



**FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2017
BOARD MEETING**

On September 14, 2017, the First Responder Network Authority (“FirstNet”) held an open public meeting of the FirstNet Board. The meeting took place in Boulder, CO, and began at 9:00 AM MDT. The meeting was made available to the public via teleconference and webcast. A transcript of the meeting and the archived copy of the Board webcast can be found on the FirstNet website at www.firsnet.gov.

FIRSTNET BOARD MEETING

FirstNet Board Chair Sue Swenson opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to Boulder, CO, and reiterating her remarks from the Combined Committee meeting thanking all the first responders and volunteers nationwide who had responded to the recent hurricanes and wild fires. Chair Swenson likewise recognized FirstNet Board member Annise Parker, Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) Chair Tom Sorley, and FirstNet staff members Ehrin Ehlert, Brian Kassa, and Jackie Miller-Warren for their involvement in responding to the recent emergencies. Chair Swenson also remembered those first responders and others who lost their lives in the 9/11 terrorist attack. Chair Swenson next outlined the agenda for the Board meeting and briefly highlighted the Combined Committee meeting, including the Finance Committee fiscal year (FY) 2018 Budget Resolution, the Public Safety Communications Research (PSCR) presentation, the FirstNet Innovation and Test Lab Demonstrations Tour.

Roll Call

Sue Swenson (“Chair”), Jeff Johnson (“Vice Chair”), Ed Horowitz, James Douglas, Kevin McGinnis, Neil Cox, Teri Takai, Ron Hewitt, Annise Parker (via teleconference), Ed Reynolds (via teleconference), Kathy Kraninger (via teleconference), and Christopher Piehota (via teleconference). A quorum was present for the FirstNet Board.

Conflicts Statement and Reminder

Board Secretary Karen Miller-Kuwana reminded Board members of the conflicts statement that FirstNet had provided in advance of the Board meeting and asked for any recusals from the Board members. In response, all participating Board members indicated no conflicts of interest, and the meeting proceeded.

MATTERS DISCUSSED

Before proceeding with the agenda, Chair Swenson turned the meeting over to Vice Chair Johnson, who began his remarks by thanking Chair Swenson for her insight during the recent natural disasters to not interfere, as the FirstNet Board, with the emergency responses. Vice Chair Johnson noted that there will be a time and a place for “lessons learned” and added that FirstNet was fortunate to have PSAC Chair Tom Sorley, who also serves as the Deputy Chief Information Officer for the City of Houston, bring his emergency response experiences and lessons learned to bear. Vice Chair Johnson also thanked the City of Houston and the State of Texas for sharing their lessons learned from the emergency response to Hurricane Harvey. Lastly, Vice Chair Johnson reflected briefly on the demonstrations tour hosted by Chief Technology Officer (CTO) Jeff Bratcher. The demonstrations were the first time that Vice Chair Johnson had seen a fully workable and logical demonstration of the situational awareness technology that will be available to first responders, and he noted that he was excited that first responders will soon have the opportunity to use it. Chair Swenson thanked Vice Chair Johnson and welcomed Ron Hewitt, Director of the Office of Emergency Communications, as the new Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Board designee.

PSAC Update

PSAC Chair Sorley thanked Chair Swenson and Vice Chair Johnson for their kind words and offered his appreciation for the number of FirstNet staff who reached out to let him know that we were thinking of him.

PSAC Chair Sorley began with a brief discussion of the in-person meeting held by the Tribal Working Group (TWG) in conjunction with the Tribal Interior Budget Council meeting in July 2017. Board member Kevin McGinnis attended the meeting and the topics discussed included the Tribal Consultation Policy, potential recommendations to FirstNet about ways to streamline the right-of-way issues on Tribal lands, and federal agency participation and contract vehicles with the sovereign Tribal nations. The TWG also met with the Navajo National Council, the Navajo Nation Leadership, and the President of the Navajo Nation. PSAC Chair Sorley thanked the TWG Chair Brian Howard and FirstNet’s tribal liaisons Margaret Gutierrez and Adam Geisler for the incredible job they have done over the past year.

Next, PSAC Chair Sorley highlighted the upcoming PSAC meetings and activities, including a webinar and an in-person meeting. He also noted that the PSAC would be working on a series of federal working group workshops for regional federal entities and had a number of task team follow-up work product briefings with AT&T scheduled. PSAC members are also participating in the State Plan Review Teams.

Chair Swenson asked a follow-up questions about the TWG, and both PSAC Chair Sorley and Mr. McGinnis detailed the types of activities they expect the TWG to be involved with moving forward.

