



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION  
FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY  
**MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 13, 2023, COMBINED BOARD AND COMMITTEES  
MEETING IN PERSON AND VIA WEBEX**

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) held an open public meeting of the FirstNet Authority Board and its Committees. The meeting took place on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, via WebEx and in person at 9:30 AM CST in Nashville, Tennessee. A video recording and transcript of the meeting, as well as the archived presentation, are available on the FirstNet Authority website: [FirstNet.gov](https://www.firstnet.gov).

## **INTRODUCTION**

Board Chair Richard Carrizzo welcomed everyone who joined the FirstNet Authority’s Combined Board and Committees meeting in Nashville, Tennessee. Chair Carrizzo shared that many of the State of Tennessee projects are on the cutting edge of public safety communications. Additionally, Chair Carrizzo shared that he has met with many of Tennessee’s state and local public safety leaders and thanked them for their support. Chair Carrizzo recapped some of the FirstNet Authority’s achievements over the last year, which included validation and verification of AT&T’s initial build-out of the Band-14 spectrum for the Radio Access Network. The FirstNet Authority team traveled nationwide to validate an initial build out following state plans and contract comments and it is now fully complete. In the coming years, FirstNet Authority will expand and enhance the network for public safety. Chair Carrizzo noted that as staff were arriving in Nashville, Tennessee, tornados were hitting the surrounding areas. AT&T confirmed that the FirstNet network held up as it was expected for public safety without incident.

During the meeting, the Board Chair introduced new Board member Sean McDevitt, and the Board approved the August 23, 2023, Combined Board and Committees meeting minutes, heard updates from the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC), and received a Finance and Investment Committee Update, Advocacy Committee Update, and Programs and Future Planning Committee Update.

### ***Roll Call***

Richard Carrizzo (“Chair”), Renee Gordon (“Vice Chair”), Billy Bob Brown Jr.<sup>1</sup>, Robert Brown<sup>2</sup>, Brian Crawford, Alexandra Fernández Navarro, Kristin Graziano, Billy Hewes, Peter Koutoujian<sup>3</sup>, Sean McDevitt, Warren Mickens, Sylvia Moir, Jocelyn Moore, and Paul Patrick

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<sup>1</sup> Billy Bob Brown Jr. participated virtually.

<sup>2</sup> Robert Brown participated virtually.

<sup>3</sup> Peter Koutoujian participated virtually.

participated in the meeting. Joe Carlile was unable to attend. A quorum was present for the Board and Combined Committees meeting.

### ***Conflicts Statement and Reminder***

Prior to participating in the FirstNet Authority Combined Board and Committees meeting, Board Secretary Jennifer Watts provided Board members with the meeting agenda and Conflict of Interest guidance provided by the Ethics Law and Program Division of the Department of Commerce Office of General Counsel that applies to all Board members. All Board members responded prior to the meeting that they did not need to recuse themselves from participation in any portion of the meeting, therefore indicating no conflicts of interest, and the meeting proceeded.

### ***Votes Taken***

Prior to proceeding with the business of the day, Chair Carrizzo requested a motion to approve the minutes from the August 23, 2023, Combined Board and Committees Meeting. Renee Gordon made the motion. Kristin Graziano seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to approve the August 23, 2023, Combined Board and Committees meeting minutes to be available to the public at the end of the meeting.

## **MATTERS DISCUSSED**

### ***New Board Member Welcome***

Chair Carrizzo welcomed new Board member Sean McDevitt. Sean is a partner at Arthur D. Little, a management consulting firm. Sean brings decades of experience to the Board and will serve on the Board's Finance and Investment Committee and Program and Future Planning Committee. Sean McDevitt said that he is honored to be on the Board and to help further the mission of FirstNet Authority.

### ***PSAC Update***

PSAC Chair Christopher Lombard provided the PSAC update and highlighted the biannual in-person PSAC meeting held in November 2023 in Dallas, Texas. During this meeting, the PSAC heard from FirstNet Authority and AT&T personnel about technology innovations and the future of the network, provided input and feedback to FirstNet Authority and AT&T on several areas including coverage and operational challenges, and toured the AT&T's Innovation Center. Board member Paul Patrick attended the meeting, and he shared that seeing how the PSAC is progressing is helpful to the Board in gaining information about public safety.

Additional PSAC accomplishments included a regional in-person meeting with Massachusetts PSAC members in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where Sheriff Koutoujian attended the meeting. During this meeting, the PSAC provided feedback to FirstNet Authority on coverage challenges and discussed opportunities for future PSAC engagement. Chair Lombard shared that the PSAC's webinar series highlighted the FirstNet Authority's Maui wildfire response and updates on the FirstNet progress meetings.

