well as Sheriff Richard

Stanek's last meeting as Vice Chairman. And so it is somewhat bittersweet that we're having this meeting remotely, so I'm not able to see one another in person. But as I said at the outset, we typically run this as a remote. As I've said on many occasions before, serving as Chair is an honor and a privilege. I'm proud of what we've accomplished both in terms of the maturity of the FirstNet Authority, and the continued expansion of the network. I'm excited about what is yet to come.

It's also been a pleasure getting to know and work with National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the Department of Commerce (DOC) leadership. And of course, there is the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) and all the people and the work that gets done under Todd Early's leadership, their executive committee, and the strike team members. And of course, there is the FirstNet Authority organization. They're as committed a group of individuals as I have ever encountered in the private or public sector. Also, I think it's important to mention the team at AT&T who are executing the build-out of what I describe as a strategic national asset.

This all works because of individual commitment along with a dose of technology and a whole lot of work. Maybe somewhat to Tip's disappointment, I'm not going anywhere, however. I've still got a year remaining on my term, until next August. So I plan to remain active, and I'm standing by and ready to assist Tip with any transition efforts that he needs and in whatever role he wants me to play going forward.

Neil Cox:

Ed, this is Neil Cox. I would like to say thank you very much for your leadership, to both you and Rich. Ed, you and I came on the Board together, and you've done a phenomenal job as Chair of the Board. You've been relentless on your pursuit for the Band 14 nationwide, and then navigating through getting the first reinvestment made and the roadmap was phenomenal. So you did a phenomenal job as Board Chair, and I'm sure Tip will do, and looking forward to working with Tip. Rich, on your exit as Vice Chair, I learned so much.

I mean as I've said several times, what makes this Board very strong is the people from the private sector like me, that have been in wireless since the beginning, and then learning from people like Sheriff Stanek on what really goes on in the field and what's needed. So we've had two very strong leaders here at the top as Chairman and Vice Chair, and I do thank you both for your service. Ed, I continue to look forward to working with you through the rest of our terms on the FirstNet Board.

Edward Horowitz: Thanks, Neil. Very nice kind words. Okay, before we start the program, I'd also like to take a moment to welcome a new member to the Board. Her name

is Jessica Renier. She's the new Office of Management and Budget (OMB) designee to the Board, and she serves as OMB's Associate Director for Housing Treasurer and Treasury and Commerce. She'll be a member of the Finance Committee. I'm not sure if she's signed on yet, but will be joining the session later. I'm looking forward to her participation.

I'd also like to welcome Adam Candeub, as the Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, NTIA. He was in that office starting in April and he was just put into the Acting Assistant Secretary position. He was the Deputy Assistant Secretary in April and now the Assistant Secretary for Commerce for NTIA as of a week or so ago. And of course, we're looking forward to working with Douglas Kinkoph as well, as things proceed. So we've had a couple of new changes and new additions. They're all great people, and I'm looking forward to the momentum to continue.

So with regard to today's agenda, we're going to first review FistNet's FY 2020 progress as well as look at the FY 2020 priorities. We'll have a Finance Committee update to present the FY 2021 budget and at the conclusion of the Finance Committee update, we're going to hold our Committee and full Board votes on the budget. There are going to be two (2) votes, first from the Finance Committee and its members, and second from the full Board. There will be a couple of resolutions that accompany each of those.

At this point, I would like to ask our Board Secretary to please call the roll for the Board and confirm that we have a quorum for the Finance Committee as well as for the Board. Secretary, please call the roll.

Janell Smith: Good morning. I'm going to count you as present, Chair Horowitz. Richard Stanek?

Richard Stanek: Present.

Janell Smith: Richard Carrizzo?

Richard Carrizzo: Present.

Janell Smith: Welton Chase?

Welton Chase: Present.

Janell Smith: Neil Cox?

Neil Cox: Present.

Janell Smith: Brian Crawford?

Brian Crawford: Present.

Janell Smith: Vincent DeLaurentis?

Vincent DeLaurentis: Present.

Janell Smith: Billy Hughes?

Billy Hughes: Present.

Janell Smith: Karima Holmes?

Karima Holmes: Present.

Janell Smith: Darrin Jones? Tip Osterthaler?

Tip Osterthaler: Present.

Janell Smith: Paul Patrick?

Paul Patrick: Present.

Janell Smith: Jessica Renier? She should be joining later. Matt Slinkard?

