

## FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY

### MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 9, 2015 BOARD MEETING

The First Responder Network Authority ("FirstNet") Board held its quarterly meeting on December 9, 2015 beginning at 8.00 a.m. Central Standard Time, at the Hyatt Regency, Houston, 1200 Louisiana St, Houston, TX 77002. The meeting was made available to the public in person and via webcast. A transcript of the meetings and the archived copy of the webcast can be found on the FirstNet web site. ([www.firstnet.gov](http://www.firstnet.gov))

#### BOARD MEETING

##### Roll Call:

The following Board members were present: Sue Swenson, Barry Boniface, Chris Burbank, Neil Cox, Ron Davis, James Douglas, Jeff Johnson, Ed Horowitz, David Mader, Kevin McGinnis, Annise Parker, Ed Reynolds, Suzanne Spaulding, Richard Stanek, and Teri Takai. This represented a quorum.

**Conflicts Statement:** After the roll call, the Board Secretary read the conflicts statement and asked for any recusals from the Board members. There were none.

##### Matters Discussed:

Before the meeting began, Chair Sue Swenson took the opportunity to thank Mayor Annise Parker for her hospitality in hosting the Committee and Board meetings in Houston. Ms. Swenson observed that with a number of high profile events coming to Houston in the near future including the Super Bowl in 2017, there will be significant need for public safety capabilities such as FirstNet.

The Board voted to approve the minutes from the October 2, 2015 meeting.

Ms. Swenson introduced Chief Mike Montgomery, the Harris County Fire Marshal, who gave his perspective on FirstNet to the Board. He emphasized the importance of FirstNet for the increased capabilities it will bring, as well as improved data capture and data sharing among all responders at an event. Better situational awareness and better quality decision-making are obvious consequences. He also mentioned that by pursuing an industry standard as its technology basis, FirstNet will enhance interoperability not only at the equipment level, but at the operational level as well. He concluded by saying that FirstNet will allow responders to extend their reach locally, to regional, statewide and national level responses.

Houston Mayor Annise Parker spoke about her motivation to have the Board meeting in Houston, which was to give the Board members a chance to participate in a demo from the Early Builder project currently underway in Harris County. First responders are currently using Band 14 in their every day work lives to communicate with each other. Board members had the opportunity to observe and interact with current users of the pilot system the day before.

Next, Chief Harlin McEwen gave an update on the work of the PSAC. He reported that after a year of work, the PSAC has submitted its report and recommendations on priority and preemption, public safety grade, and user equipment. He indicated that future taskings for PSAC may include local control, and identity credential and access management (ICAM). Conversations with NIST are underway as well to plan jointly for NIST's funded research at PSCR in 2016. The law requires that PSCR consult with PSAC on research and development.

The next piece of business was the approval of the amendments to the charters for each of the four committees. These were approved in committee the day before (December 8). The Board Chair, Ms. Swenson, initiated a vote of the full Board to accept the changes in all the committee charters. The changes were approved.

Following the vote on the charters, Ms. Swenson introduced two representatives from Harris County, Mr. Todd Early and Mr. Shing Lin, who gave a presentation on the Early Builder project. (Mr. Early is the PSAC representative for the National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators; he is the Texas SWIC and SPOC as well. Mr. Lin is the Director of Public Safety Technology Services for Harris County.)

Mr. Early spent a little time reviewing the history of the project, which arose in response to the hurricanes in 2008. This is before the creation of FirstNet. The lease agreement was signed with FirstNet in August 2014 including five key learning conditions. Mr. Early said that Texas has 254 counties, a quarter of a million first responders, and 1,200 miles of international border. Eight-five percent of the state, he said, is rural.

He explained the data collection exercise using the Mobile Survey Data tool, which generated nearly 1200 responses from state public safety agencies. He also described the online learning tutorial that accompanied the data request to the public safety agencies. He also spoke about the coverage mapping phase he is currently overseeing, using the baseline coverage map provided by FirstNet and layering in 9-1-1 incident locations. Other expected contributions to the map will include tribal information, evacuating routes, medical facilities, rural infrastructure, and schools and colleges.

Mr. Lin spoke next and summarized the current state of the network. It has 18 sites that are currently operational in the county. There is one site in Brazos County and one mobile (vehicular) unit that is up. The TranStar operations center is also connected. Mr. Lin stepped through the development of the system ending with 37 sites around the county with emphasis on the port area in phase one. He said the county has also contributed \$5.8 million toward completion of phase one by the summer of 2016. In its final completed state, the project will have 60-plus sites, covering the county's 1,800 square miles.

There followed a discussion concerning in-building coverage and the state of current vendor technology to address this need, as well as the need to think about and plan for customer service and ongoing customer support.

Mike Poth, FirstNet CEO, spoke next. He reflected on the work to date in preparing for the release of the RFP and the contributions of staff and the Board. He invited his leadership team to stand up and be recognized, noting no one is in an 'acting' role any longer. He welcomed the newest member of his team, Mr. David Dasher, as the new Chief Procurement Officer.

The Board then voted to close the session briefly to discuss procurement issues.

On return, FirstNet President TJ Kennedy gave a report on the path to the RFP. He spoke about the schedule going forward for 2016. After the release of the RFP, there will be three weeks before questions are due, and 30 days for FirstNet to respond to those questions. Then, capability statements are due. Final proposals will be due in the May time frame.

The Board Secretary, Mr. Eli Veenendaal, then reconvened the Finance Committee and the Technology Committee so they could approve formal recommendations (as resolutions) to the Board on approving the release of the RFP. Both committees approved their respective resolutions.

After the committees approved the resolutions, the Chair called for a motion to approve the Board resolution to release the RFP.

On receipt of the motion and the second, Ms. Swenson moderated an extended discussion of the motion by many Board members applauding the significant step they were taking. Vice Chair Jeff Johnson, Mr. Neil Cox, Ms. Suzanne Spaulding, Mr. Barry Boniface, Mr. Ed Horowitz, Mr. Ron Davis, Governor Jim Douglas, and Ms. Teri Takai all offered personal reflections on FirstNet's achievement.

The resolution was passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned.

**Votes Taken:**

The Board voted to approve the minutes from the previous Board meeting held on October 2, 2015.

The Board voted to approve the proposed changes in all the committee charters.

The Technology Committee and the Finance Committee approved separate resolutions recommending the Board release the RFP.

The Board voted to approve a resolution to release the RFP.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.