



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION  
**FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY COMBINED  
BOARD AND COMMITTEES MEETING TRANSCRIPT**  
May 4, 2022

**STEPHEN BENJAMIN:**

Good morning. Today we are convening the First Responder Network Authority's Combined Board and Committees meeting. We are holding our meeting on the campus of the beautiful University of New Hampshire, in Durham, with a majority of the Board members participating here in-person and some participating virtually. I'm Steve Benjamin, the Chairman of the Authority. Thank you to everyone who's joining us today and thank you to the state of New Hampshire and the university for the incredible hospitality this week. A special thanks to John Stevens who helped make the events of this week happen. John is the New Hampshire Single Point of Contact for FirstNet and the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator. The Board and management team have had many opportunities to engage with first responders from across the state about their experiences with FirstNet and we're taking their helpful guidance and useful information back with us. I was particularly impressed with the demos and discussions at the public safety technology expo, where we heard about the solutions, services, and devices that are emerging on FirstNet, and how they are helping public safety here in New Hampshire.

The FirstNet Authority also participated in a public safety roundtable with several agencies in the state, where we were joined by Governor Sununu as a wonderful opportunity for all of us to learn about how the public safety community is using the network, how their operations have evolved through the use of FirstNet, and also about any challenges they face with adopting and integrating the Network. We found it very fruitful and look forward to continuing to improve, to meet the needs of public safety. With that, let's turn to the business of today's quarterly Board meeting. Today, the Board will be considering a new proposal for investing in the network. This is my first investment as Board Chair. I am extremely impressed with the processes that are in place to make sure that we are using our funds most efficiently and effectively to enhance the network based on public safety's needs and feedback. As with everything we do at FirstNet, public safety is our primary constituent and continues to be at the center of our investment process.

The investment we will be considering today addresses one of their top priorities: improving FirstNet's coverage in buildings and for indoor locations where public safety agencies operate. To get us in this position, the FirstNet Authority worked closely with numerous public safety agencies and groups – including our PSAC – to identify the most critical needs for the Network and help us translate those needs into an actionable investment opportunity for the Network. We thank PSAC and Mr. Chairman for your leadership there. Public safety has told us that enhancing indoor coverage is one of their biggest needs and top priorities for the Network. I am

looking forward to having a good discussion with my fellow Board members today about how we can deliver on that with this proposed investment. Today, we're gonna receive the Public Safety Advisory Committee update from PSAC Chair Christopher Lombard. Get Advocacy, Programs and Future Planning, and Finance and Investment Committee updates, and also vote on one Committee resolution and one Board resolution related to an investment.

I'd like to ask our Board Secretary if she'll call the roll for the Board, and confirm that each Committee has quorum. Madam Secretary, please call the roll and then read the conflicts of interest statement.

**JANELL SMITH:**

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

**RICHARD CARRIZZO:**

Present via telecom.

**JANELL SMITH:**

Sorry guys. Billy Bob Brown, Jr.? Yes.

**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?

**KRISTIN GRAZIANO:**

Present.

**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?

**PETER KOUTOUJIAN:**

Present.

**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? Okay. Mr. Chair, we do have a quorum for the Board as well as for all four Committees. Now, I'll 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 Program 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 very much. Thank you very much. Each member of the Board has before him or her the minutes of our February meeting. Are there any additions or corrections of those minutes at this time? Seeing none, I will take a motion that we accept the minutes.

**PAUL PATRICK:**

Mr. Chair, Paul Patrick, I motion to approve or accept.

**STEPHEN BENJAMIN:**

Thank you. Is there a second?

**SYLVIA MOIR:**

Mr. Chair, I second.

**STEPHEN BENJAMIN:**

All right. All those in favor say aye.

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Aye.

**STEPHEN BENJAMIN:**

All those in favor, aye. All opposed, no. No nays. Are there any abstentions? All right. Fantastic. Thank you. I'm gonna make sure I keep my microphone on. I'm a former politician. We turn microphones off. (LAUGHTER)

**EDWARD PARKINSON:**

Recovering politician.

**STEPHEN BENJAMIN:**

Yeah, exactly. Recovering politician. The February meeting minutes are accepted. Madam Secretary, please make the minutes available to the public following this meeting. Thank you. We're gonna start with an update from our PSAC Chair Chris Lombard. Chris.

**CHRIS LOMBARD:**

Good morning. It's great to see everyone. I'd like to thank the FirstNet Authority and Board members for having me today. Mr. Chair, I too want to parrot what you were saying as far as thanking John Stevens, New Hampshire's SWIC, for hosting us and showing us all kinds of exciting changes that are happening here in the New Hampshire area. The PSAC members participated in a webinar in March where the FirstNet Authority provided an investment overview and a coverage opportunities update. During the webinar, PSAC members were asked to provide their opinions on the highest and lowest priority of focus for the next five years. Among the options were outdoor, in-building, quality and capacity, resiliency, public safety focus. Public safety focus included topics such as air-to-ground, maritime, and backhaul evolution. Based on the 16 PSAC responses, public safety focus received the most votes followed by outdoor and resiliency. For lowest priority, in-building received the most votes. Given the Authority's, recent focus and successes in this area, this kind of targeted input will be helpful to the Authority's team as they work towards the 2022 priority areas and further develop investment opportunities.