Matt Slinkard: Present.

Janell Smith: David Zolet? Once again, Darrin Jones? I did see him on WebEx, and also saw David Zolet on WebEx as well.

Edward Horowitz: Yes, I heard his voice too. The question is, is he on mute?

Janell Smith: He might be on mute.

Edward Horowitz: Yes, all right.

Janell Smith: Mr. Chairman, we do have a quorum for the Board, as well as for all four (4) Committees.

Edward Horowitz: Okay, excellent. With that, let me proceed into the meeting. Each member of the Board has before him/her the Minutes of our June 2020 meeting.

Janell Smith: Chairman, before you move forward, may I read the Conflict Statement?

Edward Horowitz: Yes, of course.

Janell Smith: Prior to participating in the FirstNet Authority Finance Committee and Board meeting today, the Board members have reviewed the agenda, as well as the Conflict of Interest guidance provided by the Ethics Law and Program Division of the Department of Commerce Office of General Counsel, regarding the conflict of interest standards that apply to Board members. All Board members have responded prior to today's meeting that they do not have a conflict and will not need to recuse themselves from participating in any portion of this meeting. Thank you.

Edward Horowitz: Thanks, Madam Secretary. That's excellent. Let's move onto the Minutes please. Each member of the Board has before him/her, the Minutes of our June meeting. Are there any additions or corrections to those Minutes at this time? Hearing none, I will take a motion that we accept these Minutes.

Paul Patrick: This is Paul Patrick.

Neil Cox: Second, Neil Cox.

Edward Horowitz: Neil Cox? Thank you. All in favor, say aye.

Edward Horowitz: Opposed? Indicate by saying nay. No nays. Are there any abstentions? No abstentions. The June 17, 2020 meeting Minutes are accepted. Madam Secretary, please make the Minutes available to the public following this meeting. Next on our agenda is the 2020 review and as well as FY 2020 priorities. I'm going to turn the floor over to Edward Parkinson. Thank you.

Edward Parkinson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that, and congratulations to Tip, for taking over. Certainly the organization appreciates the kind words, and we look forward to working under the Osterthaler administration, under the Board, and excited for the progress and opportunities that are coming forward with the program.

I do want to spend just a few minutes talking about what we've been able to achieve this FY, and the opportunities that the public safety environment and ecosystem now starting to realize and starting to see. It begins with the deployment to the network, where around 80% of Band 14 build are complete. FirstNet's continuing to verify the information that's coming in from AT&T, but again, this provides yet another significant milestone in the progress of coverage and capacity that we're seeing throughout the nation with a particular emphasis not only on the major metropolitan areas, but rural communities too.

We've seen Band 14 deployed in nearly 700 markets and touching more than 50% of the rural population. As folks start to look at this, the DOC has annual

performance goals that we list, and have provided additional information on Performance.gov. If folks would like to see a little bit more information on the progress that we're starting to see as it relates to these APGs, do visit [Performance.gov](https://www.performance.gov) and you will see the FirstNet tracking around that. With over 100 applications in the FirstNet application catalog and well over 150 devices with Band 14 approved on the FirstNet system, the ecosystems in both of those areas that we put out as two (2) of our objectives back in 2013, when we were talking about the procurements, are well and truly becoming realized.

I think the dedicated resources that public safety is now starting to see in both application ecosystem and device ecosystem, is tantamount to how the authors of the RFP developed the script, and how the combination of this public/private partnership between FirstNet Authority and AT&T is starting to bear fruit. And industry and the marketplace is responding with a true open competition existing in the ecosystem today. You're seeing new vendors and new actors starting to look at the public safety broadband marketplace as a fertile investment opportunity, and one that I know will continue to see additional growth.

On top of that we've received tremendous feedback and continually positive feedback on our 72 FirstNet dedicated deployables. In addition to those 72, we have three (3) flying cows in the FirstNet 1 blimp, which we're really excited to see being put to use potentially this hurricane season. The use of deployables is obviously something one would always want to avoid given that that tends to mean disasters occurred, but it does provide the redundancy and new opportunities for public safety to take advantage of the broadband capabilities that FirstNet is able to provide.

