

**FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY  
MINUTES OF THE MARCH 15th, 2018  
BOARD MEETING  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, AND TELECONFERENCE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

On March 15th, 2018, the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) held an open public meeting of the FirstNet Authority Board and Combined Committees. The meeting took place in Little Rock, Arkansas, and began at 8:00 am CST. The meeting was made available to the public via teleconference, and a transcript of the meeting and the archived Board and Combined Committee meeting audio can be found on the FirstNet Authority website at [www.firnet.gov](http://www.firnet.gov).

**BOARD AND COMBINED COMMITTEE MEETING**

FirstNet Authority Board Chair Sue Swenson opened the meeting by stating that the Board was delighted to be in Little Rock, Arkansas. Chair Swenson also thanked the Metropolitan Emergency Medical Services (MEMS) of Little Rock, as well as public safety representatives from the City of Bay, Arkansas.

**Conflicts Statement and Reminder**

Board Secretary Karen Miller-Kuwana reminded Board members of the conflicts statement that the FirstNet Authority had provided in advance of the Combined Committee and Board meeting and asked for any recusals from the Board members. In response, all participating Board members indicated no conflicts of interest and the meeting proceeded.

**Roll Call:** Sue Swenson (Chair), Jeff Johnson (Vice Chair), Neil Cox, Ron Hewitt, Edward Horowitz, Kevin McGinnis (via teleconference), Robert Osterthaler, Annise Parker, Christopher Piehota, Richard Ross, Richard Stanek, and Teri Takai. A quorum was present for the Board and the Combined Committees.

***Votes Taken***

Chair Swenson stated that before proceeding with the business of the day, the Board needed to approve the minutes from the December 7<sup>th</sup> Combined Committee and Board meeting. Chair Swenson asked for a motion to approve the December 7<sup>th</sup> minutes. Teri Takai made the motion, Anise Parker seconded, and the Board and Combined Committees unanimously voted to approve the December 7<sup>th</sup> Combined Committee and Board meeting minutes.

The Board also voted to approve the following resolutions:

- Chair Swenson asked for a motion to approve Board Resolution 87, Expression of Thanks for the Services of Chief Chris Burbank, Ed Reynolds, and Governor James Douglas as Members of the FirstNet Board. Chair Swenson asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Teri Takai made the motion, Chief Jeff Johnson seconded, and the Board and Combined Committees unanimously voted to approve the resolution.
- Chair Swenson asked for a motion to approve Board Resolution 88, Appointment of Edward Horowitz as Finance Committee Chair, Appointment of Neil E. Cox as Technology Committee Chair, and Appointment of Committee Members. Mayor Annise Parker made the motion, Teri Takai seconded, and the Board and Combined Committees unanimously voted to approve the resolution.
- Chair Swenson asked for a motion to approve Board Resolution 89, Memorial Recognition and Expression of Thanks and Award of the Chief Harlin R. McEwen Public Safety Broadband Communications Award to Tom Sorely as the Chair and Member of the Public Safety Advisory Committee. Mayor Annise Parker made the motion, Chief Jeff Johnson seconded, and the Board and Combined Committees unanimously voted to approve the resolution.
- Chair Swenson asked for a motion to approve Board Resolution 90, FirstNet Bylaws and Committee Charter Revisions and Name Change of Consultation and Outreach Committee to Public Safety Advocacy Committee. Teri Takai made the motion, Mayor Annise Parker seconded, and the Board and Combined Committees unanimously voted to approve the resolution.

Votes were also taken on the following committee resolutions:

- Chair Swenson made a motion for the members of the Governance and Personnel Committee to approve Resolution 9, Governance and Personnel Committee Charter Revisions. Chief Jeff Johnson seconded, and the Governance and Personnel Committee unanimously voted to approve the motion.
- Mayor Annise Parker made a motion for Members of the Consultation and Outreach Committee to approve Resolution 9, Consultation and Outreach Committee Charter Revisions and Name Change to the Public Safety Advocacy Committee. Teri Takai seconded, and the Consultation and Outreach Committee unanimously voted to approve the motion.
- Chair Swenson made a motion for the members of the Finance Committee to approve Resolution 19, Finance Committee Charter Revisions. Edward Horowitz seconded, and the members of the Finance Committee unanimously voted to approve the motion.

- Ron Hewitt made a motion for the members of the Technology Committee to approve Resolution 10, Technology Committee Charter Revisions. Kevin McGinnis seconded, and the Technology Committee unanimously voted to approve the motion.

## **MATTERS DISCUSSED**

### ***Network Management and Operations Update***

Network Management and Operations Officer Rich Reed opened by going through an overview of the Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract, and the four Task Orders. Mr. Reed noted that Task Orders 1 and 2 had been successfully deployed, with Task Order 2 complete, and Task Order 1 paid for and operational through 2020. Mr. Reed also reported that Task Order 3 was underway, and on track to be completed by the end of Initial Operating Capability (IOC) 2. Additionally, Mr. Reed was very pleased with the pace and quality of AT&T's work building out Task Order 3, and was impressed by the type of monitoring capability that AT&T was providing public safety. Mr. Reed continued by saying that work would continue on Task Order 3 through 2020 when the National Public Safety Broadband Network's (NPSBN) Core Infrastructure would reach its Final Operating Capability.