It was a great discussion, and the PSAC looks forward to more of this kind of engagement into the future. A handful of PSAC members participated in the information exchange focus group, where they provided their input and perspective on the need to exchange information among mobile applications and challenges associated with doing so. The FirstNet Authority team is also looking to discuss the FirstNet central ecosystem with the PSAC users working group. We have

one PSAC member update since the February Board meeting. I'm excited to welcome our newest PSAC member, Joe Brooks, representing the At-Large Fire Non-Management First Line Responder, the IAFF group. Joe is a radio supervisor for Boston Fire, and we look forward to Joe's membership on the PSAC. Thank you for being here today, too, Joe. The Tribal Working Group (TWG) has met virtually every month, thus far in 2022, with updates from the PSAC, FirstNet Authority and TWG members. During the April teleconference, delegates provided feedback on the FirstNet Authority 2022 Tribal Engagement Strategy.

The May teleconference was this week and focused on planning for in-person TWG meeting next month. The group and I look forward to getting together in the Boulder Lab, to further work on the 2022 Tribal Strategy, with the FirstNet Authority team. In closing, thank you all again for your time. I look forward to continuing to work with the FirstNet Authority Board and leadership and my fellow PSAC members on how the PSAC can offer its expertise to enhance the FirstNet Network in 2022. If there are no questions, that concludes my update. I'll turn the floor back over to you, Chair Benjamin.

**STEPHEN BENJAMIN:**

Any questions for Chairman Lombard? All right. Well, thank you all. Thank you, Chris. As usual, and welcome, Joe. Welcome, welcome. We'll now get an update from the Advocacy Committee. I'll turn this over to our Vice Chair and the Chair of the Advocacy Committee, Richard Carrizzo. Chief.

**RICHARD CARRIZZO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Before I begin my report, I just want to take a few moments and recognize that today is the International Firefighter Day in which we recognize all firefighters throughout the entire world, just not this nation, but the entire world, that have perished doing their job over the last year. So, today, again, is National Firefighters Day. But also, I'd be remiss, since this is a public safety committee completely, my cohorts on the Board is that next week is Police Week and there will be many activities at our National Capital. The following week will be National EMS week, and, in April, we recognize the National Public Safety Telecommunicators 9-1-1 operators throughout our nation. So, congratulations to all of our public safety cohorts out there and partners. So, with my report, I'd like to report that it was wonderful to get back in-person back in March. The FirstNet Authority team attended the International Wireless Communication Expo, the IWCE. There, we saw many stakeholders. I learned a lot from the sessions that we facilitated and also attended.

CEO Parkinson and I attended and presented the America's Public Safety Network, Its Ten-Year Mark. I looked at the FirstNet Retrospective along with another panel of past members of the FirstNet Authority. We continue to stress the importance of the FirstNet Authority and all the collaboration and team building that's been done, and what we'll be doing over the next ten years. It was so powerful when so many local and state public safety agencies come together and did come together as one to make this a reality when they lobbied Congress and created the Authority. We also urged the continuation collaboration for the next ten years. This isn't just with the Authority but our stakeholders, and our partner and team member, AT&T. I feel that this will continue to be an important aspect as we build out our network and its capabilities and gain subscribers as we move forward over the next 20 years, actually. I also had the pleasure of

participating in the Congressional Armed Services Institute activities a few weeks ago, along with some of our Authority colleagues.

We presented at that time to the National Advisory Council, and there we gave them an update on FirstNet is, where it's heading, and we also were able to schedule some future meetings with that council. Then June we'll be attending the Authority and its team members will be attending some of the Public Safety Broadband Network Stakeholders' meeting, which will be hosted by the Public Safety Communications Research Program at NIST, one of our many partners. There we will share the team's accomplishments from the last quarter, and, in the future, what I liked to do next, Mr. Chair, is talk about some of the highlights that have happened over this last quarter. Recently, we attended the Boston Marathon. This is something that we've done in the past where we've provided support to our stakeholders. This year was no exception. Some of our stakeholders that we engage with over the years have been the Boston Fire Department, City of Cambridge, and the Brookline Fire and Police Departments. We also met with PSAC member Joe Brooks, again, the Communications Director for the Boston Fire Department.

Joe, I'm sorry I was not able to be there and talk with you in person. But so glad to have you on the PSAC. We also met with Gerry Reardon, the Technology Director for the City of Cambridge. Many members were also talked with at the Brookline Fire and Police Departments to get their perspective of FirstNet and how we're performing along the Metro Boston area. The Boston Fire Department has used our services as well as many neighboring partner organizations from Brookline to many other urban area security areas. Most of the comments that we've heard through that time were very positive and looking forward to the continued work there. We were able to have some deplorables out there, as that has continued with our small cells since our last Patriots Day.

