



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION  
FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY  
**MINUTES OF THE JUNE 24, 2024**  
**COMBINED BOARD AND BOARD COMMITTEES MEETING**

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) held a public Combined Board and Committees meeting on Monday, June 24, 2024, in person and via Webex at 10:30 AM CST in Chicago, Illinois. 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).

Board Chair Richard Carrizzo welcomed everyone and introduced Sarah Morris, the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and Deputy Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. Chair Carrizzo also extended a welcome to attendees at 5x5: The Public Safety Innovation Summit co-hosted with the National Institute of Standards and Technology Public Safety Communications and Research Division.

During the meeting, the Board discussed the proposed resolutions for the FY 2025 budget, FirstNet Authority priorities for the upcoming fiscal year, and received updates from the Public Safety Advisory, Finance and Investment, Advocacy, and Programs and Future Planning committees.

***Roll Call***

Richard Carrizzo (“Chair”), Renee Gordon (“Vice Chair”), Billy Bob Brown Jr., Joe Carlile, Brian Crawford, Alexandra Fernández Navarro, Kristin Graziano, Billy Hewes, Peter Koutoujian, Sean McDevitt, Warren Mickens, Sylvia Moir, Jocelyn Moore, and Paul Patrick participated.<sup>1</sup> A quorum was present for the Combined Board and Committees meeting.

***Conflicts Statement and Reminder***

Prior to participating in the FirstNet Authority Combined Board and Committees meeting, Board Secretary Jennifer Watts sent Board members 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 March 6, 2024, Combined Board and Committees Meeting. Alexandra Fernández Navarro made the motion. Peter Koutoujian seconded the motion, and the Board

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<sup>1</sup> Renee Gordon and Sylvia Moir participated virtually.

unanimously voted to approve the March 6, 2024, Combined Board and Committees meeting minutes and make them available to the public at the end of the meeting.

The Finance and Investment Committee voted to approve Finance and Investment Committee Resolution 36 – Recommendation on Fiscal Year 2025 Budget.

- Billy Hewes motioned to approve Finance and Investment Committee Resolution 36 – Recommendation on Fiscal Year 2025 Budget, Joe Carlile seconded, and the Finance and Investment Committee unanimously voted to approve the resolution.

The Board voted to approve Resolution 118 – Fiscal Year 2025 Budget.

- Paul Patrick motioned to approve Board Resolution 118 – Fiscal Year 2025 Budget, Sean McDevitt seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to approve the resolution.

### ***FirstNet Authority 2025 Priorities***

FirstNet Authority Executive Director and CEO Joe Wassel stated that the FirstNet Authority priorities include preparations for congressional Reauthorization and strategic planning for the next five years and beyond with continued coverage enhancements and Network evolution.

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

Committee Chair Brian Crawford reported that through May of FY 2024, the FirstNet Authority obligated a cumulative total of \$56.1 million and is tracking well within forecasted parameters of the FY 2024 Operational Budget. He also highlighted that for the 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, independent auditors have provided an unmodified opinion on the First Responder Network Authority's FY 2023 financial statements.

The FirstNet Authority forecasts \$684 million of available funds in FY 2025, which come from a combination of fees from AT&T and unobligated funds that will roll over from FY 2024. The FirstNet Authority completed a zero-based budget formulation process to yield the amounts of its proposed FY 2025 Operational Budget. The Finance and Investment Committee reviewed and considered several alternatives for the funds balance to be held in the Operational Contingency Reserve Fund with the intent to maximize funds available for reinvestment in the National Public Safety Broadband Network and maintain a fund balance in the Operational Contingency Reserve commensurate with the risk of the congressional mandate to be self-sustaining, deciding on an amount equal to 50 percent of the FY 2025 Operations Budget.

Mr. Crawford led the Finance and Investment Committee in a vote to adopt Finance and Investment Committee Resolution 36, Recommendation on Fiscal Year 2025 Budget, proposing to allocate \$684,297,357 dollars in FY 2025 resources into three funding categories: \$100,193,766 in Operations on an obligations basis, \$50,096,883 in Operational Contingency Reserve equal to 50 percent of the FY 2025 Operations Budget, and \$534,006,708 in Reinvestment in Network Enhancement funds on an obligations basis plus or minus any budgetary source delivered in FY 2025, including fiscal year end 2024 reconciliation.

Board Chair Carrizzo led the Board in a vote on Board Resolution 118, FY 2025 Budget, which requested to allocate \$684,297,357 in FY 2025 resources into three funding categories: \$100,193,766 in Operations on an obligation basis, \$50,096,883 in Operational Contingency Reserve equal to fifty percent of the FY 2025 Operations Budget, and \$534,006,708 in Reinvestment in Network Enhancement Fund.