It's one that we're continuing to see tremendous success from coast to coast, and indeed in our territories too. We've also seen a huge push with regards to the focus that FirstNet and AT&T has placed on push-to-talk, and we've seen that with regards to the milestones that we've achieved in this particular area. A long way to go certainly until we get to that point. But, by having FirstNet push-to-talk as an option out there now in the marketplace, it's yet another indication of how we are continuing to really lean on AT&T to meet the contractual obligations that they have set out to achieve and to provide those additional services so that as broadband, as LTE continues to come more robust new solutions are provided to public safety to ensure that they are able to meet their demand to find better tools and resources in order to execute on their jobs.

Back in June, the Board approved our first investments in expanding our deployable fleet as well as creating our initial steps into becoming 5G ready. So we're seeing the process work. We're seeing the recapitalization model, that the Board approved many years ago come into fruition. We're seeing the

vision that Congress laid out when developing the public/private partnership, and we're seeing the benefits of having a FirstNet Authority overseeing the contract and the deployment of the FirstNet system. A key advantage that no other network across the nation can lean on.

There's valuable insight that our PSAC provides us, the oversight and the technical expertise that Jeffrey Bratcher and his shop involve, our public safety advocacy group working with public safety day in/day out to ensure that that direct feedback from public safety is being fed into the program is so important. That's when we see that more than 850 engagements have taken place this year, and when you consider the inability of us to travel to visit with folks in-person during Coronavirus, it's really impressive that we've been able to continue this engagement with public safety.

The credit really goes to public safety. They're in an incredibly difficult situation right now, but public safety understands the importance of having the dedicated resource that is FirstNet, and to ensure that the network continues to evolve, continues to answer the call, and the needs that public safety requires, and that is what we have done. I think that's just a really important step that we've been able to achieve.

And while it might - it's just the fewest words you see on this page here, by conducting our seventh clean financial audit, that's a huge lift, and one that we're extremely proud of in FY 2020. It's something that is a Herculean effort internally from our team, and Kim Farington, our Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and her entire team deserve a hell a lot of credit for ensuring we get there. Ultimately, what does this mean? We're now north of 13,000 public safety agencies with over 1.5 million connections. And, I think when we go back to March of 2017 when the contract was signed with AT&T, to now sit here a little over 2-1/2 years later, the conclusion of your time as Chair, Edward, I think that's a tremendous platform upon which we'll be able to grow.

In the years forward, I think we're really excited about the opportunity and the growth that we're starting to see in the network. All in all, I think FY 2020 has been a tremendously successful year. It's one that I think we really turned the curve and we've been able to turn the corner and really started to see the explosion, if you will, in interest in FirstNet, and now public safety knows they can rely on it; they can trust it. When things do go wrong, we put our hands up, we correct them, we learn from them, and we improve, not only the service that public safety enjoys day in/day out but the customer service that they experience every single day.

I think all in all we're very proud of the achievements that we've been able to make in 2020, but it's about making the next step. This is where in FY 2021 we're hoping to achieve greater things, and it really begins on the left-hand

side there with this contract oversight. No other vendor, as I mentioned before, has a FirstNet Authority, overseeing them, engaging with public safety, making sure that they deliver for public safety. And that's a key differentiator that FirstNet, the Authority, provides for public safety. That is really one of the key aspects of what we're trying to do, but what it does lead into is the stakeholder engagement.

And again, continuing to engage, continuing to observe, learn, and adapt to public safety's needs. The best way to do that is to engage with public safety every single day, to advocate for public safety, to understand what their needs are. So that, as technology trends change and threats to public safety change and as the mission evolves, the network can provide solutions to them in a way that no other network can. That comes from that stakeholder engagement.

Most importantly is taking the data and the information from that stakeholder engagement and feeding it into our roadmap. We have to ensure that we operationalize this roadmap, really empower those six (6) core domains that we have in that document, and to ensure that as we receive feedback from public safety, we feed it into our roadmap, so we can make those strategic decisions internally that ultimately lead to this strategic investment, the fourth bullet point as you see on this slide. We kick started that process back in June, yet we've now got a tremendous opportunity to go forward.

We now have a permanent Head of Investment, Matt Schiller, in place. We're really excited that he's going to be leading the team and leading the process on that front. Going forward in the future, I know that the entire Board is not going to take their foot off the gas as we go into FY 2021. More investments are required, but in a strategic manner, and at that one, two, three step, that stakeholder engagement, feeding our information through our roadmap, and ultimately making those strategic investments that will allow for this process to be repeated and to build a cadence through this process.

