



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION  
**FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY**  
**COMBINED BOARD AND BOARD FINANCE AND INVESTMENT COMMITTEES**  
**MEETING TRANSCRIPT**  
**January 29, 2024**

**Richard Carrizzo:**

Good afternoon, everyone. I'm Richard Carrizzo, FirstNet Responder Network Authorities Board Chairman. Today we are convening the Special Combined Board and Board Finance and Investment Committee meeting. I'd like to thank everybody who's joining us today for this virtual meeting.

Being Webex, I would also again remind everybody to please mute if you're not being spoken during the presentations. We are getting a little bit of feedback right now. So if everybody could check and make sure you are muted. Thank you.

Today's Board meeting marks a major step for all of public safety, FirstNet authority and for the future of this nationwide broadband network. This afternoon we will consider an investment opportunity to evolve the FirstNet network. This will ensure it stays at the forefront of technology and keeps pace with new developments and public safety innovation.

This investment now follows our validation of AT&T's initial build out of a nationwide LTE public safety network which began in 2018 and we confirmed just a month ago that the build out was complete. This five year build out is quite an achievement. It was done on time, on budget, and on task. But as I said last month at our December Board meeting, the FirstNet authority is not done. All we've done is built the initial foundation of what is to come for FirstNet, and we were looking to build on that momentum today. The Board is poised to take action on one of the most significant investments in the network since the original contract was originally awarded. It is a result of extensive planning, coordination and engagement with public safety by the FirstNet Authority, staff and Board. This investment will evolve FirstNet to full 5G capabilities and set us on a path to deliver mission critical 5G services for FirstNet subscribers. This is an excellent and exciting time at the authority as we are in a new phase for the network. We're moving forward to expand and enhance the network based on public safety's evolving needs and operations. Today's meeting is a major mild step in that direction.

Now I'd like to review the agenda for today's meeting. First, we'll review the December 2023 minutes, and we'll vote on them. We'll then vote on two Finance and Investment Committee resolutions and two Board Resolutions related to the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget and Network Investments. At this time, I'd like to ask our Board Secretary, Jennifer Watts, to call roll for the board and confirm that each committee has a quorum. Madam Secretary, please call the roll and then read the conflicts of interest statement, please.

**Jennifer Watts:**

Ok. Chief Carrizzo, I will mark you as present.

**Richard Carrizzo:**

Thank you.

**Jennifer Watts:**

Renee Gordon

**Renee Gordon:**

Present.

**Jennifer Watts:**

Billy Bob Brown. Jr.

**Billy Bob Brown Jr.:**

Present.

**Jennifer Watts:**

Robert Brown

**Robert Brown:**

Present.

**Jennifer Watts:**

Joe Carlile

**Joe Carlile:**

Present.

**Jennifer Watts:**

Brian Crawford.

**Jennifer Watts:**

Alexandra Fernandez-Navarro

**Alexandra Fernandez-Navarro:**

Present.

**Jennifer Watts:**

Kristen Graziano

**Kristin Graziano:**

Present.

**Jennifer Watts:**

Kristin, can you also confirm you have no conflicts for today's meeting?

**Kristin Graziano:**

I have no conflicts. I did e-mail that.

**Jennifer Watts:**

Ok. Thank you. Billy Hewes.

**Billy Hewes:**

Present.

**Jennifer Watts:**

Peter Koutoujian.

**Peter Koutoujian:**

Present.

**Jennifer Watts:**

Sean McDevitt

**Sean McDevitt**

Present.

**Jennifer Watts:**

Warren Mickens

**Warren Mickens:**

Present.

**Jennifer Watts:**

Sylvia Moir.

**Sylvia Moir:**

Present.

**Jennifer Watts:**

Jocelyn Moore.

**Jocelyn Moore:**

Present.

**Jennifer Watts:**

Paul Patrick

**Paul Patrick:**

Present.