Mr. Reed then continued by providing the Board with an update on Task Order 4, building out the Radio Access Network. Mr. Reed noted that Task Order 4 was a large and complex task order, and that the FirstNet Authority and AT&T had put in a substantial amount of effort ensuring that the task order was right. Mr. Reed continued by announcing that the FirstNet Authority had executed Task Order 4 the previous week, and that AT&T was now deploying the Band 14 Network.

FirstNet Authority Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mike Poth noted that the FirstNet Authority was an organization that delivered on its promises on schedule, and that it was nice to have a partner like AT&T that was of the same ilk. Chair Swenson then stated that it must be a pleasure for Mr. Reed to work with an organization of that caliber, and Mr. Reed agreed.

Mr. Reed concluded his remarks by providing an update on the early builders, noting that they all would cease radiating on Band 14 by July 1. Chair Swenson thanked Rich for the update, and reflected on how important the early builder program was in learning the requirements needed to make the NPSBN a reality.

### ***Consultation and Outreach Committee Update***

Acting Public Safety Advocacy Officer Dave Buchanan opened his remarks by stating his business unit was shifting focus to address the needs of all public safety agencies now that all 56 states and territories had opted into the network. Mr. Buchanan continued by providing the Board with the three areas of focus that the Board was shifting to. These three areas included education

and collaboration with the public safety community, fostering key relationships with the public safety community at all levels of government, and collecting feedback to influence the FirstNet Authority's partnership with AT&T and the marketplace.

Mr. Buchanan noted that Public Safety Advocacy business unit was making progress on working directly with public safety agencies, noting that staff had conducted 200 engagements since January 1, and had met with over 10,000 stakeholders. Mr. Buchanan continued by saying that the results of these engagements has been to both strengthen relationships and to collect feedback from public safety as the network is deployed. Additionally, staff had hosted sessions in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Dallas, Texas, that focused on the use of applications to address public safety's operational needs. The feedback from public safety after these sessions was positive, and Mr. Buchanan state that there was an energy in the public safety community for these kinds of conversations.

Mr. Buchanan closed his remarks by noting that in the 78 days since the end of the governors' decisions, 350 agencies in 40 states had adopted FirstNet. This in turn, has led to 30,000 connections on the network.

Interim Chair Paul Patrick then began his update on the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC). Mr. Patrick thanked the Board members for their support, and noted that the PSAC was working to fill 4 vacancies in the PSAC.

Mr. Patrick also reported that the PSAC met via a webinar on January 9<sup>th</sup> on location-based services that was hosted by AT&T. Mr. Patrick then thanked the FirstNet Authority for the opportunity to allow the PSAC to weigh in on such important topics. Additionally, the PSAC met with the Tribal Working Group and hosted a Broadband 101 webinar with AT&T. Mr. Patrick then concluded his remarks by outlining future PSAC activities, stating that the PSAC would be hosting a webinar focusing on mission-critical push-to-talk in April, a subscriber paid offeror webinar in May, and a network status tool webinar in June.

### ***Little Rock Metropolitan Emergency Medical Services and City of Bay Public Safety Update***

Chief Jeff Johnson opened the discussion by sharing his experience visiting the Little Rock Metropolitan Emergency Medical Services (MEMS). The Board watched a video that outlined the services that MEMS provides Little Rock, and the benefits that the FirstNet Authority will provide. Following the video, Chief Johnson said that he was very impressed by the MEMS operation, and thanked MEMS leadership for improving the FirstNet Authority's insight at the operational level. Chief Johnson then introduced the City of Bay Fire Chief Kevin McMasters, Police Chief Paul Keith, and Sergeant Keith Milam.

Chief Paul Keith opened his remarks by discussing the way in which the City of Bay subscribed to the network. Chief Keith shared that he heard of FirstNet at the annual Arkansas Chief of

Police Convention, and that he recalled an incident where an ice storm had disabled the City of Bay's emergency communications in 2009. Chief Keith also recalled the tornado activity in the area, and stated that he believed FirstNet could be critical in ensuring that the City of Bay was on the forefront of preparing for such situations.

Chief Swanson then opened his remarks by discussing the geography of the City of Bay, noting that a rail line with trains transporting hazardous materials cuts through the middle of the town. Additionally, Chief Swanson pointed out that a school, an interstate highway, a grain elevator, and a chemical factory were all also in the vicinity of the railroad, increasing the danger to the public. Chief Swanson then noted that FirstNet would be critical in allowing the City of Bay to access communications during times of emergency, and to communicate with agencies outside of the range of its Land Mobile Radio systems. Chief Swanson concluded by highlighting the benefit that FirstNet would provide rural firefighting communities by giving them a platform to conduct virtual training sessions for new and experienced volunteers.

