



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION
FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY
COMBINED BOARD AND COMMITTEES MEETING TRANSCRIPT
February 9, 2022

Stephen Benjamin:

Good morning. Today we're convening for the First Responder Network Authority Combined Board and Committees Meeting. I'm joined remotely today, obviously, as are a few of our other Board members. We also have a number of members attending in person in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Due to restrictions on the number of people who can be present in the room, the public was invited to attend virtually today. Thank you to everyone who's joining us for our first Board meeting of 2022. This month marks the 10th anniversary of the FirstNet legislation, when Congress first created the FirstNet Authority and charged us with a mission to establish a single, interoperable, nationwide network for public safety across America. At that time in 2012, public safety was not being served like they are today. Priority and preemption were not available on any network, and first responders had to rely on commercially available products and services for their voice and data needs. Since then, thanks to the hard work of this organization, our public safety partners and AT&T, FirstNet has changed the game and created a whole new thriving marketplace for public safety technology.

I remember way back when I ran our state's second largest law enforcement agency and left office just about two weeks before 9/11. The incredible communications needs that we had back then are thankfully a distant memory because of the leadership of so many of you, and the work that you've done to build this amazing network. We've seen some incredible growth in innovation thanks to the FirstNet Ecosystem. From apps and devices to new mission-ready innovations like portable cell towers, have been used to support incidents like the recent wildfire in Boulder County, Colorado, as well as the vertical location services, or Z-Axis Technologies, that can help map the 3D location of a firefighter in a building. These are real tools that public safety asked for, and FirstNet has taken them from concept to reality. We can't stop here. A first responder's job will never be easy. The challenges that these men and women face are ever evolving. In fact, the last few years have been hard on everyone, but especially so for those that serve on the front line. We're so thankful for you.

And with a dedicated network that's flexible, secure, reliable, and resilient, they can stay better connected and protected. This Board's goals ensure that we deliver on what public safety demanded and Congress directed us to do with this network. In its current phase of FirstNet, this means listening to public safety and making sure that our strategic investments, back into the network, are based on those needs. In the year ahead, the FirstNet Authority is going to continue to engage with our public safety stakeholders and combine that with our research in over-the-horizon technologies. This will inform our investments. As we meet for our committee updates and organizational work today, I know members have this goal and the needs of our public safety

stakeholders top of mind, always. This Board and the entire organization remain committed to serving your needs. With that, let's turn to the business of today's meeting.

Today, we're going to receive a Public Safety Advisory Committee update from PSAC Chair Christopher Lombard, get Advocacy, Programs and Future Planning, and Finance and Investment Committee updates, and vote on two committee resolutions and one Board resolution related to changing two committee charters.

I'd like to ask our Board Secretary to call the roll for the Board and confirm that each committee also has a quorum. Madame Secretary, would you please call the roll and then read the Conflicts-of-Interest Statement.

Janell Smith:

Sure. Good morning, everyone. I'll mark you as present, Chair Benjamin. Richard Carrizzo?

Richard Carrizzo:

Present.

Janell Smith:

Billy Bob Brown, Jr.?

Billy Bob Brown, Jr.:

Present.

Janell Smith:

Brian Crawford?

Brian Crawford:

Present.

Janell Smith:

Alexandra Fernandez Navarro?

Alexandra Fernandez Navarro:

Present.

Janell Smith:

Kristin Graziano?

Janell Smith:

Billy Hewes?

Billy Hewes:

Present.

Janell Smith:
Karima Holmes?

Karima Holmes:
Present.

Janell Smith:
Darrin Jones?

Darrin Jones:
Present.

Janell Smith:
Peter Koutoujian?

Janell Smith:
Warren Mickens?

Warren Mickens:
Present.

Janell Smith:
Sylvia Moir?

Sylvia Moir:
Present.

Janell Smith:
Jocelyn Moore?

Jocelyn Moore:
Present.

Janell Smith:
Paul Patrick?

Paul Patrick:
Present.

Janell Smith:
Tia Patterson?

Tia Patterson:
Participating by phone.