**Jennifer Watts:**

Ok. Thank you, Mr. Chair. We do have a quorum for the Board as well As for the Finance and Investment Committee. Now I will read the I'll read the conflict statement prior to participating in the FirstNet Authority Combined Board and Committees 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 the 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 participation in any portion of this meeting. Thank you.

**Richard Carrizzo:**

Thank you, Jennifer. I appreciate all the board members that are on today. It means a lot to be here today and on this afternoon. I know in front of you, you should all have the minutes of our December meeting. Are there any additions, corrections of those meetings at this time? And I just ask you to speak up because I don't think we have a hand raising option today. OK. Hearing none. I take a motion that we accept these minutes. If somebody could take a motion, give me a motion for today's minutes for December 2023.

**Kristin Graziano:**

Chairman Carrizzo, Kristin Graziano. I'll make a motion we accept the minutes from December.

**Richard Carrizzo:**

Thank you. Do we have a second?

**Paul Patrick.**

Yes, this is Paul Patrick. I second the motion.

**Richard Carrizzo:**

Thank you all in favor of those minutes. Say aye.

**All:**

Aye.

**Richard Carrizzo:**

Anyone opposed Say, nay. Do we have any abstentions? Hearing none the December minutes are accepted. Madam Secretary, please make the minutes available to the public following this meeting. At this time, I'd like our Finance and Investment Committee member Jocelyn Moore to give us an update.

**Jocelyn Moore:**

Thank you, Chief Carrizo Finance and Investment Committee Chair Brian Crawford is

unable to join us for the full meeting today and asked me to present highlights of the proposed Network Evolution Investment on his behalf and I am happy to do so. After brief investment highlights, we will proceed to overviews and votes on both Finance and Investment Committee Resolution 34, Recommendation on Revised Fiscal Year 2024 Budget and Resolution 35, Recommendation on Network Investments. Building upon FirstNet Authority's previous investments to enable 5G services and enhanced coverage for public safety I am doubly pleased as a member of the Finance and Investment Committee and as Chair of the Programs and Future Planning Committee to announce that we are planning to further evolve the NPSBN through a series of strategic investments in technology upgrades starting this year. These investments will ensure that the network not only maintains parity with other commercial service providers but is also able to support the full suite of evolving 5G enabled services, features and capabilities to meet Public Safety's operational needs.

In addition, over time, the Network's Band 14 Spectrum Public Safety's dedicated nationwide spectrum will be transitioned to 5G Technology and upgrades will be made to the dedicated fleet of deployables and enhanced mission critical services that are provided over the network. Finally, these strategic investments will allow FirstNet to proactively implement future network upgrades, including for 6G and beyond to benefit public safety. I am incredibly excited about today's announcement and the future capabilities that a fully 5G enabled network will unlock for the benefit of Public Safety. The faster speeds, lower latency and future advances enabled by 5G technology will once again revolutionize how public safety uses the NPSBN to perform their mission critical duties. Next slide please.

Before we move to a vote on the two Finance and Investment Committee resolutions related to the FY24 Budget and Network Investments, a note of gratitude to the staffs at AT&T and at the Authority for their tireless efforts to get us here today, often working through the holidays to get this done. So, a note of thanks to all of you who made this happen. So, with that, we will move to Finance and Investment Committee Resolution 34 Recommendation on Revised Fiscal Year 2024 Budget.

Resolution 34 documents the Committee's acknowledgement that the FirstNet Authority expects to collect an additional \$285,690,784. Further, Resolution 34 documents the Committee's acknowledgement to increase the Fiscal Year 2024 budget total from \$450,868,617 per Board Resolution 115 to \$736,559,401 dollars inclusive of additional recoveries from Fiscal Year 23.

Finally, Resolution 34 documents the Committee's acknowledgement to increase the Fiscal Year 2024 allocation for the Reinvestment and Network Enhancement Fund from \$260,878,400 per board Resolution 115 to \$546,569,184.

Before we vote, do any Finance and Investment Committee members have any questions about the proposed resolution? Seeing none, we're prepared to vote on Finance and Investment Committee Resolution 34. Madam Secretary, would you please read the operative language?