Ultimately, we also need a strong empowered workforce and a culture of excellence at the FirstNet Authority. Organizational help couldn't be more important especially during these times when one considers that the vast majority of people across the country are working from home, working remotely, FirstNet Authority is doing the same thing. We have to ensure that folks' mental health, the spirit of the core of the organization, and the willingness to do the job is never taken away. We've got this group of incredible people who are so dedicated to the mission.

Again, I think this is the best mission that we've got in the federal government and I couldn't be prouder to be part of a team that is really leaning in and working hard to ensure that we are delivering for public safety each and every



day. So that's a snapshot of where we're going to be going in FY 2021. We really are looking forward to next year. I think we've got a tremendous opportunity to make incredible progress. And again, I couldn't be prouder of the team that we have at FirstNet. I'm really excited about the opportunity that we have in front of us.

With that, I'm happy to take any questions from the Board, but if there are none, I'm happy to turn it over to the Chair of the Finance Committee, and the soon-to-be new Chair, Tip Osterthaler, for a Finance Committee update on the FY 2021 budget.

Edward Horowitz: I just want to add to your comment here that the contract oversight is critical, and I'm sure that we are maintaining a rigorous oversight of AT&T. On the other side of the equation, AT&T has lived up to the terms of the contract and continues to live up to the terms of the contract as far as I can see. And they are leaning forward as much as anyone can ask of any provider to make sure the network delivers and operates as it's supposed to.

So I also failed to mention during my opening comments, the work that the Public Safety Communications Research (PSCR) does under the leadership of Dereck Orr to help us as especially as we start to frame out what the roadmap might look like going forward. You know, the PSCR's activities providing kind of a leading edge to what might be possible in the coming years. Thank you for that review. I'll turn it back to Tip.

Tip Osterthaler: Okay, thanks Ed, and Ed, both of you, for the updates. We now get to sort of the meat of the matter here for this meeting and that's the Finance Committee update. Prior to presenting the FY 2021 budget I'd like to thank the FirstNet leadership team and their staff, who have worked over the past seven months plus, to develop this document. I'm well aware of how much time and effort they've invested in this effort.

While budget development may seem an arcane process particularly in the federal environment, it is important to keep in mind that when done right, the budget matches resources to the strategy priorities and goals of the organization. This budget does that exceptionally well, and I want to thank the FirstNet staff, as well as their NTIA DOC partners for keeping the focus on our users, the first responder community.

I also want to thank the members of the Finance Committee and the rest of the Board members for the time and careful consideration they've given this as we've reviewed and discussed budget details over the last several months. The FY 2021 budget weighs out the next steps for the FirstNet Authority to deliver on its promises to our nation's public safety stakeholders. Now I'm going to turn it over to Kim Farington, our CFO, who Kim and most of her

staff have done the real heavy lifting in this effort. We'll ask her to provide more information on the proposed budget. Kim?

Kim Farington: Thank you, I echo your thoughts, Tip. My team does an excellent job pulling this together, and I also want to thank all the Business Units for supporting us and helping to create this very efficient budget for FY 2021. As you can see on slide 7, the FY 2021 budget includes \$83-1/2 million for operations, which will go towards supporting the ongoing operations of the FirstNet Authority; \$45.9 million will be dedicated to the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) reinvestment, which will focus on emerging features coverage and functionality to support the public safety's mission and success. The last portion of this budget will go towards the reserve of \$83-1/2 million which is equal to the amount of the operations budget.

The marginal \$1.4 million increase in the FY 2021 operations budget request enables, among other things, continued NPSBN program support to cover necessary contract oversight and compliance monitoring, public safety entities' focused market assessments, and evolutionary roadmap developments. It also enables reinvestment opportunities, identifications and evaluation work scope, as well as activities ensuring compliance to mandates of our Act and requirements of our federal government overseers. It also enables initiatives that are targeting continuous improvements in our organizational health.

The next slide, slide 8, illustrates the forecast for FY 2021 bi-monthly execution amounts. And the fundamental foundational assumptions that were used to build this FY 2021 budget were as follows. First, we wanted to make sure that we had continued measurable progress toward the achievement of our five (5) strategic objectives of our four-year strategic plan. We also assumed and are ensuring that all Business Unit budgets are focused on the achievement of our five (5) FY 2021 FirstNet Authority priorities. AT&T, we are assuming, will likely meet or exceed all of the FY 2021 requirements and revenue commitments of the contract with FirstNet.