Janell Smith:

Thank you, Tia. Mr. Chair, we have a quorum for the Board as well as for all four committees. I will now read the Conflicts Statement. Prior to participating in the FirstNet Authority Combined Board and Committees Meeting today, the Board members have reviewed the agenda as well as the Conflict-of-Interest Guidance provided by the Ethics Law and Programs Division of the Department of Commerce Office of General Counsel regarding the Conflict-of-Interest standards that apply to the Board members. All Board members have responded prior to today's meeting, that they do not have a conflict and will not need to recuse themselves from participating in any portion of this meeting. Thank you.

Stephen Benjamin:

Thank you so much, Janell. Each member of the Board has before him or her the minutes of our November meeting. Are there any additions or corrections to those minutes at this time?

Seeing none, I'll take a motion that we accept these minutes.

Alexandra Fernandez Navarro:

This is Board member Fernandez Navarro. I move that the minutes be accepted and approved.

Stephen Benjamin:

Thank you. Is there a second?

Paul Patrick:

This is Board member Paul Patrick. I second.

Stephen Benjamin:

All in favor say aye.

All:

Aye.

Stephen Benjamin:

All opposed, indicate by saying nay. Are there any abstentions?

Thank you. Our November meeting minutes are accepted. Madam Secretary, please make the minutes available to the public following this meeting.

Stephen Benjamin:

We're going to start this meeting with the PSAC update from our fantastic PSAC Chair Chris Lombard.

Christopher Lombard:

Good morning and thank you Mr. Chair and thank you to other members of the Board. It is great to see everyone. I'd like to thank the FirstNet Authority and Board members for having me here today. We had some exciting changes and some updates in the PSAC, some meetings to discuss the furthering of the project that we're all working on, and I'm very excited to share those with

you today. One of the meetings that we had not too long ago was an engagement between the Western States Fire Chiefs and their Wildland Firefighting Workgroup. We've also had some interchanges with the FirstNet Authority and AT&T, particularly going back to the Western Fire Chiefs and the Wildland group. Some of the fruitful discussions that came out of that had to do with accessing resources, event notification and tracking, the significant number of requests from non-AT&T users for FirstNet access that we've seen. The PSAC is looking forward to getting back to in-person meetings as well.

We had a *User Working Group* meeting, in December of 2021. PSAC members participated in a Pilot Focus Group that supported the FirstNet Authority Roadmap, Voice Communications, and Secure Information Exchange domains. The goal of this engagement was to understand public safety needs for efficient sign-on, security needs, and the balance of these two opposing items that public safety can successfully operate within. Some takeaways from the focus group included a hierarchy of access. Participants did not want an all-or-nothing type of system but rather an order of operations. They discussed that no one-size-fits-all. Participants emphasized agencies seek the ability to customize operations to different levels. If required, user needs to log in with their heads up. If the base authentication does not work, for example, device-to-device type communications or off-network communications, then there should be a fallback form of log-on so that users can still access those resources.

In January, the *PSAC had a webinar*. PSAC members participated in this webinar, where the FirstNet Authority shared several roadmap efforts, including a readout on the Next Generation Public Safety Devices efforts. Many PSAC members participated in focus groups last year as this effort kicked off. The team ended up conducting 35 one-hour focus groups, both virtual and in-person, with nearly 130 different stakeholders. Though the team is still working through the data gathered, some resulting themes from the feedback included agencies and responders continue to procure commercial devices like iPhones and Samsung smartphones, versus more ruggedized purpose-built devices for use on FirstNet, based on their familiarity. Focus group participants also highlighted the importance of a return on investment, as these smartphone devices are relatively inexpensive, compared to their more ruggedized counterparts, as well as the desire to keep up with the rapid updates and technology seen in the commercial devices. Over the next few months, the PSAC will participate in research efforts regarding the FirstNet Central Ecosystem and data exchange among mobile applications.

We have one *new PSAC member* update since the November Board meeting. I'm excited to welcome our newest PSAC member, Jason Rhodes. He's our official representative from the National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials. Jason is the Chief of the Rhode Island Department of Health Center for EMS and also currently serves as the NASEMSO Secretary. We look forward to Jason's membership on the PSAC.

The *Tribal Working Group* held two meetings so far in 2022, with updates from the PSAC, FirstNet Authority, and Tribal Working Group members. Delegates are supporting the FirstNet Authority in refining their 2022 Tribal Engagement Strategy and looking forward to assisting with the execution of the strategy. Yesterday's visits by myself and Board members were affirming of these new outreach efforts that increased support for communications in Indian countries are both much needed and will be incredibly beneficial. Thank you again for your

time, and I look forward to continuing working with the FirstNet Authority Board and leadership, and my fellow PSAC members on how the PSAC can offer its expertise and experiences to enhance the FirstNet Network in 2022. Thank you.

