# FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY MINUTES OF THE MARCH 20, 2019 COMBINED COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEETING JACKSON, MS AND TELECONFERENCE

On March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 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 Jackson, Mississippi, and began at 10:30 AM CST. The meeting was made available to the public via a webcast, and a transcript of the meeting and the archived Board and Combined Committee meeting footage can be found on the FirstNet Authority website at www.firstnet.gov.

### BOARD AND COMBINED COMMITTEE MEETING

Board Chair Edward Horowitz opened the meeting by thanking Board member Billy Hewes for his recent hospitality and asking him to say a few words about the State of Mississippi. Billy Hewes then proceeded to speak about Mississippi, touching on several historical points of interest, as well as rural America. Chair Horowitz then resumed control of the meeting. The focus of the meeting, as noted by Chair Horowitz, was for updates regarding the FirstNet Authority's Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC), FirstNet network, and Board Committees, and for general remarks by senior leadership, including Acting CEO Ed Parkinson.

### **Conflicts Statement and Reminder**

Board Secretary Karen Miller-Kuwana reminded Board members of the "CONFLICTS CERTIFICATION" document that the FirstNet Authority 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:** Edward Horowitz (Chair), Richard Stanek (Vice Chair), Richard Carrizzo, Welton Chase, Neil Cox, Brian Crawford, Billy Hewes, Tip Osterthaler, Paul Patrick, Christopher Piehota, Richard Ross, Teri Takai, Dana Wade, and David Zolet. A quorum was present for the Board and Combined Committees.

#### Votes Taken

Before proceeding with the business of the day, Chair Horowitz requested a motion to approve the minutes from the December 13<sup>th</sup> Combined Committee and Board meeting. Tip Osterthaler made the motion. Paul Patrick seconded, and the Board and Combined Committees unanimously voted to approve the December 13<sup>th</sup> Combined Committee and Board meeting minutes.

A vote was taken on the following Finance Committee resolution:

• Brian Crawford motioned to approve Resolution 21, the FirstNet Authority's Investment Principles. Paul Patrick seconded, and the members of the Finance Committee voted to approve the motion.

The Board also voted to approve the following Board resolution:

• Teri Takai motioned to approve Resolution 98, the FirstNet Authority's Investment Principles. Vice Chair Richard Stanek seconded, and the Board voted to approve.

#### MATTERS DISCUSSED

#### Governance and Personnel Committee

Chair Horowitz expressed his and the FirstNet Authority Board's deepest condolences to the friends and family of Ed Reynolds. Chair Horowitz shared Ed Reynolds' journey to the FirstNet Authority, and the impact he made on the organization. Chair Horowitz opened the floor. Teri Takai and Jeff Bratcher both shared stories of Ed Reynolds, and concurred with Chair Horowitz regarding the impact Ed Reynolds had as an inaugural FirstNet Authority Board member.

## University of Mississippi Medical Center Presentation

Immediately prior to the Board meeting, Mississippi Governor Phillip Bryant joined Dr. Damon Darsey, Medical Director of the Mississippi Center for Emergency Services, and executives from the FirstNet Authority to sign a memorandum of understanding between the FirstNet Authority and the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) to collaborate on innovation for emergency medical response and mobile broadband for rural first responders in Mississippi and nationwide. Chair Horowitz thanked Dr. Darsey for the tours and demonstrations he and UMMC staff provided to FirstNet Authority Board members and staff the previous day. A short video was played, highlighting the services UMMC provides, especially related to its telemedicine program, and Dr. Darsey indicated that he and his team are looking forward to working with the FirstNet Authority as they innovate their services.

### CEO and Strategy Update

Acting CEO Ed Parkinson began his remarks by reflecting on the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding with UMMC. He continued by stating the importance of the ability to evolve to provide the best solutions, and his intent to provide a quick update to build upon the remarks made at the December Board meeting on strategy, and the role that the FirstNet Authority will be playing as the network gets rolled out by its private sector partner, AT&T. He then yielded to the FirstNet Authority's Enterprise Strategy Division Executive Director, Jeremy Zollo.

Mr. Zollo focused on how we come together as the FirstNet Authority to work, collaborate, and communicate with public safety in an effort to advance FirstNet. Mr. Zollo noted the importance of transparency.

Moving forward, the FirstNet Authority, as explained by Mr. Zollo, will focus on four things: engaging with public safety, developing a roadmap, investing in opportunities (to further differentiate the network not just through dollars, but resources, policies, and procedures), and collaborating on the investments made. Mr. Zollo indicated the roadmap, which provides a vision for how the FirstNet Authority will advance the network in a two to five year window, will be shared at the next Board meeting; will capture the needs and input of public safety; and use the information and experience gathered from public safety to inform and identify opportunities for future network advancement and investment.

#### Public Safety Advocacy Committee Update

Committee Chair Richard Stanek opened the committee briefing by reflecting on the robust discussion that occurred during the Public Safety Advocacy (PSA) session conducted the day before. Chair Stanek highlighted the 100 engagements PSA conducted in the last month before yielding the floor to Dave Buchanan.

Dave Buchanan focused his update on discussing how the PSA team will populate the roadmap with public safety's feedback and needs over the next 90 days. Mr. Buchanan stressed how since 2013, PSA has been engaging public safety to capture their needs and inform network planning. Mr. Buchanan highlighted the use of a new survey technology that has allowed PSA to obtain instant results from engagements. Mr. Buchanan also highlighted several recent engagements, including a statewide inter-operability meeting in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and the Michigan Inter-Operability Conference. Mr. Buchanan spoke of the importance of collaboration with the PSAC and the monthly webinar series, as well as the upcoming in-person June meeting and inperson public safety roadmap summit.

