

Public Safety Broadband Network (PSBN) Commission
Department of Public Safety, Headquarters, Lab Classroom
Meeting Minutes
August 24, 2016

- Chair, Paco Aumand, called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm with the following present: Bill LaFerriere, BGS; Justin Barton, CJS; Terry LaValley, CJS; Steve Locke, Burlington Fire; Lisa Helme, CJS; Barb Neal, E-911; Douglas Johnston, Springfield PD; Corey Chase, Public Service; Robert T. White, AOT; Rhonda Camley, DPS Accounting; Bojan Brkovic, DPS Accounting; Frank Costantino, DI&I; Suellen Royea, DPS/CJS and Captain Tom Hango via conference call. Dan Manz, EMS, arrived at 1:34 pm and James Porter, Public Service Department, arrived at 2:08 pm.
- **Update from FirstNet Single Point of Contact:**
 - **Outreach Updates:** Lisa Helme reviewed the second quarter outreach activities to include that there have been about 3,503 contacts through in-person meetings, web communications, newsletter, and community meetings; a new presentation was created and presented to 11 groups; and a YouTube briefing was created to brief first responders, which has received 150 viewings so far. Some new graphics were added to the website; one graphic is about the differences between Vermont FirstNet and the National FirstNet. In addition, she is working on setting up some actual demonstrations on how applications may work on the network and hopes to have a meeting and tech demonstration in January 2017. Lisa reviewed a new handout that the National FirstNet has created; copies were in a packet distributed with the agenda. She reviewed that NTIA submitted a public notice regarding opting out; the comments are posted on NTIA's website. Paco Aumand asked about Colorado's comments. Lisa Helme summarized them as: the timing is too short, there is no transparency, and the specifics should be vetted in advance. Paco shared that he read Dr. Mike Myers comments and described his thoughts. Terry LaValley added that the network was created with the intent everyone would participate; as it develops, revenue would be made; and that the revenue should be put back into the system. The goal is not to create islands across the United States, but to bring everyone together and have compatibility. Paco Aumand added that as Vermont moves forward, it would be important for this Commission to speak in one voice on the decision. He felt that our decision so far has been to opt-in and expressed his concerns about potential outside influences on the Administration. A question was asked about the cost for departments. Terry LaValley responded that the RFP is out, but we do not have any indication yet on proposed costs to departments.
 - **Personnel Changes:** Terry LaValley reported that Kiersten Bourgeois resigned her position on the Commission and her expertise will be missed. In addition, Justin Barton will be leaving in a couple of weeks. The plan is to hire another temporary employee, which will be posted shortly. Terry thanked Justin for all his work.

- **Preparation for State Plan Briefing and Discussion:**
 - **Vermont FirstNet Challenges for VoLTE and E911 Requirements:** Corey Chase showed a slide entitled: US Mobile Wireless Frequency Bands and explained how the bands work and that there are basically two (2) licenses in the 800-900 MHz span (Verizon and AT&T). He reviewed how handsets are developed to look for those spectrums and explained that adding new spectrums for voice communications is difficult because the governance is developed globally. It was noted that the 700 band does not recognize voice communications. Voice communications options over the network (voice over internet protocol and voice over LTE) were reviewed. He also reviewed AT&T's requirements and VT Telephone Company's situation; FCC requirements, VoLTE, and what rules they have to comply with. (James Porter arrived at 2:08 pm.) A question was asked about the timeline for broadband for data and VoLTE. Terry LaValley responded that mission critical voice development is replicating voice, but he was not sure when it will be available. Another question asked was about whether FirstNet will replace their cell phone service. Justin Barton responded that APCO has sent a bulletin advising agencies not to abandon their radios. Barbara Neal spoke about location requirements that are currently in existence or planned. These are FCC requirements and we cannot waive the location requirements. She explained that in Phase 1, wireless calls can send a phone number and location of the tower being used, and in phase 2, wireless calls send phone number, latitude, and longitude of where the caller is with verifying degrees of accuracy. She described the radius of where the caller may be. It was noted that there is a limited number of vendors that can provide locational services. The final location requirement will be to include elevation. (Dan Manz left the meeting at 2:20 pm.) Steve Locke noted that he attended a meeting last week and they are close to Z technology. There are FCC requirements for Interconnected VOIP location.
 - **Current Status of Fiber Optics Cable Network:** Robert White gave an update regarding the fiber optic network. A map was displayed which showed a small piece of the available fiber optic networks. The reason it is only a partial showing is that most of the larger companies will not share the information for business reasons. VTrans is interested in fiber optics because it would be helpful to gather the information from all connected vehicles (vehicles that send information about the road conditions/accidents) by 2020. He noted that the Northeast Kingdom fiber network has been a challenge. In addition, VTrans has applied for a grant to install fiber optic along I-89 and I-91 to try to connect into Canada. Terry LaValley added that the maps Robert reviewed have been submitted to FirstNet. (Jim Porter left the meeting at 2:33 pm.)
 - **Administrative Briefing of Gubernatorial Candidates:** Terry LaValley shared that the timing of a decision is early next year. Given our change in Administration, we are trying to brief the candidates. Some suggestions included: to see who becomes the new governor and brief them then, include information about FirstNet in the transition plan,

create a fact sheet of pros and cons with bullet points, and produce a one (1) page statement on the different boards and commissions for Public Safety.

- **CTT Meeting on Quality, Priority and Preemption Update and Discussion:** Lisa Helme shared that some agencies are concerned about priority access and whether the network will be available. From the Region 1 meeting, Lisa Helme presented four (4) questions for discussion/input. The four questions were: 1. If Vermont is asked to mitigate disputes of local designation, how should we do this?, 2. What do you think should trigger a switch to the dynamic state (when first responder needs require “bumping” non-first responders from the network)?, 3. Assuming all secondary users are bumped from the network in an emergency and then all of the remaining capacity is in use by first responders, who should decide which first responders have priority?, and 4. What can Vermont do to encourage collaboration between vendors who are operating in this state? There was a brief discussion and the overall response was that it all depends on the situation. It was noted that the discussion at the Region I meeting seemed to go in circles and there was some mistrust among the first responders because they did not know what FirstNet’s final recommendation would be. Terry LaValley shared the outreach steps that have been taken to make local vendors aware of FirstNet and potential partnerships and wondered if anything further should be done. Some thoughts shared included that as a state body, we should not be part of the sale; and if there is a specific area, we could offer local vendor suggestions. (Steve Locke left the meeting at 2:57 pm.) Some questions posed included: how to implement FirstNet’s standards at the state level, who creates the operation standards of the network, how to obtain mobile resources, and the Commission’s involvement. A suggestion was made that FirstNet create a subcommittee to review these issues. If anyone has any thoughts about these questions, Lisa asked they be forwarded to her by the end of next week. (Corey Chase left the meeting at 3:04 pm).
- **Other Business:** Paco Aumand shared that he received an email from Steve Whitaker with an article about the network. Tim Ashe, Jeanette White, and another Senator were included. He did not think we needed to do anything, but thought everyone should be aware of the negative article and responses.
- **Next meeting:** Terry LaValley reviewed that the National RFPs are still being reviewed and FirstNet plans to select a partner in November. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 7th, which was thought to not be needed. It was suggested to meet the first Wednesday in December and to keep communication lines open through email/conference call if something comes up in the meantime. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 7, 2016.
- **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 3:12 pm.