Stephen Benjamin:

Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman. Chris, to you and all the members of the PSAC, your advice, and counsel is invaluable, so we appreciate you. We'll now get an update from the Advocacy Committee, so I'm going to turn this over to our Vice Chair and Chair of the Advocacy Committee, Richard Carrizzo.

Richard Carrizzo:

Thank you, Mr. Chair, and good morning to everyone. As I've said in this meeting and numerous other meetings, the Advocacy Committee is where we continue to ensure that public safety voice is heard throughout the FirstNet Authority organization, and it represents the buildout and evolution of this network. It is always going to be the First Responder Network built by first responders. We continue to hear from public safety on how this network continues to improve their operations, and this operation is also on a daily basis that continues. We continue to listen and collect operational needs to help us continue to advance the network for public safety. Right now, some of our Board members and team are actually at a conference at the National Sheriffs' Association and the Major County Sheriffs of America in DC, so we're listening to their needs right now. It's wonderful that we're able to participate in some of these sessions and provide a network with these important stakeholders of our community.

As Chris explained, yesterday we had the opportunity to visit the Laguna Pueblo reservation to hear about and observe the firsthand challenges public safety faces in rural environments across this country. We received a demonstration of some of the unique needs in Indian Country, and the FirstNet deployables were seen, and other solutions that enable communications during joint responses with state police and county first responders. It kind of made me very surprised of how they can respond two hours from a location and have no communications whatsoever other than satellite phones. It was amazing how even the State Highway Patrol only had two satellite phones, and, if they were deployed on other incidences, they had no communications for a police officer or first responder. I want to share a few more examples of how this organization has been successful in collaborating with public safety over the last quarter and some of the greatest impacts that we're seeing.

As Chris also explained, *Western Fire Chiefs* were met with recently in November on the wildland case studies and the impacts of the operations within their agencies. The COMLs of the Western Fire Chiefs identified topics and additional considerations that should be addressed as it relates to wildland fires. Some of these examples include developing and expanding education along with training for the COMLs. Also consider equipment lease programs for them, and how FirstNet communicates offerings more. And how do we stand up a COML Working Group or how do they stand up a COML Working Group? A follow-up meeting was held in Los Angeles last month to discuss successful updates from the November meeting, and the discussion continued along with the FirstNet Firefighter Location Pilot Program to this group. We continue to have conversations over those last three months and look forward to the additional engagements and conversations in 2022 as we begin into wildland fire season.

Next would be the *Fairfax County Pilot Program*. Fairfax County's Federation to FirstNet provides an example of the benefits of identity federation to public safety agencies in the National Capital Region and beyond. This federation allows Fairfax County Public Safety users direct access to the data they need using FirstNet Single Sign-on points. There will no longer be a need to log into multiple databases for different credentials. They simply sign into a FirstNet database to allow them access data they have been given permission to access. This feature would give additional public safety agencies an affordable and streamlined option for securely accessing their mission-critical data while also promoting the use of FirstNet Central. AT&T is listening to this and learning lessons to define the process of other agencies moving forward with us. Fairfax County joins the ranks of Amtrak and others in the use of FirstNet's Identity, Credential, and Access Management solution. We are nearing the finalization of this partnership with Fairfax County, which will include the first to utilize their new federation to access identity-critical, and access management solution data via the solution. This will lead the way for other agencies and encourage adoption to the widespread influence held by both the FBI, CGIS, and Fairfax County.

The next program we have going on is the *Major County Sheriffs of America Trial Program* that we talked about at the last Board meeting. Our latest technology trial was a huge success thanks to the true partnership of organizations working together to support public safety. These included the Major County Sheriffs of America, their technology committees in five participating member agencies, AT&T, Intrepid Response, and the FirstNet Authority. The Major County Sheriffs' Association has been a longtime partner of the FirstNet Authority. The law enforcement trial of the mission-critical FirstNet technologies showcased Z-Axis, location-based services, Response for FirstNet, and the FirstNet Push-To-Talk program. The trial was conducted in challenging jail environments. One of our findings was that all departments found technologies useful and found opportunities to use them on a daily basis. As the participants used the technology in their daily operations, they identified some great ways to enhance future versions of the solution. This valuable feedback was exactly the type of operational insights that we desired when this trial began. This is a model for a partnership to test emerging technologies into the future.