The Committee members approved Finance and Investment committee Resolution 36, and the Board approved Board Resolution 118.

### ***PSAC Update***

PSAC Chair Chris Lombard provided an update on PSAC accomplishments over the previous quarter. Several PSAC members participated in Spring conferences focusing on such topics as technology and community risk reduction, and Tribal Advisory Group members continued to attend tribal events nationwide. During a visit to Seattle, PSAC Chair Lombard was able to show Board Chair Carrizzo and Executive Director Wassel how information from incoming calls to a 911 center is transmitted using FirstNet to mobile devices in the field and then returns through the 911 center back into different databases.

PSAC members received a brief from FirstNet Authority staff about visits to the Pacific territories and upcoming events including the 2026 World Cup FIFA soccer games. Chief Lombard noted it was good to hear about efforts to improve the notification process regarding FirstNet outages. The associations represented on the PSAC will continue to meet this summer during some of their annual conferences. Chief Lombard acknowledged that FirstNet Authority Board member and staff participation at the events is welcome.

### ***Advocacy Committee Updates***

Committee Chair Sylvia Moir reported on second quarter highlights and engagements with public safety stakeholders across the country to offer education and awareness as well as gather feedback on the Network and FirstNet experience.

The team participated in more than 400 public safety engagements and reached 13,400 stakeholders across all 56 states and territories. During the second quarter, the team hosted 9 public safety tours at Boulder facility to demonstrate FirstNet capabilities to 31 visitors. Earlier this month, the Boulder team also hosted the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Missouri Valley Division leadership team. Public safety feedback was collected on their use of FirstNet. Top concerns were operational needs, expansion, and enhancing the network based on public safety's needs. Continued engagements with public safety reveal that macro coverage remains a primary stakeholder ask closely followed by an increased focus and interest on network availability. Public safety continues to demand high speed data connectivity to deliver real time situational awareness data to first responders, as well as suggest additional functionalities for existing solutions to further enhance their overall user experience and usability for various operational scenarios. The FirstNet Authority will continue engagements with public safety and is committed to driving their unique communication needs into the FirstNet network.

In May, Board members Jocelyn Moore and Alexandra Fernández Navarro and Executive Director Wassel visited Puerto Rico as well as St. Thomas and St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands for several engagements with local territorial leadership and staff. During these engagements, the

team provided FirstNet education while gathering detailed actionable feedback from stakeholders. The team was also able to identify immediate opportunities to effect change and is actively working with FirstNet AT&T and local representatives to resolve some outstanding concerns.

Chair Moir concluded by highlighting the upcoming 5x5 Summit, which will include presentations of the Chief Harlin R. McEwen Public Safety Broadband Communications Award, as well as the second annual Patriot Awards. The Summit, co-hosted by FirstNet Authority and PSCR, provides attendees with unique insights to public safety technology use, ongoing innovation, and cutting-edge research and development. Attendees also have opportunities to provide direct input and feedback on current and future public safety communications, operational needs and research and development.

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

Committee Chair Jocelyn Moore noted that FirstNet Authority has crossed a major threshold with 6 million connections on the network leveraging hundreds of the most current devices and over 220 unique public safety applications. The impact of expanded coverage, network investments, and innovation have been a catalyst for public safety to adopt the solution that was specifically designed for their use. We continue to see a growing number of agencies and subscribers who trust their cellular communications to FirstNet. The progression is due to coverage, always on priority and preemption, a broad and diverse device ecosystem, the mission critical applications, our ability to put temporary coverage anywhere in the nation at no cost, as well as our commitment to the underserved.

### ***Closing Remarks***

Mr. Wassel thanked the Board for its approval of the FY 2025 budget and noted that it is a major investment in public safety, including over \$500 million for the continued coverage enhancement and network evolution. Mr. Wassel reminded the Board meeting attendees of the multiple emergency response operations happening nationwide where the FirstNet Authority is supporting public safety, as many prepare to attend the 2024 5x5 Summit, one of the few conferences that includes every discipline of public safety. He also shared that five years ago this month, the Network was at 600,000 connections as opposed to 6 million plus today, and at 7,200 agencies as opposed to 28,000 today, and continued vision, innovation, and partnership will guide the Authority and the FirstNet Network through Reauthorization, 2029 and beyond.

### ***Board Adjourned***

Chair Carrizzo requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Board member designee, Billy Bob Brown Jr. made the motion for adjournment, Warren Mickens seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.