

Public Safety Broadband Network (PSBN) Commission  
Department of Public Safety, Headquarters, Lab Classroom  
Meeting Minutes  
May 4, 2016

- Chair, Paco Aumand, called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm with the following present: Al Barber, Fire Chiefs; Bill LaFerriere, BGS; Justin Barton, CJS; Terry LaValley, CJS; Steve Locke, Burlington Fire; Lisa Helme, CJS; Barb Neal, E-911; Jessica Stolz, DEMHS; Rhonda Camley, DPS Accounting; Bojan Brkovic, DPS Accounting; Robert T. White, AOT; Corey Chase, Public Service; Suellen Royea, DPS/CJS and Guests: Michael Varney, FirstNet Region 1 Consultation Lead; Dave Buchanan, FirstNet Director of Consultation; and Jessica Sweet, FirstNet Support Staff. Dan Manz, EMS arrived at 1:38 pm.
- **Introduction of Lisa Helme:** Terry LaValley introduced new Program Manager, Lisa Helme. Lisa shared that she comes to us from the State Treasurer's Office, has 15 years of experience in public and media outreach and speaking, and hopes to schedule brief meetings with everyone to learn about their role and views.
- **Introductions:** Terry LaValley introduced Dave Buchanan, Mike Varney, and Jessica Sweet from the FirstNet staff. Commission member introductions included: Paco Aumand, Corey Chase, Bojan Brkovic, Rhonda Camley, Suellen Royea, Lisa Helme, Barb Neal, Robert T. White, Dan Manz, Steve Locke, Bill LaFerriere, Jessica Stolz, Al Barber, and Justin Barton.
- **FirstNet Presentation:** Mike Varney shared that the slides being presented were included in the distributed booklet. He reviewed the RFP time frame and noted that the proposal deadline was moved to May 31, 2016. The Contract award date will still be the end of 2016.
  - **Consultation and State Data:** Mike Varney reviewed that Vermont's initial consultation was held on June 16, 2015 in South Burlington and they have held meetings with Vermont since the first of 2016. Vermont did a great job with data collection. He stressed that only the information needed was submitted to the vendor. He did note that they are accepting additional optional data to be used for different phases. Terry LaValley noted that the initial data submitted was what we need.
  - **State Plans:** Dave Buchanan reviewed the development of the State Plan. He indicated that these meetings are a chance to make sure everyone is on the same page, those that should be included are, and to identify what issues are important to Vermont. The coverage for Vermont was discussed. It was noted that FirstNet may not be able to deliver what Vermont needs, but they will continue to work with Vermont to address the issues and coverage needed. There will be more opportunities to make changes outside the 90-day decision window. Paco Aumand shared that he recently attended a local Lions Club meeting where they felt that retention and connectivity were very important pieces. Dave Buchanan thought FirstNet can help with both points. Paco

added that upcoming first responders will need/be looking for these tools and we should provide them. Terry LaValley noted that at the SPOC meetings, the focus has been on the opt-in/out decision and wondered what life after that decision will be like. He was reassured that dialogue will continue. Mike Varney continued by reviewing the influences that are part of the State plan; what the law requires, what the states are looking for, what the vendor will bring, and what the NTIA and FCC need. There will be an on-line portal with 2 sections; one section for all of the public safety participants (holding documents pertaining to coverage, services, applications, and devices) and one for the governor (holding documents pertaining to policy, time frames, interoperability). A question was asked regarding whether there is an actual opt-in for the governor. The answer was that there is only a need to notify FirstNet if you opt-out. Mike Varney gave an example of building a hotel (do you let someone else build it and just rent a room or do you build it yourself and take on all aspects of it). Some questions were asked regarding who would operate the network and have management responsibilities. It was noted that if you opt-in, FirstNet and the vendor will operate and be responsible for the network and the SPOC and governances set up would continue and be further determined once the provider is selected. Other questions asked included: if there will be states that don't buy in and how this is going to affect public safety members who purchase services through commercial providers. The answers included: that there will be some they build their own, but not many will want to take this on, and that improved coverage is one of their top needs to meet. Mike Varney added there are adoption penalties in the RFP and financial incentives to get Public Safety entities to adopt the FirstNet network. It is their plan that all the Governors will receive the State Plans on the same day. Mike Varney and Dave Buchanan asked who, in Vermont, should review the plan. Paco Aumand answered that this governance committee, who reports to the Governor, is made up of all the key players except the Governor. Terry LaValley shared an idea of sending out letters to the candidates for Governor so they are aware and up to speed about FirstNet due to the timeframe. Paco Aumand suggested that he run the idea through the Governor's office.