The PSAC's Tribal Working Group (TWG) continues to meet monthly, and Chair Lombard thanked Board members Paul Patrick and Jocelyn Moore for their participation in these

teleconferences. Recently, the TWG received a FirstNet Central demonstration to ensure that members are knowledgeable of available FirstNet tools and discussed Tribal FirstNet adoption.

The PSAC will continue to meet for regular updates from FirstNet Authority and, next year, will establish a task team to address specific issues. These task teams will be like the PSAC focus teams that worked on Telemedicine and Identity and Credentialing and Access (ICAM). The TWG did not meet in October 2023 but hopes to schedule an in-person meeting in early 2024 in Tucson, Arizona. During the upcoming monthly teleconferences TWG members will share FirstNet use cases from their respective tribes. This information sharing is essential to the operation of FirstNet in tribal communities. The June 2024 in-person PSAC meeting will be held in conjunction with the 5x5 Summit.

### ***Finance and Investment Committee Update***

Committee Chair Brian Crawford provided an update on FirstNet Authority's operating budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024. During the first two months of FY 2024, FirstNet Authority obligated a cumulative total of \$22.6 million. This amount was within the forecasted parameters of the FY 2024 operating budget.

### ***Advocacy Committee Update***

Committee Chair Sylvia Moir shared engagement highlights from the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of FY 2023. FirstNet Authority participated in 1,600 public safety engagements, reached 45,000 stakeholders across the US and territories, and hosted 31 tours of the Boulder facility. In the week before the Board meeting, FirstNet Authority hosted three groups, including representatives from the major City Chiefs Association, Colorado Public Safety, and the Department of Justice.

Chair Moir shared that public safety trusts FirstNet solutions such as FirstNet Central and Mission-critical push-to-talk solutions. There is a continued need for macro-coverage and additional functionality to enhance the overall user experience for operational and situational awareness. The Advocacy Committee will continue to engage with public safety and is committed to communicating the needs of the FirstNet Network.

In the calendar year 2023, FirstNet Authority completed 45 FirstNet Progress Updates (FPU). Some FPUs were in Washington, DC, where Board members Renee Gordon and Billy Bob Brown Jr. attended; Utah where Board member Paul Patrick attended; and the U.S. Virgin Islands where Board member Alexandra Fernandez-Navarro attended. Board members Renee Gordon, Alexandra Fernandez Navarro, and Paul Patrick shared their feedback from participating in the FPU meetings. Additionally, Chair Moir shared that in October 2023, Board members Sheriff Koutoujian and Sheriff Graziano attended the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Annual conference in San Deigo, California. In tandem with IACP, FirstNet Authority provided a briefing at the Major City Chiefs Association and Police Executive Research forum.

In the week before the Board meeting, Board Chair Carrizzo attended the International Association of Fire Chiefs' Annual Technology Summit in Irving, Texas. Lastly, Chair Moir mentioned that the 2024 5x5 Summit will be held June 25<sup>th</sup> – June 27<sup>th</sup> in Chicago, Illinois.

### ***Programs and Future Planning Committee Update***

Committee Chair Jocelyn Moore discussed FirstNet Authority's completion of validation and verification of the initial five-year buildout of Band 14 Radio Access Network (RAN) for public safety. Additionally, 100 percent of FirstNet Authority's contract rural and non-rural milestones have been verified, and all state commitments agreed upon during the opt-in process have been confirmed as complete and delivered by AT&T. Chair Moore also shared highlights from the third quarter of 2023. There are now more than 5.3 million connections on the network, 720 FirstNet ready devices, 215 unique public safety applications, and 1,450 unique solutions deployed in the first three quarters of 2023. In the last quarter the network grew by more than 300,000 connections, totaling 5.3 million connections across states and territories, and public safety agencies participating grew to 27,000.

### ***Closing Remarks***

Executive Director and CEO Joe Wassel shared remarks and highlights over the last year including the FCC renewing FirstNet authority's license; for the first time in Board history, two first responders are leading the FirstNet Board; and the completion of the FirstNet Public Safety Aviation Maritime Case study. Wassel also shared that there is still work to be done at the agency including securing reauthorization, continuing to foster a culture of diversity and inclusion, and completing the final steps of the 10-year investment plan.

### ***Board Adjourned***

Chair Carrizzo requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Warren Mickens made the motion, Billy Hewes seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.