Next would be something that we don't think about very often, and that's *Aviation and Maritime*. We all know that we do a lot of on-land stuff, but we forget about aviation and maritime. Our Stakeholder Collaboration Team stood up an effort to specifically develop an understanding of how the FirstNet Authority can enhance public safety's FirstNet experience for aerial and maritime operations. These efforts will further our team and AT&T's understanding of public safety's challenges and requirements, as well as provide additional content for coverage feasibility studies into the future. In closing, we're excited for what these next few months will bring along with the rest of 2022. Mr. Chairman, that is my report for this meeting.

Stephen Benjamin:

Thank you so much, Rich. We're now going to get an update from the Programs and Future Planning Committee with Jocelyn Moore, our Chair. The floor is yours.

Jocelyn Moore:

Thank you, Mr. Chair, and good morning. As Chair of the Programs and Future Planning Committee, I'm excited to provide the Board a quick update on the current state of the program, including a couple of new devices and services that we plan to offer this year. Now, to walk us through the specifics, I'll turn it over to Jeff Bratcher, our Chief Technology and Operations Officer.

Jeff Bratcher:

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman, a pleasure to be with you all here today. As we normally do, we update our FirstNet Momentum slides based on the end-of-quarter results from AT&T when they announce these publicly. We're pleased to share these with the Board and the listening community today, and, at a high level, we're very happy with how the network and the adoption of this network continues to grow. It's exceeding the FirstNet Authority expectations, as well as AT&T's. We work with AT&T, as I said, to update this information. We're now providing on the FirstNet Network built with AT&T, quality, priority of service, and preemption, wireless service to more than \$3 million public safety device connections across more than 19,500 public safety agencies and organizations across the nation and the territories. Expansion of the public safety dedicated coverage, which is enabled by the FirstNet Authority's licensed Band 14 spectrum, is proceeding on an aggressive pace. We've hit the 95% milestone and exceeded that in some areas. The FirstNet Authority Program Management Team is now preparing for the finalization of this initial Band 14 deployment, which, as you recall, is on track to complete a little over a year from now in March of 2023.

As the Board has also previously heard, the network provided service to public safety users while they responded to the ongoing challenges of the pandemic and an extremely active Western wildfire season, tornadoes, and other extreme weather events. The communication needs for these challenges faced by public safety over the past year were supported by over 800 FirstNet mobile asset deployments and network restorations in calendar year 2021. And those are for both planned and emergency events requested by the FirstNet public safety agencies at no cost to them. There are now over 190 applications in our FirstNet Application Catalog and user solutions within that catalog. And supported by over 3,000 registered developers that are part of the application developer program focused on FirstNet key features and capabilities in building those into applications in the catalog. We also have more than 370 FirstNet-ready devices approved for use on the FirstNet Network, with more devices being added monthly, and, in fact, more than 35 new devices were approved in 2021. Next slide please.

As I mentioned earlier, the adoption growth of the FirstNet Network by public safety users has exceeded all expectations. This slide graphically illustrates the growth over the last four years when we started in 2018 first quarter. As you can see, at the end of 2018, we were at approximately 500,000 connections, 1.2 million at the end of 2019, 1.8 million at the end of 2020, and as they announced in the last quarter, more than 3 million connections now across more than 19,500 agencies. AT&T has added 3,400 new agencies in the last year, and again it's experiencing a 55% growth year-over-year. Certainly, part of the reason for the growth is that public safety is utilizing the service to manage their daily operations, planned events, emergency situations, and disasters. While there are other commercial wireless offerings available to public safety, FirstNet continues to grow because we provide cost-competitive, coverage-superior

service with those priority and preemption capabilities built-in, always-on, 24/7. And that's not only on the dedicated Band 14 spectrum but also on all of AT&T's commercial LTE spectrum bands. This truly sets our service apart from other public safety broadband offerings on other networks. Nowhere else does public safety get their own nationwide, dedicated communications platform with the mission-ready and mission-critical standards-based communication solutions that they need to protect themselves and our communities. And we continue to listen to public safety and focus on delivering those unique communications services that they need on their network. Listening and adjusting plans as new situations arise is part of the FirstNet Authority's goal and value proposition in working with AT&T, our Market Engagement Office, to recognize those objectives and requirements from the users and put them into the network.

