

Public Safety Broadband Network (PSBN) Commission  
Department of Public Safety, Headquarters, Lab Classroom  
Meeting Minutes  
November 2, 2016

- Chair, Paco Aumand, called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm with the following present: via Conference Call: Doug Johnston, Springfield PD; and Justin Shore, FirstNet; in person: Paco Aumand, Chair; Lisa Helme, Project Manager; Michael Varney, FirstNet; Dan Burke, Public Service; Corey Chase, Public Service; Robert White, AOT; Ken Jones, ACCD; Frank Costantino, DI&I; Barbara Neal, E-911; Al Barber, VFSA; Jessica Stolz, DEMHS; Steve Locke, Burlington Fire; Bill Laferriere, BGS; Suellen Royea, CJS; Terry LaValley, DPS; and Steve Whitaker, member of the public. Thomas Hango, VSP and James Porter, Public Service arrived after the meeting was called to order.
- **Approve Agenda:** The purpose of the meeting is to revisit opt-in/opt-out options; determine if enough work has been done to-date or more work is needed to compile information for the Governor's decision; and review our data collection and consider what should be made public. It was noted that Ken Jones will be replacing Kiersten. Steve Locke moved to allow Ken Jones to speak and represent ACCD. Al Barber seconded the motion. A discussion was held about the proper procedure. Terry LaValley amended the motion to state that Ken would become a full voting member once the appointment documentation is in place. Steve Locke was okay with the amendment. Motion carried. Ken Jones has a voice, but no vote today. No further items were to be added to the agenda.
- **Public Comment:** Michael Varney reviewed that FirstNet is moving at a fairly fast pace to select the best vendor for this large, complex procurement project. He reviewed that the reading room, which was created to host information for prospective partners, will be taken down, but a date has not yet been announced. Future activities for the national FirstNet organization include an invitational 2-day meeting scheduled for the week after next to give a procurement update and review the state plan review process. The rollout of the state plans was reviewed. State plans will be viewed through an on-line portal sometime during the spring/summer of 2017. A discussion was started regarding the time frame for states to review their draft/state plans. As this is an agenda item, the discussion was tabled.

Steve Whitaker shared his concerns about telecommunications planning and coordination to the Commission. He suggested this body advise, through a vote, to either amend the RFP issued last week with a discussion on how to do it, or withdraw it. Handouts were distributed regarding sections 202d and 202c of Title 30 of the Vermont Statutes, Chapter 5, subchapter 1; and RFP Deliverables. This handout suggested that the Department of Public Service was responsible for telecommunications planning and that the public safety broadband commission was operating in opposition to the law. He also suggested that the RFP deliverables were not in keeping with the allowable expenses of the SLIGP grant. Specifically, he suggested reviewing the baseline

coverage, allowable and non-allowable expenses under the SLIGP grant, finding a way to integrate DPS and E911 in phase 1, and consider a master contract model that is bigger than public safety. The intent of the deliverable section of the RFP was explained and it was noted and that the language in the RFP was consistent with SLIGP funding. The creation and focus of the Public Safety Broadband Network Commission was reviewed to point out that the charge of the Commission is narrow in scope and does not include telecommunications planning and E 911 system issues.

- **Opt In/Opt Out Discussion:** The Commission members spent time discussing the issue of opting in to the FirstNet state plan for building a public safety broadband network and or opting out of the FirstNet plan. The focus of the discussion centered around the meaning of opt in vs opt out, the timelines for the Governor to make his/her decision and if the Commission has done enough to prepare for this decision. It was felt that we need to review the FirstNet state plan for Vermont before we can make any decision regarding opting out. Therefore, there is nothing more that can be done now. No further action was taken.
- **FirstNet Single Point of Contact Update:** Terry LaValley gave an update on the RFP for consulting services. The purpose of obtaining these services is to help in the plan review process and provide the expertise needed to evaluate whether the FirstNet state plan for Vermont provides the best coverage possible for first responders. Commissioners interested in helping with the evaluation of the RFP proposals, should send Lisa an email. A suggestion was made to clarify the goal to modify the state plan to be the best for Vermont once the contract phase starts. A brief discussion regarding cost was held. Part of Vermont's requirements for state coverage include that the cost of the plan for users remains the same or is lower than what first responders are currently paying for service. No further discussion was held regarding the RFP process.

Terry LaValley reported he attended a SPOC meeting in New Hampshire about three (3) weeks ago. He shared that New Hampshire put out an RFP and negotiated for a FirstNet solution with Rivada that gives Rivada first rights to the spectrum in New Hampshire if they opt-out. A discussion regarding opting out/in was held. The PowerPoint presentation in the meeting materials was reviewed. FirstNet will be providing the number of sites designed for Vermont, the cost to develop a site, and a list of what other states are asking for in their plans. The discussion included what happens to any revenue generated by the public safety broadband network within a state. It was noted that Terry and Lisa should continue networking with other states.

- **Data Collection Discussion:** Terry LaValley summarized the data collection efforts. A composite map without the drill-down data was created of the critical infrastructure and included in the FirstNet RFP, but not published in the reading room. Steve Locke made a motion that the information will not be readily available to the public, but Public Safety will respond to

public requests on a case-by-case basis and we will follow the public records rules. The motion was seconded by Al Barber. A discussion was held regarding reviewing any requests for information with the agencies that contributed data. No further discussion was held. The motion carried and is the position of the Commission.

- **Other Business:**
  - Additional comments: Paco Aumand asked each Commission member if there was anything that they would like to add and the results were:
    - To send out brief summaries as needed to keep everyone apprised of the changes;
    - Lisa and Terry were thanked for their efforts;
    - Cost is always a concern;
    - The FCC Telecom Act does not include Title 23 for highways;
    - The focus is on public safety and when there is potential for the system to be used for other services, it is available; and
    - Today's meeting was very informative and filled in some gaps.
  - Terry LaValley thanked everyone and asked that Commissioners share FirstNet information with their respective departments. A suggestion was made to publish the minutes. It was noted that they are published on the Commission website and that another direct mailing is in the works.
  - Steve Whitaker noted there is some work to do and to explore relationships with other partners.
  - Paco Aumand noted that in the Executive Order, the Governor gave the Chair the authority to appoint a Vice-Chair and he has appointed Terry LaValley.
  
- Meeting adjourned at 3:22 pm.