



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION
FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY
**MINUTES OF THE JUNE 17, 2020 BOARD AND COMBINED COMMITTEES
MEETING VIA WEBEX AND TELECONFERENCE**

On June 17, 2020, the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) held an open public meeting of the FirstNet Authority Board and Combined Committees. The meeting, which took place via WebEx and teleconference line, began at 11:00 AM EST. A transcript of the meeting, the archived Board and Combined Committees meeting presentation, and audio recording are available on the FirstNet Authority website: www.FirstNet.gov.

BOARD AND COMBINED COMMITTEES MEETING

Chair Edward Horowitz welcomed new Federal Board member designee, Darrin Jones, from the Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation Science and Technology Branch, to the FirstNet Authority Board of Directors, and asked him to say a few words. The main focus areas of the meeting were a Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) update from the Chairman of the PSAC, Todd Early; updates from the Board's Advocacy, Network and Technology, and Finance Committees, with two (2) investment opportunities for network expansion and enhancements; a closed Board session to discuss privileged and commercial financial information, including procurement sensitive information regarding the investment recommendations and next steps of the FirstNet Authority management; and closing remarks from FirstNet Authority Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Edward Parkinson.

Roll Call

Edward Horowitz ("Chair"), Richard Stanek ("Vice Chair"), Richard Carrizzo, Welton Chase, Neil Cox, Brian Crawford, Vincent DeLaurentis, Billy (William) Hewes, Karima Holmes, Darrin Jones, Tip (Robert) Osterthaler, Paul Patrick, 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 Combined Board and Committees meeting, Board Secretary Janell Smith provided Board members with the agenda and Conflict of Interest Guidance from the Ethics Law and Program Division of the Department of Commerce (DOC) Office of General Counsel that apply to the Board members. All Board members responded prior to 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 March 19, 2020 Board and Combined Committees meeting. Vice Chair Richard Stanek made the motion. Brian Crawford seconded, and the Board and Combined Committees unanimously voted to approve the March 2020 meeting minutes.

The Board also voted to move into a private closed session. Chair Horowitz requested a motion to move into a closed session. Neil Cox made the motion, Richard Stanek seconded the motion, and the Board and Combined Committees voted in favor of moving to a closed session.

The Board also voted to approve the following resolutions:

- Paul Patrick motioned to approve the Finance Committee Resolution 25, Recommendation on Network Investments. David Zolet seconded, and the Finance Committee unanimously voted to approve the resolution.
- Richard Carrizzo motioned to approve Board Resolution 105, Network Investments. Paul Patrick seconded, and the Board and Combined Committees unanimously voted to approve the resolution.

MATTERS DISCUSSED

PSAC

Todd Early provided an overview of the engagements and collaboration with public safety stakeholders, including the PSAC Tribal Working Group (TWG). TWG recently conducted a 200-level series engagement focused around the coverage and capacity domain of the FirstNet Authority Roadmap. This monthly telephone conference allows the PSAC to learn and receive valuable information from the TWG and address the roadmap domains and their associated technologies in the months to follow. PSAC continues its bi-monthly webinar focused on technologies, which fall under the voice communications domain. This year, the PSAC also discussed imminent peril and the FirstNet Push-to-Talk with the Products Team as well as an update from the Standards Team on their progress of the 3GPP work that has been performed.

At the March 2020 Board meeting, amendments were proposed to the PSAC Charter to ensure that the public safety community provides appropriate guidance and recommendations to the FirstNet Authority that align with its mission. These recommendations included the addition of the National Association of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Physicians to join the PSAC membership and the increase of members in the PSAC Executive Committee from five (5) to seven (7). This implementation has invited three (3) new members to the Executive Committee: Kevin McGinnis from the National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials; Frank Minice from the International Justice and Public Safety Network; and Mark Ryckman from the International City/County Management Association.

