



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION
FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY
**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2022, COMBINED BOARD AND COMMITTEES
MEETING IN PERSON AND VIA WEBEX**

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) held an open public meeting of the FirstNet Authority Board and its Committees. The meeting took place on Wednesday, November 16, 2022, via WebEx and in person at 9:00 AM EST in Tysons, Virginia. An audio recording and transcript of the meeting, as well as the archived presentation, are available on the FirstNet Authority website: www.FirstNet.gov.

INTRODUCTION

Board Chair Stephen Benjamin welcomed all who joined the FirstNet Authority Combined Board and Committees meeting in person in Tysons, Virginia and virtually via WebEx.

Chair Benjamin shared that this is the Board's last quarterly meeting of the year and recapped some of the nation's natural disasters such as Hurricane Fiona and Hurricane Ian, where public safety stepped in. The Chair discussed how the FirstNet network was available after natural disasters in hard-to-reach places like Sanibel Island and Pine Island. Chair Benjamin welcomed new Board member, Renee Gordon.

During the meeting, the Board approved the August 17, 2022, Combined Board and Committees meeting minutes, shared the dates and locations of the 2023 Combined Board and Committee Meetings, awarded the Chief Harlin R. McEwen Public Safety Broadband Communications Award, heard updates from the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC), Advocacy Committee, Programs and Future Planning Committee, and Finance and Investment Committee, and heard closing remarks from Board Chair Stephen Benjamin and Acting FirstNet Authority CEO Lisa Casias.

Roll Call

Stephen Benjamin ("Chair"), Richard Carrizzo ("Vice Chair"), Billy Bob Brown, Jr., Robert Brown, Brian Crawford, Alexandra Fernández Navarro, Renee Gordon, Kristin Graziano, Billy Hewes, Peter Koutoujian, Warren Mickens, Sylvia Moir, Jocelyn Moore, and Paul Patrick were in attendance. A quorum was present for the Board and Combined Committees meeting.¹

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 meeting agenda and Conflict of

¹ Sylvia Moir participated virtually.

Interest guidance provided by the Ethics Law and Program Division of the Department of Commerce Office of General Counsel that applies to all Board members. All Board members responded prior to the meeting that they did not need to recuse themselves from participation in any portion of the meeting, therefore indicating no conflicts of interest, and the meeting proceeded.

2023 Board meetings schedule

- Wednesday, February 15, 2023 – Austin, Texas/Virtual
- Wednesday, May 3, 2023 – Boulder, Colorado/Virtual
- Wednesday, August 23, 2023 – Seattle, Washington/Virtual
- Thursday, November 2, 2023 – Washington, D.C./Virtual

Votes Taken

Prior to proceeding with the business of the day, Chair Benjamin requested a motion to approve the minutes from the August 17, 2022 Combined Board and Committees Meeting. Paul Patrick made the motion. Peter Koutoujian seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to approve the August 17, 2022 Combined Board and Committees meeting minutes to be available to the public at the end of the meeting.

Chief Harlin R. McEwen Public Safety Broadband Communications Award

The Chief Harlin R. McEwen Public Safety Broadband Communications award was established in 2017 in honor of Chief Harlin R. McEwen for his extraordinary expertise, experience, and leadership as the founding Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) Chair. Vice Chair Richard Carrizzo introduced John Stevens as the 2022 awardee. John Stevens is the New Hampshire Statewide Interoperability Coordinator for the New Hampshire Department of Public Safety. John Stevens accepted the award and took a few moments to speak on his experiences.

MATTERS DISCUSSED

PSAC Update

PSAC Chair Chris Lombard provided the PSAC Update. In September 2022, the PSAC held their bi-monthly webinar series. At the webinar, plans for the 2023 Roadmap and recent messaging were discussed. PSAC members and FirstNet Authority staff held an in-depth User Meeting on the FirstNet and Network Experience Engagement Program (NEEP) and Post Incident/Event Review (PIER) engagements.

In November 2022, the PSAC Chair Lombard met with the Tribal Working Group (TWG) and toured the Boulder Colorado Lab. During this tour, AT&T provided updates and shared perspectives about Tribal public safety needs. The TWG's Chair, Gerad Godfrey led that meeting.

PSAC Chair Lombard recognized three new PSAC members, Darrin Jones, DOJ-FBI representative, and former Board member, Brandon Abley, National Emergency Number Association (NENA); and Executive Committee member John Sweeney representing the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA).

Next year, PSAC will conduct their bi-annual membership nomination process for the 2023-2025 membership term and are working to plan PSAC work for the next year to include full membership, the TWG, virtual touch points, and continued engagement with public safety.

Advocacy Committee Update

During the fourth quarter, Board members Sheriff Kristin Graziano and Sheriff Peter Koutoujian participated in the IACP Conference in Dallas, Texas. The topics included body cameras and use of video and technology to improve community trust through FirstNet. There was a noticed shift in participants' interest and understanding of FirstNet in contrast to previous years.