We also attended the National Hurricane Conference in Orlando, Florida. We led a session called, "Harnessing the Power of FirstNet for Disaster Planning, Response, and Recovery." The presentation included content on FirstNet and how it benefits Emergency Management.

The team shared details on the tools available in FirstNet Central. These include Advanced Network Status Updates, the Uplift program, and how to request a deployable. The team also promoted FirstNet Authority's Network Experience and Engagement Program. This included pre-planning and incident planning engagements, the exercise catalog, and how we implement Post Incident and Event Reviews for further engagements. There we also met with North Carolina stakeholders and representatives from DOD and other FirstNet colleagues participated in this. As Chief Lombard mentioned, the Stakeholder Collaboration team, in support and conjunction with the Roadmap Development Division team, conducted focus groups with PSAC members, as well as interested public safety stakeholders. These focus groups, which have been mostly virtual with a few in-person sessions as I explained at IWCE, and also at the Minnesota Statewide Communications Conference, have provided invaluable, important feedback and perspective to our teams. Through the public safety participation many challenges with information sharing, the team has heard how some of their agencies are tackling these challenges themselves to ensure data silos do not impact public safety operations.

As I've always said, it is so important to continue to get this feedback from some of our stakeholders. Actually, not some, all of our stakeholders, as this continues to guide the mission,

the Road Map, and our future endeavors as a Board and in our strategic decision making in our investments. Mr. Chair, that concludes my market engagement update. I'll turn back over to you.

**STEPHEN BENJAMIN:**

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

**JOCELYN MOORE:**

Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, Board Members. February 22, 2022, marked ten years since the passage of legislation that established the FirstNet Authority. In the decades since this law was enacted, this Authority has achieved tremendous milestones toward the public policy goal of a unified communications network for public safety. In fact, the Network Public Safety Broadband Network, LTE-related core services, or Task Order Three, one of the original task orders awarded to AT&T, was completed just last month. In addition to the delivered core-related services, coverage and capacity contract milestones were also achieved ahead of schedule. The FirstNet Authority has made continued progress on the original network investments, including early delivery of several milestones related to the upgrades to prepare the FirstNet core for initial 5G capabilities and expand FirstNet's dedicated fleet of deployables. FirstNet users are experiencing increased access to AT&T's 5G spectrum, in a growing number of markets, enabling 5G network capabilities on FirstNet.

FirstNet's dedicated deployable assets are fully integrated into the fleet and continue to help meet public safety's increasing demands at no cost as a subscribing agency. Since the start of fiscal year 2022, 325 plus solutions have been deployed, providing needed coverage during various events, such as the Western wildfires, hurricane response, and planned event operations. These accomplishments could not, and I want to underscore, could not have been achieved without the dedication and perseverance of FirstNet employees. As a result, some of the employees of the Authority had the honor of being selected for the 2021 Chief Acquisition Officer's Award for Excellence in Acquisition by the Department of Commerce, Acting Senior Procurement Executive and Director of the Office of Acquisition Management. I'll now turn this over to Jeff Bratcher, our Chief Network and Technology Officer, to provide an in-depth report on our recent progress and additional milestones.

**JEFF BRATCHER:**

Thank you, Jocelyn. Thank you, Board members. Happy to give you an update following up from our February Board meeting in Albuquerque. So, a couple of key numbers on our momentum slide that we update based on AT&T's quarterly earnings and their public announcements. Fifty more dedicated deployables have been added to the deployables fleet. I would also highlight an additional 300,000 connections. Now, we have over 3.3 million connections on the FirstNet Network. And I would also highlight over 1,000 new agencies as well have joined and are now using FirstNet in their day-to-day operations. We're very pleased with the growth that continues to exceed all expectations and hope we will continue to bring this momentum to you on a quarterly basis. Next slide, Jocelyn. So, one thing we put in, we added some animation for the Board on these. And just to show that tremendous growth. And, I like to highlight this completes really the fourth year that we have had the core network operational and actually adding subscribers to the Network and connections.

We started in the first quarter of '18, ending that quarter with approximately 42,000 connections. Fast forward 4 years, we're now at over 3.3 million connections; a tremendous amount of growth over the last 4 years. Very happy with that. We're glad to see public safety is adopting and using the Network that they actually fought 10 to 15 years leading up to that get built. The next slide highlights the agency growth. So again, going back to the first quarter of 2018, we started with approximately 630 agencies at the end of that first quarter when we activated the core and started adding subscribers. At the end of this last, most recently completed quarter, again we're over 20,500 agencies, and this doesn't include those subscriber-paid. So, the agencies we track, but on the connections number, that also includes what we call subscriber-paid. So, you think the volunteer firefighters, they can walk into an AT&T store and subscribe to FirstNet, and they are not tied directly to an agency-adopted metric.

