

Public Safety Broadband Network (PSBN) Commission  
Department of Public Safety, Headquarters, Lab Classroom  
Meeting Minutes  
January 4, 2017

- Chair, Terry LaValley, called the meeting to order at 1:31 pm with the following roll call: Jessica Stolz, DEMHS; Steve Locke, Burlington Fire Department; Paco Aumand, DPS Member at Large; Bill Laferriere, BGS; Frank Constantino, DI&I; Al Barber, State Fire Chiefs; Dan Manz, EMS; Robert White, AOT; Rhonda Camley, DPS Accounting; Doug Johnston, Springfield PD; Barbara Neal, E-911; Jim Porter, Public Service; Lisa Helme, Project Manager; Michael Varney, FirstNet; Bojan Brkovic, DPS Accounting; Suellen Royea, DPS/CJS; Tom Hango, VSP (via conference call); and Terry LaValley. Steve Whitaker, member of the public, was also present. Corey Chase from Public Service and Ken Jones from ACCD arrived at 1:36 pm and 1:39 pm, respectively.
- **Agenda Review and Approval:** Steve Locke made a motion to approve the minutes as drafted. Dan Manz seconded the motion. Motion carried. Dan Manz moved to approve the agenda as proposed. Motion seconded by Robert White. Motion carried.
- **Public Comment:** Steve Whitaker passed around some maps of areas in Vermont that he believes are/would be without coverage. He suggested conducting a formal coverage study and advise the new Commissioner that the data gathering efforts could be better. He suggested using grant funds to put software on first responders' devices and a consultant to work on governance.
- **Update on National FirstNet Status:** Mike Varney gave a PowerPoint update on material shared with SPOCs at the last SPOC meeting. He will send the video link in the presentation to everyone. He explained the portal and the sections on the landing page, which includes all the information in the J19. The sections were FirstNet Background, Consultation Overview, RAN deployment (parts will be protected), FirstNet Operations and Network Policies (will be protected), and Governor's decision process guide (parts will be protected). They were discussed. Mike shared that there is a protest regarding their vendor award and the earliest an award could be made is March 1, 2017; however, the timeline/dates could change. The FCC and NTIA have requested comments that could be announced prior to the final plan. A question was asked about an opportunity to alter the vendor's plan during the draft review process. The amount of change allowed was not known. Mike also shared that the testing and validation lab in Boulder, Colorado opened on November 9, 2016 and offered to facilitate a visit if anyone wants to visit the facility. As part of the funding for the laboratory, there are some grants available. A discussion was held regarding the testing being done; for example network testing, applications testing, 4G to 5G, and LTE on Band Class 14.

- **Update from SPOC, Terry LaValley:** Terry LaValley reviewed some changes in the Commission, Terry was appointed the Chair of the Commission and Ken Jones received his appointment letter and is now a voting member. Terry thanked Paco for his leadership and noted there may be additional changes to the Commission in the future. He noted that the January 20, 2017 technology meeting will be rescheduled due to the FirstNet protest. Lisa shared that the technology meeting will include representatives from Colorado, Texas, and New Jersey, who will come and talk about the Lab, their experiences in the early builders program, and give technology demonstrations. She reported that as part of our Outreach efforts, another newsletter will be coming out with updates and a focus on four (4) first responders from around the state. In addition, the annual report is almost completed and will be circulated to members before formal submission.

Terry continued that there was not a lot of new information at the SPOC meeting except for information about the portal. A question was asked about changes to the SPOC role/the reading room. It was noted that the reading room may have already been taken down and there was some brainstorming about the SPOC role. SLIGP funding was reviewed. It was thought initially to be enough funding, but it looks like the funding for support staff will run out before implementation. A request was made for states to give back unused funds to help maintain support staff and planning activities. It was noted that we will not be sending any money back.

- **Review and Recommendations of Vendor for VT RFP Technical Advising Contract:** Terry LaValley noted that premature general public knowledge of these proposals and pricing would clearly place the commission and DPS at a substantial disadvantage on the vendor selection and negotiation of a contract. Jim Porter made a motion to move into executive session. The motion was seconded by Robert White. Motion carried. The meeting went into executive session at 2:29 pm. Non-commission members left the meeting. The meeting resumed at 3:06 pm and non-commission members were invited to return. Steve Locke made a motion that the commission follow the recommendations of the review group and that contract negotiations with Televate be undertaken. Dan Manz seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **General Business:** Paco Aumand noted this may be his last meeting given the new Administration and a possible desire for a new DPS representative and thanked everyone for their support and participation. The commission thanked him for his leadership.
- **Next Meeting (February 1, 2017):** Al Barber made a motion to adjourn. Dan Manz seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 3:09 pm.