**Jennifer Watts:**  
Certainly.

Now there therefore be it resolved that the Finance and Investment Committee hereby recommends that the FirstNet Authority Board approve First Net Authority management's revised Fiscal year 2024 budget of \$736,559,401 and allocation of \$546,569,184 to the Reinvestment and Network Enhancement Fund.

**Jocelyn Moore:**

Thank you. May I have a motion to approve Finance and Investment Committee Resolution 34 from a Finance and Investment Committee member.

**Sean McDevitt:**

This is Sean McDevitt. I motion to approve.

**Jocelyn Moore:**

Thank you, Sean. Is there a second?

**Joe Carlile:**

This is Joe Carlile. I second the motion.

**Jocelyn Moore:**

Thank you, Joe. All in favor. Respond by saying aye.

**All:**

Aye.

**Jocelyn Moore:**

All opposed. Indicate by saying nay. Are there any abstentions? The resolution is adopted. Madam Secretary, please make the resolution available to the public following this meeting. Next slide please.

Finance and Investment Committee Resolution 35, Recommendation on Network Investments, -inaudible background noise-. And I need you to mute. Can everyone please mute? Thank you.

Resolution 35 documents the Committee's having been briefed on the material items for reinvestment into the NPSBN. The resolution then recommends the Board approve the material items for reinvestment into the NPSBN.

That would provide a network evolution capability to subscribers of the NPSBN and directs management to take all actions necessary to obtain these services and to obligate the necessary funds through Fiscal Year 2024.

Before we vote, do any Finance and Investment Committee members have any questions about the proposed resolution? Hearing none, we're prepared to vote on Finance and Investment Committee Resolution 35. Madam Secretary, would you please read the operative language.

**Jennifer Watts:**

Now, therefore be it resolved that the Finance and Investment Committee recommends to the Board that it approve the material items for reinvestment into the NPSBN. That would provide a Network Evolution capability subscribers of the NPSBN and directs management to take all actions necessary to obtain these services and to obligate the necessary funds through Fiscal Year 2024.

**Jocelyn Moore:**

Thank you. May I have a motion to approve Finance and Investment committee Resolution 35 from a Finance and Investment Committee Member.

**Joe Carlile:**

Madam Chair, this is Joe Carlile. I move that the Committee adopt Resolution 35.

**Joe Carlile:**

Thank you, Joe.

**Jocelyn Moore:**

Is there a second?

**Sean McDevitt:**

Sean McDevitt, I second the motion.

**Jocelyn Moore:**

Thank you, Sean. All those in favor respond by saying aye.

**All:**

Aye

**Jocelyn Moore:**

All opposed respond by saying nay. Are there any abstentions? The resolution is adopted.

Madam Secretary, will you please make the resolution available to the public following this meeting?

**Jennifer Watts:**

Yes, I will do so.

**Jocelyn Moore:**

Thank you, Madam Secretary. Mr. Chairman, that concludes the Committee's business for today. I'll hand the floor back over to you.

**Richard Carrizzo:**

Thank you, Jocelyn. To move forward with the revised Fiscal Year 2024 budget, the Board is now prepared to vote on Resolution 116. This resolution acknowledges the expectation to receive additional income in Fiscal Year 2024 approve senior leaderships increase in the

Fiscal Year 2024 budget total inclusive of additional recoveries from year end 2023 and approve senior leadership allocations to this increase to the Reinvestment and Network Enhancement funding. Before we vote, do any Board members have any questions about the proposed resolution? Hearing none we're prepared to vote on resolution Board resolution 116.

Madam Secretary, would you please read the operative language?

**Jennifer Watts:**

Certainly. Now therefore be it resolved that the FirstNet Authority Board approve FirstNet Authority Management's revised Fiscal Year 2024 budget of \$736,559,401 and allocation of \$546,569,184 to the Reinvestment and Network Enhancement Fund.

**Richard Carrizzo:**

Thank you. May I have a motion to approve Board Resolution 116?

**Kristin Graziano:**

Chairman, this is Kristin. I make a motion to approve Board Resolution 116.