So, again, really tremendous growth. We're very excited with how the Network is being used, and we will continue to push and grow on that. Next slide, please. So as Jocelyn and you mentioned, we have completed Task Order Three as of March of this year. That was one of the first task orders issued. And again, that was building the core and network services that are being taken advantage of today by public safety. That was the linchpin of getting the Network up and operational with our dedicated service. We had a couple of industry firsts with this, the introduction of 3GPP standardized mission-critical push-to-talk as well as mission-critical data and video features. The FirstNet Rapid Response was recently introduced as well for that voice capability. We've also introduced a z-axis or vertical access capability for first responders. That was a key objective and requirement that they wanted out of this Network, and also an industry first cell tower to the core encryption of the user plane data.

So again, providing that additional security for the use on this Network. And not to mention the application programming interfaces, our developer portal, all of the effort now geared towards getting first responders the capabilities they need to communicate. Next slide, please. So, I'll wrap up as a complement to what we've been doing out in the Boulder Lab and our testing and activities that you see in the upper left there, where we validate these features work as designed and as implemented. We've also partnered closely with our sister agency, NIST, and the Public Safety Communications Research Program on a customized facility equipped with a high-speed optical tracking system to support research in first responder user experience, indoor localization, situational awareness, and other areas that align directly to the FirstNet Authority Roadmap domains, as well as our market engagement efforts and what we're hearing from public safety in the field. This space is adjacent directly to our testing lab in the Boulder office and will offer future opportunities for research, development, education, and training with public safety, academia, and industry.

The optical tracking system that's been installed provides a key capability for the PSCR location-based services portfolio around the indoor mapping, tracking, and navigation. As an example, one of the NIST PSCR grantees, UC Irvine, has used the space to validate the accuracy of their uNavChip technology, which is currently under development in support of first responder tracking. And we've also had the opportunity to welcome in numerous local stakeholders and give them hands-on experience in this space and our testing lab. Those agencies include the Longmont Colorado Fire Department and the Mountain View Fire Protection District, which are both based near Boulder, as well as staff from the Colorado Governor Jared Polis' office as well.

I want to thank the Board members for your visit. I think you all have experienced the space now, at least most of you. We welcome the others as you can make it out to Boulder and see this. We do have some fantastic photos of all of you in VR headsets that we will be rolling out soon, and we look forward to the space being used for this and other purposes going forward.

We're excited about the collaboration with the NIST and the Public Safety Communications Research Program, and we will continue to keep you updated on this work. And please stay tuned for those listening. We have some official announcements on this collaboration that will be coming out in the near future. So, thank you again, Committee Chair Jocelyn, and I'll turn this back over to you, Chair Benjamin.

**STEPHEN BENJAMIN:**

Thank you so much, Jeff. I would say that you can even tell they had really extra-large size goggles too, for folks who are like really big brains. So, another story, this was an amazing opportunity to witness firsthand the level of technological innovation that's being deployed bespoke for first responders. I mean, created to meet the needs that our... the people we serve told us they needed. It was amazing. So, thank you, Jeff and Jocelyn, for an amazing update. We're now gonna get an update from the Finance and Investment Committee and learn more about this exciting investment. Mr. Chairman, Brian Crawford, it's on you.

**BRIAN CRAWFORD:**

Thank you, Chair Benjamin. I'm pleased with how our investment process gathering public safety feedback and translating their needs into new capabilities for accessing the network when and where they need it is exceedingly effective in putting these new tools in the hands of our public safety heroes, our firefighters, police officers, EMS, homeland security, and beyond. We have always noted that FirstNet must continuously evolve and have the value of this Network that is, public safety has a voice in how the Network advances. No other network does that. The work that FirstNet Authority does to help agencies operationalize FirstNet today remains critically important. This work is sustained by our investment process and business model, which drives how we will make investments to improve and advance the Network. Our investment today seeks to improve and advance the Network by supporting a valuable in-building coverage capability that will provide public safety better access to the tools and features of the Network.

I'd like to bring back Advocacy Committee Chair Chief Carrizo to talk further about how this investment will make a positive impact for public safety. Rich.

**RICHARD CARRIZZO:**

Appreciate that, Brian. Thank you. The steps we are taking today are just phenomenal. And just the pledges that we've made over the years to public safety for what they do, as this is their broadband Network, and just how we continue to build out this process. And here we are focusing on in-building communication challenges that they've had. As we heard earlier in the meeting, the Authority's conducted extensive surveys to many members of the public safety community along with PSAC members that are representing the associations and other of our stakeholders. And out of that, 92% of the respondents reported back that they spend over half of their time indoors. I know that seems very weird for public safety, but that's what we do. We spend a lot of time indoors waiting for that next incident. Administrators spend more than half of their time probably indoors, administrating the public safety needs of their communities. As

public safety agencies depend more and more on these mobile devices that we have every day, it's their primary module for first responders to access all their mission-critical applications and functions that they use every day.

It's critical that connectivity is available not just in the outdoors, but indoors, where responders spend that time. Seventy-six percent out of that, of the respondents also reported they depend on, which seems a little odd, unlicensed Wi-Fi for their mission-critical operations while indoors. Additional research showed that 80% of mobile sessions are initiated indoors, making high-quality indoor coverage a real necessity for every first responder. The investment will provide Band 14 in-building coverage extension to primary public safety agencies deployed at their discretion. They can use these based on the devices that we're looking at, is they can use them when and where they need them. So, they can use them in police stations, EMS stations, fire stations. We've seen devices being used during Covid times with 9-1-1 operators operating out of their houses where they needed coverage. Public responders could use them in staging locations where there's outages. I think that when Covid happened and we were setting up vaccination sites, these devices could also be used for those areas and into the future.

