



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION
FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY
**MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 18, 2020 BOARD AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING VIA WEBEX AND TELECONFERENCE**

On August 18, 2020, the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) held an open public meeting of the FirstNet Authority Board and Finance Committee. The meeting took place via WebEx and teleconference and began at 11:00 AM EST. A transcript of the meeting, audio recording, and the archived Board and Finance Committee meeting presentation, are available on the FirstNet Authority website: www.FirstNet.gov.

BOARD AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Chair Edward Horowitz opened the meeting by welcoming all to the FirstNet Authority Board and Finance Committee meeting via WebEx and teleconference. In his opening, he announced his last day as Chair of the FirstNet Authority Board and congratulated Robert (Tip) Osterthaler as the new Chair, appointed by Department of Commerce (DOC) Secretary Wilbur Ross. Chair Horowitz went on to announce the departure of Vice Chair, Sheriff Richard Stanek. He also welcomed new Office of Management and Budget (OMB) designee, Jessica Renier, OMB's Associate Director for Housing, Treasury, and Commerce, to the FirstNet Authority Board. She will serve as a member of the Finance Committee. Chair Horowitz also welcomed Adam Candeub as the Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information at DOC's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). The main focus areas of the meeting were the approval of the June 17, 2020 Board and Combined Committees meeting minutes; a review of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 progress and priorities from the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Edward Parkinson; a Finance Committee update from the Finance Committee Chair, Tip Osterthaler; the FirstNet Authority's budget for FY 2021 by Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Kim Farington; a Finance Committee and a Board vote on the budget, with an accompanying resolution for each vote; and closing remarks.

Roll Call

Edward Horowitz ("Chair"), Richard Stanek ("Vice Chair"), Richard Carrizzo, Welton Chase, Neil Cox, Brian Crawford, Vincent DeLaurentis, William (Billy) Hewes, Karima Holmes, Darrin Jones, Robert (Tip) Osterthaler, Paul Patrick, Jessica Renier¹, Matt Slinkard and David Zolet. A quorum was present for the Board and Combined Committees.

Conflicts Statement and Reminder

Prior to participating in the FirstNet Authority Board and Finance Committee meeting, Board Secretary, Janell Smith, provided Board members with the agenda and Conflict of Interest

¹ Jessica Renier was not able to attend this meeting.

guidance from the Ethics Law and Program Division of the DOC Office of General Counsel that applies to the Board members. All Board members responded prior to the meeting or confirmed during the meeting that they do not need to recuse themselves from participation in any portion of this meeting, therefore indicating no conflicts of interest, and the meeting proceeded.

Votes Taken

Prior to proceeding with the business of the day, Chair Horowitz requested a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the June 17, 2020 Board and Combined Committees meeting. Paul Patrick made the motion. Neil Cox seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to approve the June 17, 2020 Board and Combined Committees meeting minutes.

The Board voted to approve the following resolutions:

- Paul Patrick motioned to approve the Finance Committee Resolution 26, Recommendation of the FY 2021 budget as proposed. Brian Crawford seconded, and the Finance Committee unanimously voted to approve the resolution.
- Richard Carrizzo motioned to approve Board Resolution 106, Approval of the FY 2021 budget. Vice Chair Richard Stanek seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to approve the resolution.

MATTERS DISCUSSED

Fiscal Year 2020 Review

CEO Parkinson spoke on the opportunities that the public safety environment and ecosystem are starting to realize and see. This began with the deployment of the network, where more than 80% of Band 14 buildout is complete and deployed in nearly 700 markets, reaching 50% of the rural population.² The DOC has annual performance goals, and the FirstNet Authority provided additional information on the progress of the network on [Performance.gov](https://www.performance.gov). With over 100 applications in the FirstNet applications catalog and over 150 devices with Band 14 access approved for use on the FirstNet system, the apps and devices ecosystems, which were two (2) of the objectives in the NPSBN RFP, are well and truly becoming realized. New vendors and app developers are starting to look at the public safety broadband marketplace as a fertile investment opportunity and one that will continue to see additional growth.