As the network and user base expands, the Authority is working tirelessly to ensure innovation is also a component in new public safety communication technologies and solutions. We have a thriving ecosystem of communication devices and applications required by first responders that has been well-established. Our focus is on the future investment in and growth of unique deployable coverage solutions that provide differentiated value propositions to public safety users. We continue to evolve the FirstNet Push-To-Talk service, now in its third revision, and we're currently testing a much-anticipated Apple iOS client for that FirstNet Push-To-Talk service.

Devices. As we mentioned, public safety stressed to us early on that they wanted access to innovative wireless broadband devices across a broad range of form factors, and we are delivering on this by developing, growing, that global device ecosystem for FirstNet, having AT&T as a tier-one partner again drives those requirements into those device manufacturers. We have over 370 devices, as I mentioned, and over 440 on the NIST list of approved devices. FirstNet-Ready again means that the device has gone through the FirstNet approval program for certification by AT&T and acceptance, has access to Band 14, and is compatible with the services on the FirstNet dedicated core network. We've introduced High-Power User Equipment in a growing wave of public safety relevant Internet-of-Things devices as well. The next generation of wireless capabilities and 5G are now part of the latest wave of devices, positioning our public-safety FirstNet subscribers to take full advantage of this generational shift in wireless. Ensuring that first responders have access to the latest Commercial Off-The-Shelf technology via FirstNet, we're also enabling them to take advantage of cost savings and maximize the value of every public safety dollar.

Touching on *Applications* briefly. There are now over 190 applications. The catalog is geared towards first responders, featuring apps that are relevant to their mission and gives FirstNet subscribers this dedicated catalog to find meaningful new solutions. And in some cases, we have first responders actually developing their own applications as part of the developer program and submitting those into the application catalog.

Last column here on *Deployables*. This is one of the most successful and unique high-value services on the FirstNet Network in just our short four-year, five-year timeframe. This is the fleet of dedicated deployable coverage assets comprising, Satellite Cell-On-Light Trucks, aerostats, Compact Rapid Deployables, Cell-On-Wings. I was pleased the Board was able to do the tour yesterday and see these in action and how those are actually used and deployed in the

field. And again, these are available 24/7, at the request of the FirstNet subscribing agency at no cost to them. This is built into the FirstNet service and value proposition. Last year, FirstNet successfully completed the investment in network integration of the expansion of the deployable fleet that was approved two years ago as part of a reinvestment process. We now have over 100 dedicated deployable assets available to FirstNet subscribers in all states and territories. This past year was a very active year. Last year, we closed with an astounding 800-plus deployable and network restoral requests from FirstNet users. Some of those events include snow events all over the nation recently, tornadoes in Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Missouri, as well as the disaster that hit very close to home for many FirstNet staff including myself, which was the Boulder County, Colorado Marshall Fire on December 30th. This level of support to the public safety community is unprecedented and is a tangible example of the impact FirstNet is having on the operational needs of our nation's first responders.

To close up, Madam Chairwoman, I'd like to look to the future. We are going to continue to build and reinvest into the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network FirstNet built with AT&T, as the legislation mandates and describes for us in the Act. As the results of this past quarter illustrate, the Authority continues our focus on innovation and investments that benefit the unique mission-critical needs of our nation's public safety first responders. Our partner, AT&T, continues to meet or exceed delivery on their contractual requirements, and I'm pleased to provide this update on the end-of-year 2021, as well as our current state. I'll now turn it back to you.

Jocelyn Moore:

Thank you so much, Jeff, for that comprehensive update. Mr. Chairman, as you can see, there have been a lot of successes, and we will continue to build on that foundation as we move forward. Shifting gears slightly, as we think about the work of this committee, we've made some revisions to the committee's charter. Through this resolution, the Programs and Future Planning Committee would like to recommend that the Board adopt the charter revisions.

Before we vote, do any members of the Programs and Future Planning Committee have any questions about the proposed resolution?

Seeing none, we are prepared to vote on the Programs and Future Planning Committee Resolution 13.