The total amount of FY 2021 fees received by FirstNet, will cover the FY 2021 total obligations for operations of FirstNet. The last assumption that we are utilizing and we are ensuring that we stay under it is our administrative expenses. And that is that our admin expenses will be within the assured limits to ensure cumulative administrative expenses to not exceed \$100 million during the ten (10) year period ending 21 February of 2022.

On the next slide, slide 9, I want to focus just briefly on the investment category and allocation. All emerging planned NPSBN investments are driven by public safety needs and referenced in the FirstNet Authority's Roadmap. And as you can see on the left, the roadmap is organized and

illustrated here into a framework of six (6) domains representing groupings of related technologies and capabilities that are essential to the public safety communities' mobile broadband communications experience. The two (2) foundational domains are the network core, which provides the essential intelligence for the functioning of the network, and coverage and capacity, which enables robust and ubiquitous access to the network.

Two (2) additional domains relate to specific public safety features: situational awareness, which envisions real-time access, collection, and distribution of critical information; and voice communications, which envisions high-quality reliable voice communications nationwide working seamlessly across analogue and digital platforms.

The final two (2) domains are directed at tailoring public safety users experience: secure information exchange, relating to the assurance that all access is secure reliable and easy to use; and user experience, ensuring that the interfaces are designed for specific public safety users operational challenges.

As you can see from the middle diagram in FY 2020, our actual investments totaled \$218 million. The two (2) investments that we invested in were first, 5G. Phase One and, two, expanded deployable capability. We do have our investment budget set for FY 2021, but we're not specific on the projects as of yet. They are still to be determined, but, I can tell you that they will be informed by the roadmap. They will be for public safety, and they will be guided by the investment strategy principles and processes that the Board has approved. And, of course, the Board review and approval will follow all departmental processes. With that Tip, I will turn it back over to you.

Tip Osterthaler: Okay, thanks very much Kim. Now we're going to move to formal approval of this budget. In order to move forward with implementing, the budget we need to vote on two (2) Resolutions. We'll start with the Finance Committee Resolution 26. Through this resolution, the Finance Committee recommends that the Board approve the FY 2021 budget as proposed, but before we vote, do any Finance Committee members or any other Board Members have questions about the proposed resolution?

Okay, hearing no comments, we'll prepare to vote on Finance Committee Resolution 26. This is for Finance Committee members only please. May I have a motion to approve Finance Committee Resolution 26?

Paul Patrick: This is Paul Patrick; I move to approve.

Brian Crawford: Crawford will be the second.

Tip Osterthaler: Brian Crawford is the second. All in favor say Aye.

Group: Aye.

Tip Osterthaler: Opposed? say nay. Are there any abstentions? The resolution is approved by the Finance Committee. Madam Secretary, will you please make the following resolution available to the public following this meeting?

Janell Smith: Yes, I will.

Tip Osterthaler: Thank you. Now turn the floor back over to Chair Horowitz for discussion of Board Resolution 106.

Edward Horowitz: Thanks Tip and Finance Committee, as well as for the Finance and FirstNet Authority management team for putting this budget together. I know there's a lot of work that's gone into it by all concerned. The Board is now prepared based upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee to vote on Resolution 106, which is the FY 2021 budget. Now through this resolution, the Board seeks to approve the FY 2020 budget as proposed. Madam Secretary can you please read the operative language?

Janell Smith: Sure. Board Resolution 106 FY 2021 budget. Now therefore be it resolved, that the Board hereby approves of FY 2021 budget of \$212,844,554 for the three major funding categories of (1) FirstNet Authority operations, (2) operational contingency reserve, and (3) reinvestment in network enhancement funds.

Be it further resolved that the Board approved allocation of the FY 2021 budget as follows. FirstNet Authority Operations budget of \$83,460,743 on an obligations basis. Operational contingency reserve allocation of \$83,460,743 an amount equal to the operations budget for FY 2021 and Reinvestment and Network Enhancement Fund allocation of \$45,923,068 on an obligations basis. Be it further resolved that the Board authorizes a senior leadership to enter into the necessary agreements to meet FY 2021 strategic objectives consistent with Board Resolutions 78 and 100.

Edward Horowitz: Thank you, Madam Secretary. Before we vote, do any Board members have any questions about this proposed Resolution or the budget?

Hearing none, were prepared to vote on Board Resolution 106. May I please have the motion to approve Board Resolution 106?

Richard Carrizzo: Motion by Carrizzo.

Edward Horowitz: Second by Stanek?

