

Public Safety Broadband Network Commission (PSBC)  
National Life Building, 5<sup>th</sup> floor conference room, Montpelier  
Minutes of Meeting  
January 16, 2019

***The PSBC was reconstituted effective July 9, 2019. The commission never formally met as a group to give final approval to these minutes.***

- Chair, **Terry LaValley**, called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm with the following commission members present: **Chris Herrick**, Department of Public Safety; **Thomas Hango**, Vermont State Police; **Al Barber**, Vermont Fire Chiefs (via conference call); **Dan Manz**, EMS Representative; **Frank Costantino**, Agency of Digital Services; **Barbara Neal**, E-911 Board; **James Porter**, Department of Public Service (via conference call); **Robert T. White**, Agency of Transportation; **Ron Kumetz**, Vermont Firefighters Association (via conference call); **Ken Jones**, Agency of Commerce & Community Development; and also present were **Lisa Helme** and **Rhonda Camley**, DPS; **Michael Varney**, FirstNet; **Owen Smith**, **Bruce Fitzgerald**, **Joe Sebastiano**, and **Ryan Clark**, AT&T; **Simon Brighenti** and **Jennille Smith**, Centerline & AT&T Site Acquisition Consultants; **Rick Burke** and **Josh Jack**, Televate; and **Stephen Whitaker**, member of the public.

Introductions were made by those commission members and staff in attendance.

- **Agenda Review & Minute approval for October 17, 2018 meeting:** Ron Kumetz asked for the meeting minutes to be amended to reflect his concerns regarding AT&T and band 14 marketing. He asked that the following be added to the October minutes, "Ron Kumetz, VSFA representative, expressed concern that FirstNet AT&T marketing is misleading first responders by touting the increased coverage provided by higher powered band 14 devices and not making it clear that band 14 will be selectively deployed by AT&T." Dan Manz made a motion to accept the minutes with the amendment. Frank Costantino seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **Public Comment:** Stephen Whitaker objected to the order of public comments and asked that he be allowed to comment at the end of the meeting. The agenda was not reordered. Whitaker registered his past expressed concerns regarding the need for propagation studies and the future makeup of the commission and scope of its work. He also objected that he had not personally been sent the meeting agenda in advance as requested. There were no other public comments.
- **Update from Terry LaValley, FirstNet Single Officer, PSBC Chair:** Terry LaValley thanked commission members for their input to a proposed reorganization of the PSBC. An update to the executive order has been sent to the Governor's office. DPS is awaiting a response. LaValley noted that the commission annual report was sent to the Administration on December 21 and that it is posted on the commission web site. He also reported that the online application survey for first responders was closed on December 10. There were 115 responses received. Lisa Helme noted that a complete report on the results of the survey will be shared at a future meeting.
- **Update from Michael Varney, FirstNet Region 1 Lead:** Michael Varney reported that all appointments to the Executive Board for the FirstNet Authority were complete and that Ed Horowitz was now the new Chair. Varney said the Public Safety Advisory Committee also met recently and appointed Todd Early of the Texas Department of Public Safety as the new Chair.

The new acting CEO for FirstNet is Ed Parkinson. A search for a permanent CEO is now underway. In 2019, FirstNet plans to complete a new strategic plan and vision. Input from the public safety community nationwide will be solicited to help refine that vision.

- **Coverage Testing Approach, Televate, Rick Burke & Joshua Jack:** Terry LaValley introduced Rick Burke and Joshua Jack of the Televate company. Televate was chosen by the PSBC as the winning bidder of the RFP for FirstNet planning services. The Televate representatives presented information on their coverage testing solution that utilizes an application called Pinpoint. Pinpoint may be loaded on a mobile device and used to comprehensively test a commercial carrier network. The application will measure the service state, signal level, ping success, upload and download speeds, and throughput measures in either indoor or outdoor test mode. Pinpoint works only on Android devices. Televate will work with the PSBC and DPS to devise a strategy to best validate FirstNet coverage in Vermont consistent with the provisions of the SLIGP 2.0 grant that is funding the work. Information on Pinpoint is available at <https://televate.com/pinpoint>.
- **Buildout in Vermont, AT&T, Owen Smith:** Terry LaValley explained that in response to PSBC member requests for more detailed information on the FirstNet buildout in Vermont, AT&T was asked to provide a specific briefing for this meeting. LaValley asked for a motion to adjourn to executive session because the update contained confidential business records that are exempt from public access. Chris Herrick so moved. Dan Manz seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned into executive session at 2:45 pm with a 5-minute break to allow non-commission members to leave the meeting. The executive session began at 2:50 pm and ended at 3:47 pm upon a motion by Chris Herrick to end the executive session and reconvene the public portion of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Robert T. White. Motion carried. The public meeting reconvened at 3:51 pm.
- **Other Business:** There was no other business.
- **Adjournment:** Chris Herrick made a motion to adjourn. Tom Hango seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:52 pm.