

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

- Chair, Paco Aumand, called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm with the following present: Robert White, Agency of Transportation; Bill LaFerriere, BGS; Justin Barton, CJS; Terry LaValley, CJS; Dan Manz, EMS; Rhonda Camley, DPS Accounting; Frank Costantino, DII; Barb Neal, E911; Rick Hallenbeck, DPS Accounting; Tom Hango, VSP; Suellen Royea, DPS/CJS; and Guest: Michael Varney, FirstNet Region 1 Consultation Lead. Kiersten Bourgeois and Steve Locke participated via conference call. Paco Aumand and Terry LaValley welcomed Michael Varney.
- **Presentation from Michael Varney:** Michael Varney shared that he started 3-4 months ago and was the SPOC and SWIC for Connecticut. Those present introduced themselves. Terry noted that we are the core group to report to the Commissioner and up to the Governor. Mr. Varney noted that he will send out a copy of the PowerPoint. The presentation started with a brief history (data was collected, an RFP was published, and some state consultations were done). The goals for the next 12 months include expanded outreach; receive input from states about state plans and network deployment policies, processes and procedures; and then prepare key decision makers for state plan delivery and network deployment. To accomplish this, a SPOC kick off meeting was held and consultation task teams created. Paco Aumand asked about the timeframe for the decision to opt in/out. Michael Varney noted that the 90 day deadline begins once the state plan is received, which is predicted to be in about a year. In addition, there will be a preview of the state plan available for this Commission's review. There was some discussion about the timing of the executive consultation. It was thought that if we can have everything wrapped up, let the new administration come in and get their feet on the floor and then brief them, it would be the best scenario for us. Expanded outreach was reviewed and it was noted that they are looking to reach out to the next level down. Terry LaValley noted that even though FirstNet is moving forward, there is not a lot of new information and he is trying not to put too much out there. Paco Aumand inquired if there would be more public notices and comments. Michael Varney answered that they do not expect any more and plan to focus on preparing State plans. He continued with his presentation and reviewed why an RFP was developed and noted that there is an on-line reading room with all the approved data received from each state. The RFP includes 16 statements of objectives. Mr. Varney shared that the awardee will be responsible for deployment of nationwide network core and RANs, devices and applications ecosystem, and network security. Some of the key benefits in the partnership included: 20MHz of prime spectrum, up to \$6.5 billion in cash to offset network costs, relationship with public safety stakeholders, and 25 year contract term. Some of the benefits Firstnet will receive from the partnership include: nationwide public safety mission achieved, meeting public safety needs through partnership SLAs, and Annual payment for value blocks. It was noted that proposals from vendors are due May 13, 2016 with an anticipated award

sometime in the fourth quarter of FY2016, and the RFP will be awarded to one provider that has to provide the network to all 52 states and include other partners. There was a discussion about other states issuing their own RFI/RFP's for comparison to FirstNet's state plans. New Hampshire was one state that issued their own RFP. A discussion was held regarding the idea of doing an RFI/RFP, but noted that we do not have the resources to go down the same road as New Hampshire. Michael Varney noted that the value of spectrum is different for each state and negotiations would take place after the decision is made to opt in/out. Dan Manz asked how many states are looking to opt out on the national level. Michael Varney answered that very few had indicated they plan to opt out. It was noted that there are five (5) entities considered to be early builders and are using this spectrum to build/testing around the nation. They include: New Jersey, which is testing deployables; New Mexico, which is working on testing boarder security; Houston, Texas; Los Angeles, which is using the system for large events such as the Rose Bowl; and Colorado, which is testing core access. Frank Costantino inquired when the provider will be engaged in helping develop state plans. Michael Varney answered once the contract is signed. He explained that assisting in the development of state plans will be the first task the vendor will be asked to do. In addition to the State Plans, an executive summary will be prepared. Michael Varney also noted that FirstNet intends to deliver all the state plans at the same time, probably during the second quarter of 2017. Paco Aumand asked if the service plan and rates were known at this time. Michael Varney noted that they are not known, but it will be part of the State plan. Paco Aumand explained that during our outreach to agencies, we indicated to them that the costs would not be more than what they are paying now and asked if the cost is apt to increase. Michael Varney did not know at this time. A question was asked about what backhaul meant. Michael Varney explained it is the process of getting the data back to the core. Another question asked was about plans to include excess capacity. The answer was if they have to build out, yes it will be included for future deployment. Preemption and prioritization will also be available with sub-priorities. It was noted that amendments to the 1996 Telecom Act, puts a burden on cross organizations. It was noted that existing rules will have to be followed. Band class 14 was reviewed. There are chips that can be used for private devices and will be available as devices are upgraded.

- **Consultation Task Teams:** In mid-April, the FirstNet Task Team will be meeting to talk about priority preemption. They are asking each state to put together a group to talk about priority preemption and review materials. A survey will be sent out to answer such questions as who can change preemption, who should be included in preemption, etc. Terry LaValley asked for volunteers. Those that volunteered included: Paco Aumand, Kiersten Bourgeois, and Robert White. Barb Neal indicated she will consider this. Michael Varney was thanked for coming to the meeting and updating the group.

- **SPOC Update:** Terry LaValley shared that the SPOC meeting is scheduled for April 11 & 12 in Virginia, and we are authorized to bring 3 people to the meeting. If interested in attending the meeting, please let him know. Terry continued that interviews for the Project Manager position will be held on Friday; efforts continue with outreach, but they are making sure the information is fresh and are more selective on the agencies we speak to; and the next newsletter is being worked on with hopes to release it this month along with keeping the website up-to-date.
- **Next Meeting:** Paco Aumand noted that the next meeting will be May 4, 2016 at 1:30. He asked Michael Varney what this commission could do for FirstNet. Michael thought the group was doing great and by holding regular meetings was staying current. Meeting adjourned at 2:42 pm.