Richard Stanek: Richard Stanek

Edward Horowitz: Okay, all in favor say aye.

Group: Aye.

Edward Horowitz: Opposed indicate by saying nay. Are there any abstentions? Hearing no nays, hearing no abstentions, Madam Secretary will you please make the following resolution available to the public following this meeting?

Janell Smith: Yes, I will.

Edward Horowitz: Thank you. Before I hand this back over to CEO Parkinson for closing remarks I wanted to recognize Sheriff Stanek. Rich will be retiring from the FirstNet Board after this meeting in order to pursue an opportunity in the private sector. Rich, it's been a pleasure and an honor for me to work alongside you for the last five (5) years. As Vice Chair, you've been a partner and advisor to me as we've worked to realize the promise of FirstNet.

With more than 35 years of law enforcement experience, Rich made valuable contributions to the evolution of FirstNet and helped guide our public safety advocacies from our earliest consultation days through the deployment of the network. He's held this Board accountable to the vision that public safety had for the network and we are greatly served by his efforts. Rich, thank you for your service and we wish you all the best. I'll turn it over to you for a few comments.

Richard Stanek: Mr. Chair and Board members, thank you very much. Well you know too well to my nearly four (4) decades in law enforcement nothing was more important to me than keeping our community safe. It's at the heart of everything we do and honestly why many of us wear the badge.

You know when I was offered a position on the FirstNet Board I considered it to be both an honor and a great responsibility. This was a chance to give back to the men and women in uniform who I worked with and supported for over 30 plus years. It was a chance to transform and revolutionize public safety communications and help modernize police and I knew that public safety was going to depend on the success of FirstNet.

I remember back in the summer of 2016 I had neck fusion surgery, I was laid up for several months, but FirstNet kept me busy. I spent my time working on the RFP. I was proud when later that year AT&T was awarded that RFP. They've been a great partner to us. Six (6) years later Mr. Chairman and Board members, as I retire on my Board seat, I couldn't be prouder of the work that FirstNet Authority accomplishes to deliver this network to public

safety.

And just imagine having a front row seat while FirstNet matured from concept to reality under the leadership of Ed Horowitz, Ed Parkinson, the staff, the Board Chairs, the Board CEOs, that came before and all the Board Members current and past that I've had a chance to work with. Now my time on the board honestly has proved to me that FirstNet Authority is unwavering in its commitment to public safety. I know they will continue to deliver based on what public safety needs from this network. This has and always will be a core value of the organization, and I enjoy watching the continued success of FirstNet as it evolves by and with public safety. Mr. Chair Board Members thank you very much.

Edward Horowitz: Thank you, Rich, and thank you for your service throughout your career as well as on the FirstNet Authority Board. I know that as time goes on, FirstNet has a way of keeping people who have been affiliated with it in our sights so that if there is a need to get something done or some counsel, I'm sure that no one will hesitate from the FirstNet side to reach out and ask you your point of view as we've done with prior Board Members, Chairs, Vice-Chairs, and members of staff. Again, I really appreciate your service and really proud of what you have done to help this organization along.

Richard Stanek: Mr. Chair, thank you I appreciate that. I'll continue to be FirstNet biggest cheerleader. Tip's got a big job ahead of him and big shoes to fill following you Mr. Chair, but I know always up for the task and he'll get it done.

Edward Horowitz: He's probably six inches taller than I am and that helps a bit too. Ed Parkinson can I turn the session over to you please.

Edward Parkinson: Thank you Ed, I appreciate that, and I just wanted to express my thanks to both Chief Stanek and to you. You know when I was fortunate enough to take the acting CEO role about two (2) years ago, I really leaned on the expertise certainly from a business perspective that you bring, Ed, and in a public safety perspective that Rich brings. And I think it's been an incredible couple of years where I've been fortunate enough to share the role with Jeffrey Bratcher for a period - I'll turn to Jeff shortly to make a few remarks - but you know we really we've been so fortunate at the organization and at the Authority to have such leaders over the past five or six years you know to take this project to where it is today.

And Rich, I know I speak on behalf of the entire FirstNet Authority when I'd like to give our thanks to you. You've given so much to this program. You've given so much to the organization. You know your expertise and input that you've been able to provide at every step of the phase, every step of the projects has been incredible. We'll miss you, but again to echo Ed's

sentiments you know I really won't be going too far and certainly look forward to having you in the picture.