FirstNet Authority has received positive feedback on its 72 FirstNet dedicated deployable assets nationwide. In addition to those 72 assets, there are three (3) Flying COWs and FirstNet One, an aerostat or blimp, which will potentially be put to use during this hurricane season. This provides redundancy and new opportunities for public safety to take advantage of FirstNet's broadband capabilities. FirstNet Authority and AT&T have achieved major contract milestones with the launch of push-to-talk, which is now available in the marketplace, and FirstNet Authority Board approval of the first investments in expanding the deployable fleet and upgrading the core for becoming 5G ready.

² Pending final acceptance by the FirstNet Authority

FirstNet continues to ensure that AT&T meets its contractual obligations so that public safety has better tools and resources to execute their jobs. CEO Parkinson went on to mention the recapitalization model the Board approved many years ago is coming to fruition, as well as the vision that Congress laid out when developing the public-private partnership. He remarked on being able to see the benefits of FirstNet Authority overseeing the contract and deployment of the FirstNet system, which no other network across the nation can claim.

CEO Parkinson spoke about the valuable insight the Public Safety Advocacy Committee provides, the oversight and technical expertise of Chief Technology and Operations Officer, Jeffrey Bratcher, and his team, and the Public Safety Advocacy team who work with public safety on a daily basis to collectively ensure that direct feedback from public safety is being fed into the program. This year, more than 850 engagements have been conducted nationwide, involving nearly 21,000 stakeholders, building relationships and obtaining feedback from the public safety community. Public safety understands the importance of having the dedicated FirstNet platform, and ensures that the network continues to evolve. He then went on to mention that the FirstNet Authority conducted its seventh clean financial audit in FY 2020 and thanked CFO Farington and her team for their effort.

Finance Committee Update

Finance Committee Chairman Osterthaler thanked the Finance Committee, Board members, FirstNet leadership team, staff, and the NTIA and DOC partners for developing the FY 2021 budget document, as well as keeping the focus on the first responder community. Chairman Osterthaler then yielded to CFO Farington to provide information on the proposed FY 2021 budget before requesting the approval of the budget from the Board.

CFO Farington provided a summary of the FY 2021 budget, to include: \$83.5M for supporting the ongoing operations of the FirstNet Authority; \$45.9M dedicated to the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) reinvestment; and \$83.5M towards the reserve, which is equal to the amount of the operations budget. The marginal \$1.4M increase in the FY 2021 operations budget request enables, among many other things, continued NPSBN program support to cover necessary contract oversight and compliance monitoring, public safety entities' focused market assessments, and evolutionary roadmap developments.

CFO Farington explained the assumptions used to build the FY 2021 budget. FirstNet Authority focused on the continued measurable progress toward the achievement of strategic objectives. The organization ensured that all Business Unit budgets were focused on the achievement of the FY 2021 FirstNet Authority priorities and ensured that cumulative administrative expenses do not exceed \$100 million during the ten-year period ending February 21, 2022. She then discussed the FY 2021 investment categories and allocation. All emerging planned NPSBN investments are driven by public safety needs and referenced in the FirstNet Authority's Roadmap. In FY 2020, investment actuals totaled \$218M. The two investments that the FirstNet Authority invested in were 5G Phase One and Expanded Deployable Capability. The FY 2021 investment budget is set, but the specific projects are to be determined and informed by the Roadmap for public safety, which will be guided by the investment strategy principles and processes.

Closing Remarks

Chair Horowitz, Board members, and FirstNet Authority leadership expressed their appreciation to Vice Chair Stanek for his many years of service on the Board. CEO Parkinson thanked Chair Horowitz and Vice Chair Stanek for their service to the Board and the entire Board for the work, experience, and progress made. He spoke briefly on the establishment of the FirstNet Authority and how having this nationwide network up and running for public safety to respond to situations and disasters such as the pandemic, fires, hurricanes, etc., all over the United States, is important to put into perspective of why the FirstNet Authority is doing this job. He stated that it is assuring to hear from public safety that the network is helping first responders to stay connected and do their jobs in order to keep their communities safe.

Board Adjourned

Chair Horowitz requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brian Crawford made the motion, Vice Chair Stanek seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.