Finance Committee Update

Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Kim Farington began the update with FirstNet's FY 2018 budget request of \$73.5M – a 13% decrease from the FY 2017 budget request. Ms. Farington explained that the FY 2018 budget focused on innovation, customer service, and operations and was divided into three work streams: network operations (focused on implementation and oversight of the NPSBN network), public safety (focused on customer outreach and product management) and corporate services (focused on FirstNet program and administrative operations). Ms. Farington also outlined the critical milestones that FirstNet expects to achieve in FY 2018 before requesting that the Board approve the FY 2018 budget resolution. Chair Swenson asked the Board if there were any questions before the vote and asked that the operative language of the Board Resolution 86 for FY 2018 Budget be read into the record.

Votes Taken

Mr. Douglas moved for the Board to adopt Board Resolution 86 and Board member Edward Horowitz seconded the motion. After a brief comment from Chair Swenson about the Network Program Office, the FirstNet Board unanimously approved Resolution 86.

Governance and Personnel Committee Update

Chair Swenson provided a brief update on the new Board member appointments and reported that the Governance and Personnel Committee had concluded its role in the process. Chair Swenson also reported that the Board expects that the National Information and Technology Administration (NTIA) and the Department of Commerce will make the final Board member appointment decisions in the September/October time frame. In the meantime, the terms of the four Board members that were set to expire in August 2017 were extended until Board member appointments are made, but no later than December 31, 2017.

Chair Swenson also announced that the FirstNet RFP Team received the Department of Commerce's Gold Medal Award in the Personal and Professional Excellence category for implementing/executing an innovative acquisition and public-private partnership model for the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network. The Gold Medal Award is the highest honorary award given by the Department of Commerce and will be presented by Secretary Wilbur Ross at the 69th Annual Honor Awards Ceremony. Chair Swenson personally acknowledged the recipients of the award and asked that those members of the FirstNet RFP Team present at the Board meeting to stand to be congratulated.

Chair Swenson also took the opportunity to congratulate Mr. McGinnis on being awarded the Richard DeMello Award by National Public Safety Technology Council (NPSTC), and PSAC Chair Sorley on his NPSTC Leadership Award. Both Mr. McGinnis and PSAC Chair Sorley spoke briefly about their work with NPSTC.

Consultation and Outreach Committee Update

Chief Customer Officer (CCO) Rich Reed provided a quick recap of the FirstNet State Plan timeline before thanking his team for the outstanding and invaluable work they have done in connection with the State Plans process. Mr. Reed noted that the official State Plans should be released as early as September 19, and that the CCO team was working to finalize its comments and modifications to the portal and waiting for NTIA's funding level determinations. Mr. Reed also noted that 20 states had already announced their intent to opt-in to the FirstNet Network with more to announce in the immediate future.

Next, Mr. Reed reported on FirstNet's participation in the response efforts for Hurricane Harvey. FirstNet was invited to participate in the emergency response operation centers to observe both how the commercial networks and AT&T performed, as well as how the states prepared for and responded to the emergency. Chair Swenson commented on how some of the new technologies that the Board saw in yesterday's demonstrations would offer additional and expanded capabilities in emergency responses. In particular, Chair Swenson mentioned the aerial capabilities of the flying COW (cells on wings), and Mr. McGinnis seconded Chair Swenson's comments. The Board continued with an additional discussion of how FirstNet's integrated and innovative solution will offer additional and expanded response capabilities to first responders. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mike Poth added that FirstNet's participation in the emergency response centers is a continuation of FirstNet's consultation efforts. Mr. Reed directed the briefing back to AT&T's emergency response, and noted that AT&T made quality of service and priority available to the first responders in the affected areas regardless of whether they had opted-in at that point. AT&T also moved assets and equipment to the affected areas, which made a significant impact in emergency communications.

Technology Update

Technology Committee Chair Neil Cox first thanked Chief Technology Officer (CTO) Jeff Bratcher and his team for organizing the Lab demonstrations and tour and his fellow Board and Committee members for taking the time to see the technology in action. Mr. Bratcher also thanked his CTO team and AT&T's team for all of the hard work and planning that went in to the successful demonstrations.

Mr. Bratcher began the Technology update with a brief discussion of the four pillars that form the foundation of FirstNet's strategy for driving standards in the application community. These pillars include the technical standards that drive adoption, economies of scale, and improve user

experiences; marketing standards that lower barrier to entry for new app developers; legislative standards; and stakeholder standards that engage the public safety community. Mr. Bratcher also identified some of the key focus areas that FirstNet is leveraging around law enforcement, firefighter EMS and emergency management telecommunications, as well as some of the base technologies and future technologies that cut across different applications.