Madam Secretary, will you please read the operative language?

Janell Smith:

Programs and Future Planning Committee Resolution 13, Committee Charter Revisions. Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Programs and Future Planning Committee approve and recommend that the Board adopt the revised FirstNet Authority Programs and Future Planning Committee Charter, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Jocelyn Moore:

Thank you. May I have a motion to approve the Programs and Future Planning Committee Resolution 13?

Darrin Jones:

Committee Chairperson, this is Board member Darrin Jones, so moved.

Jocelyn Moore:

Is there a second?

Karima Holmes:

Karima Holmes. I second.

Jocelyn Moore:

All in favor, say aye.

All:

Aye.

Jocelyn Moore:

All opposed, say nay.

Are there any abstentions? Madam Secretary, the ayes have it. Will you please make the following resolution available to the public following this meeting?

Janell Smith:

Yes, I will.

Jocelyn Moore:

Thank you. I'll turn this back over to you, Mr. Chairman.

Stephen Benjamin:

Thank you so much, Madam Chair. We appreciate the hard work of the committee, Jocelyn, and our incredible staff. But, we'll now get an update from the Finance and Investment Committee from our Chairman, Brian Crawford. Brian, all yours.

Brian Crawford:

Thanks, Chair Benjamin. Slide 14 illustrates the Authority's Fiscal Year 2022 operations budget execution results for the first three months ending 31 December 2021. The cumulative \$22.7 million of obligations is within the boundaries of the Authority's operating budget forecast, and the Finance Team expects that trend to continue. Regarding investments, the current balance of the FirstNet Authority's Reinvestment in Network Enhancement Fund is \$76.3 million. In order to focus the work of this committee, we have made some revisions as well, to the committee's charter. Through this resolution, the Finance and Investment Committee would like to recommend that the Board adopt the charter revisions. But before we vote, do any Finance and Investment Committee members have any questions about the proposed resolution?

Hearing none, we've prepared to vote on Finance Committee Resolution 30. Madam Secretary, would you please read the operative language?

Janell Smith:

Finance and Investment Committee Resolution 30, Committee Charter Revisions. Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Finance and Investment Committee approve and recommend that the Board adopt the revised FirstNet Authority Finance and Investment Committee Charter, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Brian Crawford:

Thank you, Madam Secretary. May I have a motion to approve Finance and Investment Committee Resolution 30 from a Finance Committee Board member?

Darrin Jones:

Mr. Committee Chairman, this is Board member Darrin Jones, so moved.

Brian Crawford:

I have a move. Do I have a second on the floor?

Karima Holmes:

This is Karima Holmes. I second.

Brian Crawford:

Any opposition?

The motion passes. Madam Secretary, would you please make the following resolution available to the public following this meeting.

Janell Smith:

Yes, I will.

Brian Crawford:

That concludes the committee's business for today, I'll hand the floor back over to you, Chairman Benjamin.

Stephen Benjamin:

Thank you so much for the committee's work, Brian. In order to move forward with the charter revisions, the Board is now prepared to vote on Resolution 112. But before we vote, do any Board members have any questions about the proposed resolution?

Hearing none, we're prepared to vote on Board Resolution 112. Madam Secretary, would you please read the operative language?

Janell Smith:

Board Resolution 112, Committee Charter Amendments. Now, therefore, be it resolved that the FirstNet Authority Board hereby amends the charters of the Finance and Investment Committee, and the Programs and Future Planning Committee, copies of which are attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Stephen Benjamin:

Thank you. May I have a motion to approve Board Resolution 112?

Billy Hewes:

Mr. Chairman, this is Board member Billy Hewes. I so move.

Stephen Benjamin:

Thank you sir. Is there a second?

Billy Bob Brown Jr.:

Mr. Chair, this is Board member Billy Bob Brown. I so move.

Stephen Benjamin:

Thank you so much. All in favor, say aye.

All:

Aye.

Stephen Benjamin:

Opposing indicate by saying nay.

Alright, any abstentions? Hearing none, thank you so much. Madam Secretary, would you please make sure that the approved resolution be made available to the public following this meeting?

Janell Smith:

Yes, I will. And, Chair, I just wanted to note that Peter Koutoujian and Kristin Graziano have joined us today. Thank you.