It's just unlimited. This leverage will be state of the art, small cell technology that delivers enhanced coverage and increases the footprint of our broadband Network, that is for public safety. Our investment in public safety today will seed the public safety marketplace with leading the edge of coverage solutions and is constructed in a way to manage risk and provide flexibility to that market. The action we're taking today will help ensure that public safety is able take advantage of the features of the entire first responder Network when and where they need it most. Chief Moir, I'm going to send it over to you. And I know as a police chief, you probably have some comments on this also based on some of your past experience.

**SYLVIA MOIR:**

I do, Chief Carrizzo, we listened to public safety. And in looking at the public safety engagement surveys that Chief Carrizzo just mentioned. From a law enforcement perspective, we heard that 71% of law enforcement respondents said that they spend over half of their time indoors. Surprising to some, but not really surprising to others. Furthermore, 60% of the law enforcement respondents also reported that they depend on this unlicensed Wi-Fi for mission-critical operations indoors. Many of the mission-critical functions for law enforcement, including prisoner processing, patrol operations, jail lockups, in-house training, and building security require very strong indoor coverage. Public safety relies on Wi-Fi in buildings because it's really the best or sometimes the only option available absent a reliable FirstNet connection. This isn't surprising. Public safety desires the same prioritized, seamless user experience that they get outdoors when they are operating indoors for their primary work location.

This investment to provide a small cell product that operates on our Band 14 spectrum will improve the Network experience for public safety, provide reliable FirstNet connection, which brings mission-critical services indoors, such as Push-To-Talk and video. It will enable more reliable handoff to and from the macro network as a law enforcement employee or operator moves from our station to vehicles. This solution will also improve the efficiency and ensure access to mission-critical functions when and where first responders need them to do their jobs to safeguard the members in their community. This is really important. And I know, Sheriff Koutoujian, you have some insights as well. So, we'd love to hear from you.

**PETER KOUTOUJIAN:**

Well, thank you very much, Chief, and building on Chief Moir's comments, sheriffs' offices are heavily reliant on indoor coverage not only in the community settings, but to perform critical functions like administering the county jail. These environments can be quickly dangerous, even in the best run correctional facilities. Our research and engagement with the public safety found that while larger agencies often have access to complex in-building solutions, thousands of small to midsize agencies, which by the way, replace most of our sheriffs' offices across the country, typically do not have the same level of information technology support, and have expressed a strong interest in a FirstNet-supported option. A lack of in-building coverage, all types of buildings, presents an issue for law enforcement will increasingly, increasingly become a barrier to FirstNet adoption as the use of mobile applications for public safety operations grows. This investment should really help public safety and provide greater equity as well between all the sheriffs' offices and law enforcement agencies across this country, no matter their size, by providing a cost-effective solution for access to the FirstNet Network where and when they need it.

Committee Chair Crawford, I'll now turn it back over to you for the Finance and Investment Committee's resolution on this very important investment.

**BRIAN CRAWFORD:**

Thank you, Sheriff Koutoujian, and thank you for the remarks from Chiefs Carrizo and Moir. Very important to have those comments come from people who actually have boots on the ground or are in contact on a daily basis with our first responders. In order to move forward with this investment, this Committee would like to make a recommendation to the Board as a whole. Through this resolution, the Finance and Investment Committee would like to recommend that the Board approve the task order and take other actions necessary to recommend funds related to this investment. So, before we vote, do any Finance and Investment Committee members have any questions about the proposed resolution? Hearing none, we prepare to vote on Finance and Investment Committee Resolution 31. Madam Secretary, would you please read the operative language?

**JANELL SMITH:**

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Board Finance and Investment Committee recommends to the Board that it approves the material terms of the task order to the existing NPSBN contract that would provide an agency deployed RAN capability to primary subscribing agencies of the NPSBN and directs management to take all actions necessary to issue the task order to the NPSBN contract to obtain these services consistent with such material terms, and to obligate necessary funds through Fiscal Year 2022. And now therefore, be it resolved that the Board Finance and Investment Committee further recommends that the Board authorize management to recommend funds from the Reinvestment and Network Enhancement Fund for this purpose beyond Fiscal Year 2022 via the annual budget process.

**BRIAN CRAWFORD:**

Thank you. May I have a motion to approve Finance and Investment Committee Resolution 31?

**BILLY HEWES:**

Mr. Chairman, this is Billy Hewes, I move adoption of said resolution.

**BRIAN CRAWFORD:**

So move by Mayor Hewes. Is there a second?

**KARIMA HOLMES:**

Chair, this is Karima, I second.

**BRIAN CRAWFORD:**

Seconded by Director Holmes. All those on the Finance and Investment Committee are in favor. Say aye, please.

