



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION  
FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY  
**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 17, 2026**  
**COMBINED BOARD AND BOARD COMMITTEES MEETING**

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) held a public Combined Board and Committees meeting on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, in person and via MS Teams at 1:00 PM CST in Dallas, TX. 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).

Acting Board Chair Mike Adkinson welcomed everyone and thanked the PSAC members in attendance. He also thanked AT&T FirstNet for providing a tour of their Dallas facilities. During this meeting, highlights and updates were provided from the Public Safety Advisory, Advocacy, Finance and Investment, and Programs and Future Planning committees.

***Roll Call***

Mike Adkinson (“Acting Chair”), Damon Darsey, Alexandra Fernández Navarro, Erik Gaull, Sean McDevitt, Warren Mickens, Jocelyn Moore, Jeffrey Norman, Rasheid Scarlett, and Trisha Wolford were present. Billy Bob Brown Jr. was not in attendance. A quorum was present for the Combined Board and Board Committees meeting.

***Conflicts Statement and Reminder***

Prior to participating in the FirstNet Authority Combined Board and Board 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 have any conflicts of interest and did not need to recuse themselves from participation in any portion of the meeting.

***Votes Taken***

Prior to proceeding with the business of the day, Acting Chair Adkinson requested a motion to approve the minutes from the December 10, 2025, Combined Board and Board Committees meeting. Jeffrey Norman made the motion, Jocelyn Moore seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to approve the meeting minutes and to make them available to the public at the end of the meeting.

***Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) Update***

PSAC Chair Chris Lombard noted that the PSAC was also meeting in person in Dallas this week and received technology briefings and demonstrations from AT&T FirstNet. During its virtual meeting in February, the PSAC completed its membership recommendation and appointment

process for the new term beginning January 1, 2026. Committee working groups presented updates on best practices for both site permitting and engaging with public safety information technology offices.

The Tribal Advisory Group (TAG) held an in person meeting in Washington, DC, in February. Discussions centered around the increased coverage and engagements the FirstNet Authority has brought to Indian Country and increasing coverage solution options like deployables, mini compact rapid deployables (CRDs), high power user equipment (HPUE) and the promise of satellite calling in the future. Alexandra Fernández Navarro noted an important takeaway is the importance of awareness of tribal differences to ensure outreach and communications are culturally appropriate.

Chief Lombard noted that the PSAC was briefed on coverage enhancements and future coverage planning initiatives to adapt emerging technology for public safety use. Looking forward, Chief Lombard stated that the PSAC will support the FirstNet Authority's mission, continue working groups, and the TAG will continue its outreach and engagement to ensure tribal voices are heard.

Chief Lombard shared the concerns of PSAC members regarding reauthorization and asked if existing processes and workflows related to investments and hiring at the FirstNet Authority are changing and if so, will the PSAC be kept informed. Acting Chair Adkinson stated that it is important that the FirstNet Authority listens to the voice of public safety and that PSAC input holds great weight when it comes to decision making. He promised to respond in writing so that Chief Lombard may share with PSAC members.

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

Committee Chair Trisha Wolford highlighted engagements and collaborations with public safety stakeholders from the first quarter of FY2026. Chief Wolford reiterated how critical direct feedback from public safety members is to the network. She noted the recent release of the FirstNet Operations Manual under the resource tab on the FirstNet.gov website. It is a comprehensive, user-friendly reference for public safety disciplines that discusses FirstNet tools, technologies, solutions, and the operational use of FirstNet.

Chief Wolford noted that in recent months, Board members and staff have continued visits with senior leadership at key venues like the National Sheriffs Association, Major County Sheriffs of America, Major Cities Chiefs Association, and International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). FirstNet Authority also participated in the Big City Emergency Managers spring meeting. Board member Jocelyn Moore visited both emergency operations centers for the Super Bowl.

Chief Wolford stated the FirstNet Authority has nearly completed its initial round of CEWs. Warren Mickens recently attended CEWs in Utah and Kentucky and reiterated how important it is for the FirstNet Authority to talk with public safety, share plans, and ensure that those plans address their needs. Executive Director Cannon also attended the CEW in Kentucky and agreed that one of the most important outcomes was stakeholders confirming the accuracy of the coverage map the FirstNet Authority shared.

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

Committee Chair Sean McDevitt briefed that during the first five months of FY2026, the FirstNet Authority obligated a cumulative total of \$25.6 million, which is well within the forecasted parameters of the budget. The FirstNet Authority continues to be fiscally responsible with operational funds so it can maximize financial resources reinvested in the network to expand coverage and evolve the technology.

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

Committee Chair Rasheid Scarlett stated that the FirstNet Authority has directed AT&T FirstNet to deploy 135 proposed cell sites to further expand Band 14 across the country. FirstNet has formally launched satellite-to-device technology bringing enhanced coverage and resilience to first responders in the most remote and challenging environments. He discussed FirstNet Fusion, which will connect push-to-talk devices with land mobile radio and is a significant step toward true interoperability for first responders. Scarlett noted the FirstNet refresh of CRD inventory in the Caribbean territories with successful testing completed in February. He shared that the FirstNet Authority nationwide verification program recently completed field work in Kansas City, verifying coverage, gathering firsthand stakeholder feedback, and testing network and deployable front performance and resilience.

### ***Closing Remarks***

Acting Chair Adkinson said that he testified before both the Senate and House subcommittees on Energy and Commerce regarding FirstNet reauthorization and stated that there is tremendous congressional interest and support. He acknowledged that many stakeholders have expressed interest in reauthorization and asked that any questions or comments be submitted to the Board in writing.

Executive Director Cannon thanked AT&T FirstNet, the PSAC, and those in attendance in person and online. He emphasized that the FirstNet Authority has already been a part of several planned major events in 2026 and will continue to prepare for others while remaining focused on core responsibilities.

### ***Board Adjourned***

Acting Chair Adkinson requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Erik Gaull motioned, Warren Mickens seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.