- **Governor's Decision:** Mike Varney continued with a slide entitled: Responsibilities and Decisions. It was noted that FirstNet will take care of the core and be responsible for services and Governors will decide if they like the plan or want to build their own. The timeline for the two options (Opt-in versus Opt-out) was reviewed and discussed. It was noted that if we opt-in, these service will be available in Vermont and the building of the networks starts at the end of the 90 days. The timeline for having these services built and available is more uncertain if we opt-out. Another point made was that FirstNet will contract with one entity and that entity will partner with other providers. A question was asked about who we are going to be buying the service from. Mike Varney answered that it will depend on their partner, but it may be branded as FirstNet. Another question asked was about how the costs will work in different regions (for

example, it may be reasonable to offer the services in Los Angeles and expensive to offer in Vermont). Dave Buchanan answered that this is one of the questions in the RFP for the vendor to answer and help create the best solution. Other questions asked included: whether the incentives and penalties are based on statewide or an aggregate involvement, and how backhaul will work. The answers included: the incentives and penalties are based on an aggregate involvement and the partner can negotiate existing resources.

- **Planning for Adoption/Consultation Task Teams:** Mike Varney explained the goals and role of Consultation Task Teams. The first task team will be reviewing Quality of Service, Priority, and Preemption (QPP). Terry LaValley noted that he was seeking volunteers for our Team. Mike Varney reviewed that at the end of May, Terry will get a packet to share with those volunteers. There will be a regional, in-person demonstration in mid-June to walk through each piece with five members from each state. Then FirstNet will compile the feedback for an overview at the next SPOC meeting in the fall. Terry LaValley shared that he thought at first that the State would have some control over the network, but that is not the case. The task teams will determine how the network responds to events. Terry thought that the Commission should stay involved. (Rhonda Camley left the meeting at 2:53 pm.)
- **Training:** Mike Varney shared that there will be a need for training once the network is built and asked if we are doing any training now, how is it delivered, and how would we like future training. He noted that there may be applications FirstNet can provide through the core. Dave Buchanan added that there will be a FirstNet app store. A question was asked about how the discussion about voice is going. Mike Varney explained that there is a lot of work being done. In addition, he noted that voice means a lot of different things and will depend on the provider.
- Meeting broke at 3:06 pm for a break. Dave Buchanan left due to other commitments. The meeting resumed at 3:15 pm. Mike Varney gave an overview of the consultation task force and asked for suggested topics for consultation task teams to review.
- **Rural Areas:** Mike Varney reviewed the definition of “rural”. He noted that Burlington and Essex are the only non-rural areas in Vermont. In the proposal, the vendor will show a footprint for Vermont of what they will build out. A question was asked regarding if the definition followed NTIA’s or something else. Mike Varney answered that it is the NTIA definition and their provider will have to comply with the NTIA definition. He reviewed how the incremental build out timeframe will work and noted that the provider will follow the same percentage of build out for rural and urban. If the provider does not meet these percentages, they will be charged penalties, which will be in the state plan.
- **Questions:** Paco Aumand asked what the abbreviations for Region 1 meant on the FirstNet Support Team slide. Mike Varney answered: GA= Governmental

Affairs/Legislature, F=Federal, T=Tribal. Paco also asked about the roll out for additional staff. Mike Varney responded that once the contract is awarded, this will be determined.

- Paco Aumand thanked Mike Varney and the FirstNet team for coming.
  
- **Other Business:** Terry LaValley summarized that he will be reaching out to the consultation task team, thanked Lisa for joining our team, and shared that he expects our needs will be met at the national level.
  
- **Next Meeting:** It was noted that a July meeting may be difficult and there may not be very much new information until possibly August. It was decided that the next regular Commission meeting will be August 3, 2016 at 1:30 and if a need arises, information will be emailed or a meeting will be pulled together before the next meeting. Meeting adjourned at 3:34 pm.