## Technology Committee

Committee Chair Neil Cox began the committee update by thanking everyone for the hospitality and education the Board had experienced in Jackson. Chair Cox also discussed the challenges of health care access in rural America.

Jeff Bratcher then took control of the floor to speak about the significant progress in engaging many segments of the ecosystem, with the emphases to be driven by roadmap opportunities. Mr. Bratcher noted that the FirstNet Authority technology team has been busy conducting tours of the FirstNet Innovation and Public Safety Broadband Lab, as well as attended the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Nevada, in January, and the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, Spain, in February. The team's focus in March is on engaging the application developer community – with increasing outreach and market research to connect with developers truly focused on creating applications for public safety's use and needs. Mr. Bratcher also touched on the roadmap-based Experience Program – which is part of public safety engagement efforts and still in development. Mr. Bratcher then transitioned to talking about the standards teams that are taking active leadership in the Third Generation Partnership Program.

Mr. Bratcher also communicated that AT&T has achieved 40 percent of the buildout in 2018, and added more than 50,000 square miles of coverage nationwide. By the end of 2019, they are due to reach 60 percent.

Mr. Bratcher concluded by discussing the considerable time spent during consultations with the states and territories learning about rural, remote, and wilderness coverage needs. Mr. Bratcher voiced the importance of rural deployment in all phases of the FirstNet network.

In response to questions from Board Vice Chair Richard Stanek, Mr. Bratcher confirmed that there are roughly 60,000 public safety agencies across the United States, and as of January 2019, more than 5,250 public safety agencies had subscribed to and were using the FirstNet network, including a number of federal agencies.

### Finance Committee Update

Committee Chair Tip Osterthaler conducted a brief introduction then yielded to Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Kim Farrington. CFO Farrington discussed the three different categories of the FY 2019 budget – operations, reinvestment, and reserve. For the obligations budget, 30 percent, or \$24.4 million of the total \$81 million dollar budget, has been obligated as of February 28, 2019. On the expense side, 26 percent, or \$19.7 million of the total \$76.5 million expense budget, has been obligated. CFO Farrington then proceeded to discuss how the investment principles, in relation to the pending resolutions, were developed to manage the reinvestments. In

brief, the investments must: be derived from and benefit public safety; maintain and advance the foundation of the network; consider a balanced approach and provide value to public safety; and be fiscally responsible and reflect strong financial management. She discussed the importance of a balanced approach to investments to capture the diverse views of stakeholders, while also using appropriate resources and creating flexibility for the future.

Chair Osterthaler resumed control of the floor to further the discussion on the investment principles in relation to the pending resolutions. He expressed gratitude for the federal Board members and thanked them for their involvement in the development of the investment principles.

Department of Homeland Security Board designee Ron Hewitt thanked Chair Osterthaler, as well as highlighted other federal Board members, including Dana Wade (Office of Management and Budget designee) and Christopher Piehota (Department of Justice designee), for their work on the development of the investment principles. Mr. Hewitt expressed the importance of transparency to external stakeholders, as well as meeting fiduciary responsibilities.

Chair Osterthaler, after confirming there were no questions, requested the Board Secretary call for the proper Finance Committee and Board votes.

# FirstNet Subscribe Spotlight: Hattiesburg AAA Ambulance Service

Chair Horowitz introduced Andy Geske of the Hattiesburg AAA Ambulance Service, who shared a video that highlighted the unique challenges they face in serving such a rural community, and how their experience with FirstNet is allowing them to have communications in areas where they do not traditionally have reliable LMR or cell service. Mr. Geske indicated that they are looking forward to expanding into telemedicine, direct medical control, and medical transmission, and they want FirstNet to be the medium they use to transmit data from their ambulances back to their facility. Mr. Geske noted that they are testing modems now for data encryption and transmission, including for use in their helicopters. Mr. Geske concluded by thanking the FirstNet Authority and indicated they look forward to the future of FirstNet.

### Public Safety Advisory Committee Update

Mr. Dave Buchanan provided the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) update as PSAC Chair Todd Early was unable to present due to a communications issue.

Mr. Buchanan noted that the 2019 PSAC webinar series started in January with a webinar on mission-critical video. Mr. Buchanan explained that through this engagement with the PSAC the FirstNet Authority was able to pilot test online data capture software, and received great feedback and quantitative data about mission-critical video and its use in public safety agencies. In February, the webinar series focused on roadmap priorities, and the team was able to use an additional survey tool to capture data about the roadmap from PSAC members. Mr. Buchanan indicated the webinar series will continue through the balance of the year. Mr. Buchanan also discussed upcoming PSAC meetings, including a meeting of the PSAC's Tribal Working Group and the June in-person PSAC meeting in Bedminster, New Jersey. Mr. Buchanan noted that while attending the meeting in Bedminster, PSAC members will also have the opportunity to tour the AT&T Global Network Operations Center (GNOC).

# Closing Remarks

Mr. Parkinson began by reiterating some of the key updates from FirstNet Authority staff, as well as highlighting the attendance of various team members at the Board meeting. He emphasized a data driven focus that relies on information captured from public safety to help fuel the investment plan. He stated that the FirstNet Authority is transitioning out of the planning phase and moving into the execution phase. Mr. Parkinson concluded his remarks by expressing gratitude for the various hosts in Mississippi, including Governor Bryant and Mayor Hewes, and his excitement for the future, including the June 2019 Board meeting.

## **Board Adjourned**

The Board voted to adjourn the meeting.