**BOARD FINANCE AND INVESTMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Aye.

**BRIAN CRAWFORD:**

Any opposed, say nay. Are there any abstentions? Madam Secretary, will you please make the 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 Chairman Benjamin.

**STEPHEN BENJAMIN:**

Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman, and to the entire team for their collective leadership on this. To move forward with this investment, the Board is now prepared to vote on Resolution 113. Before we vote, do any Board members have any questions about the proposed resolution? Hearing none, we're prepared to vote on Board Resolution 113. Madam Secretary, would you please read the operative language?

**JANELL SMITH:**

Now, therefore, be it resolved that in accordance with Resolution 100, the Board hereby approves the material terms of the task order to the existing NPSBN contract that would provide an agency deployed RAN capability to primary subscribing agencies of the NPSBN and directs management to take all actions necessary to issue the task order to the NPSBN contract to obtain these services consistent with such material terms and to obligate the necessary funds through Fiscal Year 2022. Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Board authorizes management to recommend funds from the Reinvestment and Network Enhancement Fund for this purpose beyond Fiscal Year 2022 via the annual budget process.

**STEPHEN BENJAMIN:**

Thank you, 'may I have a motion to approve Board Resolution 113?

**PAUL PATRICK:**

Mr. Chair, this is Paul Patrick. I make a motion to approve Board Resolution 113.

**STEPHEN BENJAMIN:**

Thank you, is there a second?

**KRISTIN GRAZIANO:**

Mr. Chair, Kristin Graziano, I second the motion.

**STEPHEN BENJAMIN:**

Thank you. All in favor, say aye.

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Aye.

**STEPHEN BENJAMIN:**

All opposed, say nay. Any abstentions. All right, seeing none, Madam Secretary, will you please make the resolution available to the public following this meeting.

**JANELL SMITH:**

Yes, I will.

**STEPHEN BENJAMIN:**

Thank you so much. That concludes the business of the Board today. As efficient as always, before I turn it over to my friend, our CEO, Ed Parkinson, to close this out, I definitely want to take a moment to thank Ed for his leadership and service to FirstNet Authority and to first responders over so many several years. As many of you probably know, Ed will be leaving us next week for an executive position in the private sector, but he won't be going too far away and will be staying within the public safety arena in this new job. Anyone who has worked with Ed knows and can see his commitment to the public safety mission and his passion for making public safety communications better. At last month's Board meeting, we discussed the remarkable progress that had been made during the first ten years of FirstNet. There's been one constant over those ten years, and that's been Ed Parkinson, from his time in Congress, advocating for the Network through today as CEO, Ed's been an important driving force behind the success of FirstNet and the Nationwide Public Safety Network. He has brought a collaborative and entrepreneurial spirit and amazing energy to the FirstNet Authority. He has been instrumental in building trusted relationships within the public safety community over so many years. This approach has set us up for success now and in the future and in this new phase of FirstNet, one in which we're focused on making strategic investments to grow and improve the Network based on public safety's feedback. So, I really want to thank Ed for his service. Obviously, we think about 2022, and I think when Ed is thinking about FirstNet, he's thinking 2032, 2042, the mark that you've made as a very young man, I would say on posterity, I think, is yet to be fully realized by all, my friend. It's gonna be hard to replace Ed, but the Board has made it a top priority to fill the vacant CEOs position and look forward to moving out on that as quickly as we can. Per our succession planning, and we are so fortunate and blessed, I might say, to have Deputy CEO Lisa Casias as our Acting CEO. I'll hand this over to Lisa for her to say a few words about this process.

Lisa.

**LISA CASIAS:**

Thank you, Chairman. As Chairman Benjamin stated, we will begin the search for a new CEO in the coming weeks. That announcement will be on USA Jobs, and we'll also put that out via our FirstNet channel. So, folks can keep up to date and take a look for that. But during this interim

time, we will continue the momentum of implementing and evolving the Network to meet public safety needs. Ed, on behalf of myself and the FirstNet team, it's bittersweet saying goodbye, but we want to thank you for your leadership and really your unwavering commitment that I've seen day in and day out to public safety and meeting their needs. That's been the foremost in your thoughts, and that's really what you've led us to, and that's why we are where we are in FirstNet and in the Network. But I want to pass this to the CTO, Jeff Bratcher, because he'd like to just say a few words.

**JEFF BRATCHER:**

I couldn't let this be Ed's last video-recorded session without at least saying from the staff and, someone who met Ed probably back in 2010, and I joined FirstNet right after you did in 2013. But thanks again. We're gonna miss giving you a hard time with the accent, with the clothes, with the dress. But you're gonna be missed. And thank you again. And best of luck to the future from all the team that have been here and look forward to supporting Lisa in the acting role as we search for the next CEO. So, thank you again, Ed from the staff and everyone.

