

Public Safety Broadband Network Commission (PSBC)
Department of Public Safety Headquarters, Emergency Operations Center, Waterbury
Minutes of Meeting
November 20, 2017

- Chair, **Terry LaValley**, called the meeting to order at 9:07 am with the following **Commission members** present: **Al Barber**, Vermont Fire Chiefs (via conference call); **Frank Costantino**, Agency of Digital Services; **Chris Herrick**, Department of Public Safety; **Ken Jones**, ACCD (via conference call); **Ron Kumetz**, Vermont Firefighters Association (via conference call); **Steven Locke**, Professional Firefighters of Vermont (via conference call); **Dan Manz**, EMS Representative; **Barbara Neal**, E-911 Board; **James Porter**, Department of Public Service; **Robert T. White**, Agency of Transportation; and also **present**: **Lisa Helme**, DPS; **Suellen Royea**, DPS/CJS; **Steve Carr**, Legislator; **Charles Storrow**, Leonine Public Affairs/AT&T; **Steve Whitaker**, member of public; **Nick Brunelli**, DPS; **John Quinn** (via conference call); **Karen Mae Smith**, DPS; and **Clay Purvais**, Department of Public Service.

Introductions were made by those in attendance.

- **Agenda Review & Minute approval for October 30, 2017 Meetings:** **Dan Manz made a motion to accept the agenda as proposed. Robert White seconded the motion. Motion carried. Minutes: Dan Manz made a motion to approve the minutes as drafted. Frank Costantino seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- **Public Comment:**
 - Steve Whitaker requested to make comments after the Commission review of the documents up for discussion. His request was denied. He commented that Commission members are being asked to withhold public records. He reviewed his public records requests; expressed concern that efforts are being made to “run out the clock” before he can make comments; reviewed a discussion by the Commission last year regarding release of coverage maps; felt an informed decision could not be made until a propagation study was completed; and suggested a new governance structure be developed for the Commission.
 - Steve Carr shared there was a Legislative hearing held on October 13, 2017, where they also were under the impression that a report would be available on November 16, but it was not. He noted that for Vermont, the Legislature makes the ultimate decision, not the Executive branch, and they are anxious to get the full reports.
- **Update from SPOC, Terry LaValley:** Terry LaValley noted that at the last meeting the Commission decided to wait for the results of the Independent Review before discussing a recommendation. He reminded the Commission members that the RFP process is still open and that there are rules about what information can be divulged. Over the weekend, the

Independent Review report became available for the Commission to read. (Packets were distributed to Commission members that included the Televate report, a letter from the State Treasurer's Office, and the Independent Review report; the packets were also transmitted to members who requested it and were participating via conference call.) It was noted that the Televate recommendation is to opt-in. Members reviewed Televate's report. It was noted geographic areas identified as lacking sufficient coverage as displayed in the State Plan Portal, were highlighted in Vermont's request to FirstNet and AT&T for enhanced coverage. Steve Whitaker requested to see the Independent Review. Terry noted that the report was not his document to release and suggested submitting a written request. It was noted that the Independent Review report was released over the weekend by the Agency of Digital Services. Page 9 of that report highlights what information was reviewed for the recommendation, which was to opt-in. The Commission reviewed a document identifying additional sites being offered by AT&T and FirstNet. The last document reviewed by the Commission was a letter from the State Treasurer's Office reviewing the financial risks posed by an opt-out decision. The State Treasurer recommended an opt-in decision. The conclusion of all the reports and documentation reviewed by the Commission support Vermont making an opt-in decision. A question regarding the potential financial impact on Vermont in an opt-out scenario was asked. Based on information within the Independent Review report, the answer was that it could cost the State approximately \$211,886,000. The Commission concurred that it had exercised due diligence in reviewing the materials, along with previous information gained through first responder input, to be able to make a recommendation.

- **Commission Recommendation Discussion:** Chris Herrick made a motion that the Commission recommendation to Governor Phil Scott be to opt-in. The motion was seconded by Dan Manz. A section of the Treasurer's letter regarding cost concerns in an opt-out scenario was read. The Commission members present voted to pass the motion. Those members are Terry LaValley, Chris Herrick, Dan Manz, Frank Costantino, and Robert White. Barb Neal did not vote, as she occupies a non-voting member seat. A roll call of those participating via conference call included two abstentions from Ken Jones and Ron Kumetz; voting for opt-in were Al Barber and Steve Locke; and Tom Hango's email to opt-in was read; and Doug Johnston's email recommending opt-in, with concerns, also was read. There were no "No" votes. Motion passed that the recommendation to the Governor would be to opt-in. Terry LaValley will create a document expressing that recommendation for transmittal to the Governor. There were no objections to this approach.
- **General Business:** No further general business was discussed.
- **Next Meeting:** Next meeting will be scheduled as needed.

- **Adjournment: Dan Manz made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Robert White. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:46 am.**