**Richard Carrizzo:**

Is there a second?

**Warren Mickens:**

Yes, this is Warren Mickens. I second the motion.

**Richard Carrizzo:**

Thank you. All in favor, say aye.

**All:**

Aye.

**Richard Carrizzo:**

All opposed Indicate by saying nay. Do we have any abstentions? Therefore, the resolution is adopted. Madam Secretary, please make the resolution available to the public following this meeting.

Next, we are now prepared to vote on Resolution 117. This resolution allows for the FirstNet Authority to implement a Network elevation, evolution capability to subscribers on the National Public Safety Broadband Network. Before we vote, do any Board members have any questions about the proposed language? Hearing none, we're prepared to vote on Board Resolution 117. Madam Secretary, would you please read the language.

**Jennifer Watts:**

Now therefore be it resolved that the Board hereby approves the material items for reinvestment into the NPSBN that would provide a Network Evolution capability to subscribers of the NPSBN and directs management to take all actions necessary to obtain these services and to obligate the necessary funds through Fiscal Year 2024.

**Richard Carrizzo:**

Thank you. May I have a motion to approve Board resolution 117. Looking for a motion to approve Board resolution 117.



**Paul Patrick:**

This is Paul, Board member Paul Patrick. I motion to approve.

**Richard Carrizzo:**

Great, Thank you Paul. Is there a second?

**Peter Koutoujian:**

This is Peter Koutoujian and I second the motion.

**Richard Carrizzo:**

Thank you, Peter. All in favor, say aye.

**All:**

Aye.

**Richard Carrizzo:**

Anyone opposed indicate by saying nay. Do we have any abstentions? Therefore, the resolution is adopted. Madam Secretary, please make the Resolution available to the public following this meeting. At this time, I'd like to hand the meeting over to our Executive Director, Joe Wassel, to have a few words said.

**Joe Wassel:**

Thank you Chairman Carrizzo. I will keep this short, but it'll be hard for me to control my enthusiasm.

This is an amazing day for the FirstNet Authority, the Board, all of our stakeholders and the five and a half million customers we've got across the area of responsibility from Guam in the Pacific all the way over to the Virgin Islands. But I'd truly like to thank to echo some of the comments earlier to thank the staff and all those involved with this approval process and getting us where we are, 200 or two years worth of work plus and thousands of staff hours to get us where we are.

All of that culminating with the Board's oversight guidance and direction and approval of this. I just really can't overstate how excited the entire team is to take these Resolutions and get into FirstNet 3.0. As you said, Chief, this is just the beginning. There's so much more to do and we're excited about what's next. Thank you for letting me be part of this today and saying a few words. I'd just like to congratulate everyone that's on, others that are out in the missionary that can't be on with us today. I'm glad we're recording this and sharing it with the public. So, it's an honor to serve and thank you very much.

**Richard Carrizzo:**

Thank you Joe. Yes, it's it is overly exciting. I hope all the board members are just as excited as I am. This is major and we are excited for to keep doing what we do for public safety. And I and I thank you for what you're doing Joe. At this time, I think we're prepared to adjourn this meeting. Unless anybody else has anything else before we look for a motion hearing none, I would look for a motion to adjourn this meeting.

**Jocelyn Moore:**

Mr. Chairman, this is Jocelyn Moore, and I just want to echo milestone meeting for a milestone moment I motion, I move to adjourn the meeting.

**Richard Carrizzo:**

Thank you, Jocelyn. Do I have a second?

**Sylvia, Moir:**

Sylvia Moir. I second.

**Richard Carrizzo:**

All those in favor say aye.

**All:**

Aye.

**Richard Carrizzo:**

Do we have anyone opposed? Please say nay. Any abstentions hearing none.

I want to thank everybody who participated in today's meeting. Thank all the board members for their continued support and all the hard work that they do. Really want to thank all the staff for everything they've done to make this meeting possible and everything we've done to move this forward. So, with that, I now consider this meeting adjourned. Thank you all.