**EDWARD PARKINSON:**

Thanks guys. Gets me all choked up. I said I wouldn't do that. It's incredibly bittersweet that I'm here today and speaking in this position, but I try to jot down a few notes and I'll speak just very quickly because I know this travel and whatnot and bad weather up here in New Hampshire, shocker. I just want to thank from the bottom of my heart the entire FirstNet Authority. And it's really the team. I played just a small part in this family. Ed Horowitz, our former Board Chair talked about the FirstNet family. And I think that's really what it is. And we've had people come and go and come back to the organization. And I think what we've been able to achieve as a small group of people has been unbelievable. And when I think of my very first day on the job, Maggie Mitchell at NTIA, TJ Kennedy, one of my predecessors and myself, started on the same day, and TJ and I had one laptop between the two of us, and we're like, how are we going to build a \$40 billion network? Well, here we are. And Jeff's presentation showed the incredible, incredible trust that public safety has put in us.

But it's because of the team. It's because of everyone around this table. All the team back in Reston and Boulder who work from Hawaii to Maine and those who've come before and those who are coming after me. And one likes to think of that unwritten commandment where "thou shalt leave the world or your place in a better place than when you found it." And I think I can safely say that we have done that. It's not perfect, of course, you know, mistakes have been made, but we've tried our best. And I appreciate Lisa's comments in saying that it was all about public safety, because it has been and I feel very, very privileged to have been associated not only with the project, but more importantly with the people of the organization. So, just a few quick shout outs because I can't go without a couple of names. To Ed Horowitz, who was acting Chairman at the time and put me in the role. To David Redl when he was head of NTIA, who put the trust in me. To Tip Osterthaler, my former Chair. And then obviously my good friend right here, who's been just fantastic in his role over the last seven or eight months.

I want to thank April Delaney and Alan Davidson, the current hierarchy at NTIA, for showing nothing but support to the program. April was good enough to be here yesterday, and I think she's going to be a tremendous partner to the entire team at NTIA, but also particularly Maggie Mitchell, who's one of these unknown names that folks, if you don't know, she just really makes

life incredibly better for everyone. And she's played an incredible role. And I would be remiss without mentioning Mike Dame, who's also too in the background has been just an ardent supporter for public safety and for what we've done. To my Chiefs of Staff, James Mitchell and Justin Shore and our wonderful April Ward, our current Chief of Staff here at the Authority. I couldn't have done any of this without you. To my right hand, Lisa joined the organization a couple of years ago, and we've got this wonderful yin-yang thing going, and it's worked fantastically well. To Jeff Bratcher, who, you didn't think I could get this back on you?

I met Jeff when we were in Boulder, Colorado. I was a congressional staffer. And I'll be very honest, I was wet behind the ears is one way to describe it. Jeff was there, Derek Orr, the PSCR team, great, great people, and really helped me back in the day. And it's amazing how funny fate can be bringing us all together. Couple more folks behind the scenes at OMB, Austin Turner, Peter Hoy, and Ben Page. Again, unknown folks, but they do an amazing job behind the scenes. To Gail Kaufman over at the FBI. She's been a rock with DOJ, and she really has just been an incredible supporter and deserves all the credit. To my senior staff and to Rich Reed, Jim Gwinn, Kim Farington, Paul Madison, Erin Greten, who was our former counsel, did a great job. Scott Palmer, to Jeremy, to Brian, to Matt. It's a remarkable group of people. We've really got Scott Palmer from a procurement perspective, why I feel so good about where we are is we have the right people in the right places, and we'll be able to move forward. There's too many to name, but my first government affairs team, Tom Shull, Jeanette Kennedy, Jamal Vincent, Justin Shore.

There was a special group of people at a special time, certainly in my career. And we had memories. Drew Delaney, we have memories that we'll be able to hold going forward. So, in wrapping up, I just want to say thank you. One of the great things about this job is being able to visit parts of the country that maybe I otherwise wouldn't have gone, but also get to know people and to get to know cultures. One of the things that I really didn't know anything about coming from growing up in South Africa was the tribal nations here in the United States. And there's a great quote I remember from Sitting Bull I jotted down, "Let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children." And I think what we have done in putting our minds together for public safety has been nothing short of remarkable. So, I just feel privileged, as I said before, to be joined together with all of you. And I certainly look forward to seeing the future success and the leadership of Steve, all of you and the organization going forward.

You'll have nothing but support from me. So, thank you. Appreciate it. (CLAPPING)

**STEPHEN BENJAMIN:**

Thank you so much. Are there Board members who might want to provide some brief remarks?

**PAUL PATRICK:**

Mr. Chair, Paul Patrick, I'd like to take just a brief moment to thank Ed not only professionally but personally for what you have done for me and for the association that I hold so dear to my heart, Emergency Medical Services. You've really helped us move up in the forefront of what FirstNet does, and your expertise and leadership has been remarkable. And oftentimes the word thank you is not enough. So, we appreciate that. And I am so impressed that you used the word family because families are forever, and we're glad that you're here and that will last going well beyond this. So, good luck and know that we're here to support you as we know you're here to support us.

**STEPHEN BENJAMIN:**

Thank you, Paul. Other Board members?