And Ed, to you just on a personal note, I'd like to thank you for the wisdom the guidance and acting as a mentor to me that you've been able to provide. You know I think we've made a great team and I think everyone in the audience and certainly staff will appreciate not getting confused between which Ed are they addressing when Tip takes over. That's maybe one benefit of you moving on, but again, thank you for everything. You've been a tremendous role model mentor to me and to the entire program. So many thanks from me. I just want to pass it over to Jeffrey Bratcher. I know he wants to say a few words.

Jeffrey Bratcher: Great, thank you Ed. Yes, I'll echo everything Ed Parkinson said, as well as Sheriff Stanek, it's been an honor getting to know you. And again, everyone I think I speak for at the organization, getting to understand what public safety and the first responders deal with and you bringing that knowledge and sharing that very openly with all the staff and it's invaluable. I think that's one of the key aspects of this legislation that was very forward-looking in having this Board comprised of both industry veterans as well as public safety leaders across the country to help drive and focus on the mission for the staff and everyone here, so Sheriff Stanek thank you so much. As Ed said, gone but not forgotten. You still have our contact and our info. We still talk to several previous Board members as well so look forward to interacting with you as we move forward. I'm sure our paths will cross again.

Chairman Horowitz, again thank you. As Ed mentioned, you're a great mentor and guiding presence as I was serving the acting CEO role for nine months and 12 days, but who was counting? Not me. But thank you for that support and guidance.

I was reflecting back to the Fall of 2015, and I'm sure you recall, but I'll state it here, you were very helpful. And as we were developing and putting the final touches on the request for proposals out to industry, the business acumen that you brought in some of the thinking you had related to how this business model should work since something like this had really never been done before.

I remember those conference rooms at the Houston Board meeting back in December and the one before that. You know I have fond memories of you going up to the whiteboard and saying, "all right guys, think of it this way." So that definitely made an impact and thank you for your service. I know you're not going anywhere for another year or so. Look forward to interacting with you as we go forward.

Last but not least through the new chairman, Tip Osterthaler, look forward to working and supporting you, excited for your leadership of the Board. We're here to support and do what you and the Board would like us to do, and move forward. With that, I'll turn it back to you Chairman Horowitz. Thank you so much.

Edward Horowitz: Thank you Jeff and Ed. Ed, is there anything else you are going to discuss?

Edward Parkinson: Oh I appreciate that. Just really to sum up, we've really been very fortunate over the past 12 months to execute on the planning that Ed and Jeff referenced. And when you think about where we were back in 2015, laying the foundation for where we are today, to have this nationwide network up and running for public safety to respond to things like the pandemic that we're facing, the fires we're seeing out West, and hurricanes have been hitting the territories as well as up and down the East Coast, and down South, it's really important to put everything in perspective of why we are doing this job. And I think frankly it's very assuring hearing from public safety that how this network is helping them to do their jobs to keep them connected and keep their communities safe.

But it's also a reminder. It's great that we've had the numbers we have. It's great that we're seeing the progress. It's amazing to see where we are even compared to where we were 12 months ago, but it's just a great start and that's all it is. I think we've got a long way to go, and a lot to build on and improve upon. When I look at this through the lens of observe, learn, and evolve. And I think that's a really important platform that we're going to continue to adopt, observing what's happening in the field, observing where we are and how folks are doing things where we can do things better. Learn from it, learn from the successes but learn from the mistakes which we've made plenty.

But then from there, evolve and make the progress really execute on the promise of FirstNet. And that's something we going to be doing going forward into FY 2021. So I just thank you, thank you Rich, thank you to the entire Board, and looking forward to looking forward to being here for public safety going forward.

Edward Horowitz: Thank you Ed, with that, I believe we are prepared to adjourn the meeting. May I have a motion to adjourn please?

Brian Crawford: So moved Crawford.

Edward Horowitz: Thank you Brian.

Rich Stanek: I second.



Edward Horowitz: Thank you Rich. All in favor say aye?

Group: Aye

Edward Horowitz: I can't believe anybody would be opposed. And there are no abstentions. Thanks to all of you who participated in the Board and the Finance Committee meeting, and to the audience who joined us over the web and the phone today. Again, congratulations to Tip.

Our next meeting is scheduled for the end of September. It will be posted September 30, 2020. It too will be virtual, and with that, let me bring this meeting to a close please. Thank you, operator, and thank you all.

Operator: Thank you for your participation in today's conference, you may disconnect at this time.

END