Sergeant Keith Milam then introduced himself as the head of the City of Bay Police Department's IT infrastructure. Sergeant Milam shared that he had been frustrated dealing with the different commercial vendors that provided the city's communication services, and that he became interested in FirstNet after meeting a team from AT&T and the FirstNet Authority at the Arkansas Chief's Convention. Sergeant Milam then stated that the FirstNet Authority had been very helpful to the City of Bay as they worked through this change in its communications system, and he found both the FirstNet Authority and AT&T responsive to issues that arose. Sergeant Milam closed his remarks by thanking the FirstNet Authority for its hard work, and for allowing him the opportunity to address the Board.

### ***Technology Committee Update***

Technology Committee Chair Neil Cox opened his remarks by reflecting on all of the technical trials conducted after 9/11 that demonstrated the need for FirstNet. Mr. Cox then stated that now that FirstNet was a reality, the Technology Committee needed to refocus its efforts on ensuring that the network was meeting the operational needs of public safety. Additionally, the Technology Committee would be providing input into the process that determined reinvestment in the network, and would work with the PSAC and the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Public Safety Communications Research (PSCR) division to ensure that innovative technologies serve the needs of public safety. Mr. Cox then thanked the committee members for all of their hard work, and reminded the Board that innovation would drive vast changes in the network over time.

Technology and Innovation Officer Jeff Bratcher opened his remarks by recognizing his friend Chief Tom Sorely, and thanking his family for his service. Mr. Bratcher then provided some updates on the status of the network deployment. Mr. Bratcher noted that his team had been working alongside AT&T to do extensive testing of the FirstNet core, and provided an overview

of the tests that had been conducted. Mr. Bratcher then provided an update on the FirstNet Authority's Applications Developer Portal, noting that several developers' applications had already been approved through the process. Additionally, the FirstNet Authority instituted a system that allowed for applications to be built on cloud services and tested on the network.

Mr. Bratcher then provided an update on FirstNet devices, and noted that the Samsung Galaxy S9 and S9+ would connect to Band 14, in addition to the Sonim XPA and XP5, which are built with features unique to public safety. Additionally, Mr. Bratcher reported that the FirstNet Authority was working with AT&T to continue to meet the requirements of 3GPP, but also to ensure that the needs of public safety are taken into consideration as 5G becomes the focus of the wireless standards development community. Furthermore, the FirstNet Authority was working on interoperability with the 12,000 Land Mobile Radio systems across the country, and was also working on driving the adoption of interoperable data exchange formats that would be critical in allowing different applications to share data in the future.

Mr. Bratcher closed by announcing that the FirstNet Authority had entered a Memorandum of Understanding with AT&T and PSCR to leverage the research and development funding provided in the legislation for the NPSBN. Mr. Bratcher related his excitement about this understanding, and that he was looking forward to addressing the research and development challenges jointly with AT&T and PSCR.

### ***Finance Committee Update***

Finance Committee Chair Edward Horowitz opened by welcoming Dave Zolet and Kathy Kraninger to the Finance Committee. Mr. Horowitz then noted that the Finance Committee's charter had been revised, and that the new charter reflected the committee's role in risk management and the investment review process. Mr. Horowitz continued by saying that responsibility for managing risks was shared throughout the FirstNet Authority, and that effective risk management strategies would improve the decision making ability of the FirstNet Authority's senior management and the Board.

Chief Financial Officer Kim Farrington then began her update by thanking Governor Douglas for his service as Chair of the Finance Committee. Ms. Farrington then stated the FirstNet Authority's obligations stood at \$26 million dollars of their \$73.5 million dollar budget, putting the FirstNet Authority below its budgeted obligations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018. Additionally, the FirstNet Authority's FY 2018 expenses stood at \$38.5 million, which was also below its budgeted expenses. Ms. Farrington continued by stating that the FirstNet Authority had recovered \$3.1 million since the beginning of FY 2018, which would be available for use in future years.

Ms. Farrington continued by reporting on the FirstNet Authority's FY 2017 audit, noting that this was the organization's fifth straight clean audit. Mrs. Farrington then closed by stating that she

was looking forward to moving forward with the investment review process, noting that there would be transparency for every investment.

### ***CEO Update***

CEO Mike Poth opened by thanking the Board, the MEMS Director, and the City of Bay for providing input into a productive Board meeting. Mr. Poth also noted that the FirstNet Authority had accomplished quite a bit in the last few months, and that it needed to maintain its fast pace to be successful. He then reflected on the progress that has been made with the network and the Core being launched. Mr. Poth continued by stating that much preparatory work occurred to get the FirstNet Authority to this point, and he highlighted the steps required to clear the early builders off of Band 14. Mr. Poth concluded by saying that he was excited and looking forward to continuing to work with a FirstNet Authority team that was passionate about the work it was doing.

### **Board Adjourned**

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.