**BILLY HEWES:**

Mr. Chairman, I'd like to haze Ed for just a minute. You know in milestones like this, you do a little reflection. And I can recall when I was asked if I'd be interested in serving on the FirstNet Board; I said, sure. And then I learned more about the mission. I said, absolutely. The potential and the critical work that's being done. So, then they said well, you've got to do a job interview. I said, I haven't done one of those in a long time. So, got a call. And it was this group that was gathered it was before the days of Zoom and so it was on the phone. And this a fellow with a really peculiar accent, started asking questions and talking. And of course, that was Ed Horowitz. (LAUGHTER) And then his other chap gets on. I said, good gosh, what kind of international conglomerate have they brought here? And the talks went great, great vision, and I got more enthused about getting to learn, of course, with me having no accent, I knew there would be no dialectic challenge. But communication is key. And so, we moved forward. We had these first meetings and getting to know one another as we do.

And for me and I think for most of us, if not all of us, serving on this Board has been one of the most impactful, meaningful missions that we could ever be associated with. And it has to do with the leadership and the team that we are privileged to work with and the day-to-day team in particular. There are a lot of things in life that either shape character or reveal it. And we've been through a lot here. And you get high marks on both. And I think your character comes through all the time. Your temperament, your consistency, and your passion for what we do, your grasp of it. There're so many accolades I could provide, but I think the constancy and reliability that you've provided to this Board and your staff and the esprit de corps that we see with the enthusiasm that everybody understands first and foremost what FirstNet is about. I think it goes back to you and the direction and guidance you have provided. So, the other thing is it's one thing to take a measure of a man by what he says, but it really comes down to his actions.

And you, again, have been consistent from a professional and a personal standpoint. And I know your family is proud of you. We are as well. And we wish you the best. So, Godspeed. Look forward to seeing you around.

**BRIAN CRAWFORD:**

Chairman Benjamin. Please, Brian Crawford. I'll keep my comments brief because I've experienced everything and can affirm the accolades already conveyed by my Board member colleagues regarding CEO Parkinson or Ed. He has indeed been a tremendous leader, a strategist, a team builder at the First Responder Network Authority. But moreover, he's been a player-coach and always teaching, coaching, and mentoring me and others to navigate the sometimes-challenging dynamics of FirstNet's administrative responsibilities and ensuring that the organization is operating at a high level of efficiency and effectiveness, while always keeping our focus on why we are all here to place a revolutionary game-changing and life-saving communications medium in the hands of our nation's public safety heroes. To this end, I'd like to say to Ed, well done. Throughout your almost decade of service to FirstNet you played a number of key roles in making this vision a reality. And because of your faithful stewardship as CEO, leave this Board in a position to ensure that the network continues to grow and evolve.

I would also be remiss if I did not thank your wife, Courtney, your children Liza, Sophie, and Dillon, and their sacrifices in sharing you with us and public safety. Godspeed and best of luck in your future endeavors.

**STEPHEN BENJAMIN:**

Thank you, Brian. Sylvia.

**SYLVIA MOIR:**

So thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Ed, I will speak briefly about you in my witnessing you as a CEO, as a leader, and it will reveal my perspective of you as a man. You lived across this world and somehow landed in DC at the right time for not only public safety, but for how public safety carries out this essential mission of safeguarding people. To say that first responders are safer because of you, Ed, and because of your influence, your ability to see the future, to work on strategy and tactics, to do the tough work. It's not an understatement. You as a leader, I think we've all witnessed your incredible bearing. Your tact, your knowledge, integrity, work ethic, unselfishness, and no doubt this enthusiasm that is contagious. For anyone that is in your space, Ed Parkinson, not to want to be part of what you create is astonishing to me. To be part of this is really, really important, and you have set us on a path that is extraordinary. It's very clear that you value a scrum, and this rugby approach is going the distance as a unit.

It is right in this environment. In this time, given this mission and your valuing the scrum to move forward as a unit is absolutely essential to how we're operating. It has been an honor to serve on this brief time beside you to witness your brilliance. We wish you all the best. We can't wait to witness your remarkable efforts continuing to strengthen the way that public safety carries out this incredible, noble mission that first responders carry out. And I, Ed, am looking forward to seeing you at the finish line of our next marathon. You will finish several hours before me, but I will see you at the finish. We stand at the start line. We do the work, and we finish. You are a remarkable human being, Ed, thank you.

**STEPHEN BENJAMIN:**

In the South we say amen. Amen. Thank you, brother. And thanks to all of you and all our friends joining us here virtually. We're now prepared to adjourn this meeting. May I have a motion to adjourn?

**ALEXANDRA FERNANDEZ NAVARRO:**

This is Board member Fernandez Navarro, I so move.

**STEPHEN BENJAMIN:**

Is there a second?

**BILLY BOB BROWN, JR.:**

Mr. Chair, this is Billy Bob Brown Jr. I'd make a second.

**STEPHEN BENJAMIN:**

All in favor say aye.

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Aye.

**STEPHEN BENJAMIN:**

All opposed, nay? Any abstentions? All right. Well, thank you. And thanks to everyone who participated in the Combined Board and Committees meeting and to the audience who joined us over WebEx today. The meeting is now adjourned. Godspeed.

**SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chair.