Lastly, Todd Early stated that a virtual PSAC meeting would be held on June 23, 2020 at 3:00 PM Eastern time, focused on reinvestment, updates from both AT&T leadership and Dereck Orr from the National Institute of Standards and Technology Public Safety Communications Research program.

Advocacy Committee Update

Advocacy Committee Chairman Richard Stanek spoke on the process currently laid out to gather public safety feedback, which translates their needs into investments. The work that the FirstNet Authority and public safety partners across the United States are doing together can plan for future innovation, with 5G being a leap forward in innovation for public safety, while at the same time tackling challenges and needs faced today.

Network and Technology Update

The FirstNet Authority CEO Edward Parkinson briefly spoke on the two (2) core investment opportunities that will be brought forward to the Board by FirstNet management. First, the expansion of the fleet of 75 FirstNet dedicated deployables, which are being staged around the country, have responded to a number of natural disasters, and have also been used at pre-planned events and large gatherings. Incidents have required that many deployables be drawn into a particular area, which is why the expansion of this fleet will allow for greater use over a larger geographic area, allowing public safety to be better prepared to serve their community and ensure that lives are better protected. Mr. Parkinson then yielded to the Chief Technology Officer, Jeffrey Bratcher.

Mr. Bratcher spoke on the second network enhancement investment recommendation to enhance the FirstNet core network for 5G network capabilities. FirstNet Authority's enabling legislation, approved in 2012, dedicated the spectrum and funding and directed the FirstNet Authority to not only partner with industry, but to create a nationwide public safety broadband network based on public safety's communication needs and to ensure that the technology of the FirstNet network advances and remains competitive with offerings in the commercial wireless sector, while ensuring that the FirstNet public safety subscribers retain priority and preemption capabilities on the FirstNet network for their mission-critical services. Mr. Bratcher mentioned that he and his team briefed the Board on the evolution of the core network to address foundational needs for the next generation technologies. The introduction of 5G and the initial 5G technology upgrade to the FirstNet network will build upon already existing investment in creating the FirstNet core network and enabling the 5G capabilities on FirstNet nationwide for public safety FirstNet subscribers and agencies that want to take advantage of the capabilities that 5G technology brings to wireless broadband networks.

Closed Session

The Board voted to enter into a closed session regarding the two (2) investment recommendations to discuss privileged and commercial financial information, including procurement sensitive information and next steps of the FirstNet Authority management.

Finance Committee Update

Chairman of the Finance Committee, Robert (Tip) Osterthaler recommended that the Board approve the material terms of the two (2) task orders to the existing national public safety broadband network contract, and to direct management to take all actions necessary to obligate funds to issue task orders to the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network contract for expanded deployables capabilities and services, and an initial core generational upgrade. Additional discussions took place during the closed session.

Closing Remarks

FirstNet Authority Chair Edward Horowitz spoke briefly on the establishment of the FirstNet Authority and the development of the RFP which led to the selection of a contract, opt ins, and to the build out the network. He mentioned that the FirstNet Authority is keeping its promise to make investments back into the NPSBN as contemplated in its enabling legislation and the FirstNet Roadmap. Chair Horowitz then yielded to FirstNet Authority CEO, Edward Parkinson.

Mr. Parkinson thanked the Board for the approval to move forward with the two (2) investment opportunities to get the best deal for public safety, and for putting FirstNet on the path to 5G, as well as boosting the fleet of deployables for the FirstNet community. He also went on to thank the DOC, especially Thomas Gilman, Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration, Barry Berkowitz, Senior Procurement Executive and Director of Acquisition Management and his team who advocates for the FirstNet program, Deputy Secretary Karen Dunn Kelley, and the entire National Telecommunications and Information Administration team for their partnership, not to mention, the FirstNet Authority team who are able to serve and provide the United States with the only dedicated public safety network.

Board Adjourned

Chair Horowitz requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brian Crawford made the motion, Karima Holmes seconded, and the Board and Combined Committees unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.