Stephen Benjamin:

Thank you so much, I know they've been conducting some major leadership work, so it's good to see both of them. Thank you, Janell. That concludes the business for the Board today. I'm having to turn things over to our CEO Ed Parkinson, for any remarks that he might like to add to close us out. Ed?

Edward Parkinson:

Thank you, Mr. Chair, I appreciate that, and thank you to all here today and viewing online. As we've really discussed today, the past year has shown extraordinary growth not only in the adoption of the FirstNet program but frankly the innovation that we've seen throughout the enterprise with the incorporation of Z-Axis as well as HPUEs, and other technological advancements. FirstNet continues to be that leader in the marketplace, not just here in the United States but around the world. When you see the growth numbers, just as Jeff mentioned, 3 million device connections, close to 20,000 agencies now appearing on the FirstNet system, it's clear that the need is there. And it's clear that the dedicated need of Band 14, the security that comes along with that QPP, these are all benefits that are unique to the FirstNet system and sets

us apart from any of the offerings that are around there. As was spoken earlier on by our PSAC Chair Chris Lombard, as well as Chief Rich Carrizzo, we were very fortunate to meet yesterday with the Tribal Nations, the Navajo Nation, and President Nez, as well as the Laguna Pueblo with Governor Kowemy.

We really appreciated the invitation to act as guests, really the first guests that certainly the Laguna Pueblo have had since the start of the pandemic. It's a real honor for us to be present on the lands there, and so we really appreciate both Tribal Nations for extending their invitation. What really was clear, I know many of us spoke about this yesterday, was just the pressing need for additional coverage, the pressing need for access to tools such as FirstNet in those communities. And so, we really appreciate seeing that firsthand. It's something we've been trying as a Board and as an organization for many years to come along, so again, many, many thanks. We've seen, I think, an evolution where we have come from in 2020 and 2021, but where we're going in terms of adoption around 5G, further innovation, as we see throughout the system, and I'm very excited about where the program is going to go. We had a briefing earlier from AT&T, hearing about some of the plans, the future, and I think that's really exciting to see again, our partner is not sitting still on the success that we have seen up to this point. It's about offering the next tool. It's about offering the next innovation to the users of this, that they can trust FirstNet with their lives. So, I know I'm very excited to see what the future holds for the FirstNet program.

We have some folks here today from Senator Ben Ray Lujan's office, and we wish him well in his recovery. I know that the Senator has been a big supporter during his time in the House, and now in the Senate. And you know, I speak on behalf of the entire enterprise, we wish the Senator well on his recovery following his health scare. But finally, I would just like to thank everyone on the Board, both here in-person and virtually. I think we've got an incredible group of people not only on the Board, but inside our organization, that 200 or so dedicated staff members of the FirstNet Authority are a remarkable group of people, and they are the ones who are dedicating so much time and effort into providing that dedicated resource to public safety. So, my thanks to the entire Board, my thanks to the entire FirstNet Team, and family, and I certainly look forward to what I certainly imagine is to be an incredibly enterprising year as we look forward into the rest of 2022. Thank you.

Janell Smith:

Mayor Benjamin, back to you.

Stephen Benjamin:

Alright, thank you very much. We lost maybe the last five seconds of Ed's comments, but I know exactly what he's going to say, and I want to reiterate the amazing level of appreciation that we have for the entire FirstNet Team, for the men and women who we serve, the leadership of PSAC, and others. I really want to thank my colleagues for the visit to the Navajo Nation, Laguna Pueblo, Tribal Communities, is historic, and I think perfect as we indeed celebrate ten years of FirstNet leadership. So, very much appreciate each and all of you.

We're now prepared to adjourn this meeting. May I have a motion to adjourn?

Richard Carrizzo:

Vice Chairman Carrizo, motion made.

Stephen Benjamin:

Is there a second?

Kristin Graziano:

Mr. Chairman, Board member Kristin Graziano, I'll second.

Stephen Benjamin:

Thank you, Sherriff. All in favor, say aye.

All:

Aye.

Stephen Benjamin:

All those opposed say nay. No one ever votes against a motion to adjourn. I have to figure that out someday.

Are there any abstentions? Thank you to all of you who participated in the Combined Board and Committees meeting and to the audience who've joined us over WebEx today. The meeting is now adjourned. Godspeed.