In moving to devices, Mr. Bratcher noted that AT&T has brought a full suite of devices that are available to users with quality of service and priority today and with preemption later this year. These are also the devices that public safety has told FirstNet that it needs to do their jobs and FirstNet will remain focused on driving AT&T's device ecosystem to include devices with future protection, connection, and situational awareness technologies. Mr. Bratcher also reported that FirstNet intends to leverage the PSAC and user groups to drive innovation and to help FirstNet understand what public safety users need in the field. The Internet of Things and, by extension, the Internet of Life Saving Things (IoLST) likewise continues to be a focus, and FirstNet will continue to leverage public safety's engagement in this developing technology.

Mr. Bratcher also briefly reiterated that the multi-band RAN solution that AT&T will provide for public safety (including priority and preemption) will be available on the entire AT&T commercial network and Band 14 network versus the single Band 14 solution initially specified in the RFP. Mr. Bratcher emphasized that AT&T's multi-band solution gives first responders priority and preemption on those multi-bands *now* before Band 14 is deployed.

Next, Mr. Bratcher provided an update on the Core Network and informed the Board that the FirstNet Core will be fully implemented by March 2018. The Core will provide basic network and mission critical services; secure access; full network sharing; and quality of service, priority, and preemption across all AT&T and LTE bands. Mr. Bratcher then provided a detailed explanation to the Board on the evolution of standards technology, the Third Generation Partnership Project (3GPP), and network capabilities.

At the close of the Technology Committee update, Mr. Bratcher recapped the PSCR presentation from the Combined Committee meeting. Chair Swenson asked for comments on how FirstNet can make this technology most useable to first responders, and whether there will be jobs created to assist first responders in managing the various aspects of this new technology. The Board had an active discussion surrounding these topics before previewing a short video highlighting the previous day's Lab demonstrations. ([Video Link](#))

Promoting Innovation

President TJ Kennedy began his presentation with the acknowledgement that FirstNet has the unique opportunity to promote innovation for public safety and to radically change how first responders and public safety utilize technology to respond to emergencies and perform their everyday duties. To take advantage of this opportunity, FirstNet is actively engaging public safety agencies to determine what their priorities and recommendations are for the Network. FirstNet is also engaging developers and manufactures and challenging them to develop applications that will enable public safety to perform their jobs more efficiently and effectively.

Mr. Kennedy also described FirstNet's role in driving open applications standards for a number of high-priority applications, such as GIS mapping, situational awareness, streamlined incident documents, portable reporting and data access, location enabled tracking, and the IoLST. Mr. Kennedy also emphasized the need for FirstNet to be invested in looking for innovative ways to access key data. Chair Swenson added that it is important for application developers to understand that FirstNet plans to be an advocate for public safety and that "good enough for business" is not the same as "good enough for public safety." FirstNet will insist that the technology meets public safety requirements. Mr. Kennedy agreed and stated that FirstNet is already beginning to see mainstream devices and applications that meet public safety requirements.

Mr. Kennedy next identified a number of ever-evolving devices and accessories for law enforcement and fire fighters, including augmented reality, smart armor and health sensors, as well as helmet cam live streams, indoor location trackers, remote speakers plus voice to tech and bio sensors. Mr. Kennedy also discussed a number of examples for EMS that would enable everything from pre-hospital to emergency to after hospital care. FirstNet is also focused on driving the IoLST and in encouraging innovation (such as smart communities and smart city real time analytics centers) in the public safety ecosystem.

In closing, Mr. Kennedy reiterated that FirstNet is interested in engaging the technology community, and to facilitate that engagement, FirstNet updated its website to include a "Doing Business with FirstNet" link. This link, located at firstnet.gov/business, includes all the information and instructions necessary to submit a business request with FirstNet. The link also includes contact information for AT&T.

Network Program Update

Network Program Officer (NPO) Steve Fletcher outlined FirstNet's recent accomplishments in the following four work streams: State Plans, FirstNet Core and Lab, Devices and Apps, and RAN Deployment and Operations. Mr. Fletcher highlighted the State Plan accomplishments, including the initial delivery of the State Plans and the State Plan Portal, as well as the work being done on the Band 14 buildout and deployment.

CEO Update

At the close of the meeting, Mr. Poth thanked the Board for approving the FY 2018 budget and remarked that while FY 2017 had been a pivotal year, FY 2018 would be just as critical as FirstNet focuses on building and deploying the Network. Mr. Poth acknowledged that public safety is counting on FirstNet to not only build the Network, but to ensure that it works. He also reiterated that although FirstNet has made tremendous progress, the measure of FirstNet's success will be delivering the Network that public safety expects and deserves. Chair Swenson concurred with Mr. Poth's sentiment and added that FirstNet's purpose is to advocate for public safety.

With a final comment from Board member Annise Parker, who expressed her appreciation for the support the City of Houston has received following Hurricane Harvey, Chair Swenson asked for a motion to adjourn.

Board Adjourned

The FirstNet Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.