The Technology Summit International, in conjunction with the International Association of Fire Chiefs, allowed engagement with Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) from the fire service community. Conference topics included Connect Firefighter, designing technology for first responders, and opportunities to engage with technology-specific personnel who pursued FirstNet. Advocacy Chair Rich Carrizzo reiterated the importance of FirstNet 101 for the mission and the Board.

Board member Paul Patrick and FirstNet Authority staff attended Emergency Medical Services (EMS) World, which is a large event dedicated to EMS. FirstNet Authority representatives communicated with attendees who had never heard of FirstNet. Additionally, this conference provided opportunities for further engagement with medical technology vendors.

Committee Chair Carrizzo reiterated the importance of receiving feedback to build the Nation's only first responder public safety broadband network. FirstNet Authority staff collected over 2,200 feedback items at engagements, which reflected both positive and negative experiences of FirstNet customers and future enhancements to the network. Over the last fiscal year (FY), AT&T introduced features that directly address public safety feedback the FirstNet Authority has captured.

Some of the feedback received through FirstNet Authority's engagement with public safety includes topics on how the network is helping public safety's daily operations and how FirstNet's features can help public safety carry out their mission. In FY 2022, AT&T launched several features that directly address public safety feedback provided by FirstNet Authority. Committee Chair Richard Carrizzo discussed the FirstNet features in public safety operations and success stories from public safety users. Highlighted features include multiple mission-critical Push-to-Talk solutions, including FirstNet Push-To-Talk and rapid response, mission-critical data and video, and height above terrain measurements. Some of these solution enhancements address feedback captured over many years, with solutions entering the marketplace this FY.

The Committee Chair relayed the Board's action to approve the investment of in-building coverage, which is one of public safety's top critical communications. This investment aims to cover small cell technology to enhance FirstNet Band 14 coverage where public safety operates in buildings, such as police headquarters, fire stations, emergency communication centers, and emergency operations centers.

In the next FY, FirstNet Authority will engage public safety through Discipline Engagement and Federal and State engagements.

FirstNet Authority will continue to provide FirstNet updates and engage FirstNet customers to understand their experience with FirstNet across all states and territories, working with federal, local, state, and tribal agencies.

Programs and Future Planning Committee Update

Committee Chair Jocelyn Moore shared updates from the October 2022 Programs and Future Planning Committee meeting. During the Committee meeting, FirstNet Authority staff updated the Committee on user eligibility, the status of Band 14 deployment, and low earth orbit satellite technology evolution.

Committee Chair Jocelyn Moore stated that the initial Band 14 radio access network (RAN) deployment task order will be reaching completion in March 2023. Since the deployment of Band 14 in 2018, 2.8 million square miles of coverage have been added.

Also, Committee Chair Jocelyn Moore reviewed the previous quarter highlights. There are now more than 525 FirstNet-ready devices available on the network and over 1,000 solutions have been deployed for public safety so far this year. Two instances were during Hurricane Ian where Compact Radio Deployables (CRD) were used to help provide communications to first responders at Sanibel Island and Pine Island.

FirstNet is now providing quality, priority, and preemption-capable wireless service for more than four million public safety device connections. There are also now more than 23,000 public safety agencies and organizations across the nation using FirstNet. That is an increase of 4,400 agencies since the end of 2021.

Finance and Investment Committee Update

Finance and Investment Committee Chair Brian Crawford provided updates regarding the FirstNet Authority budget. FirstNet Authority finished FY 2022 with total cumulative obligations of 78.4 million to close the fiscal year with a 1% variance to the Board-authorized budget.

Committee Chair Brian Crawford provided illustrations of FirstNet Authority's first month of FY 2023 Q1 obligations of \$13 million and the budgeted obligations for the remainder of FY 2023.

Closing Remarks

Chair Benjamin welcomed new Board member, Renee Gordon, congratulated John Stevens on receiving the Harlin R. McEwen award, and thanked the FBI for providing hospitality to the Board members the day prior to the Board meeting. He also expressed gratitude for the work of the nation's first responders.

Acting CEO Lisa Casias provided an update on hiring and recruitment of the FirstNet Authority CEO and noted that bringing a CEO on board is a top priority. Acting CEO Lisa Casias reiterated that the initial five-year build-out of Band 14 is on track for completion in the first part of the calendar year, and she stated that FirstNet Authority's public safety engagements are essential to the success of the next phase of the network.

Over the last year, FirstNet Authority worked to renew the Band 14 spectrum license at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The FirstNet Authority filed its renewal application in August and the proceeding remains pending before the FCC.

Board Adjourned

Chair Benjamin requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kristin Graziano made the motion, Robert Brown seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.