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ConnectME Authority Meeting Notes & Video - October 28, 2016

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ConnectME Authority

October 28, 2016

Meeting Notes

1. Introductions

Authority Board Members: Dick Thompson, acting chair; Denise Garland; Ralph Johnson; and Bruce Williamson

Authority Staff: Phil Lindley, Executive Director; Lisa Leahy, Associate Executive Director; and David Maxwell, Program Director

Macpage LLC: Robert Dube; and Steven Falco

Members of the public were asked to introduce themselves.

2. Annual Audit Review

MACPAGE staff presented the FY2016 audit of the ConnectME Authority funds and fund management. Documents reviewed included the Financial Report, the Government Auditing Standards Report, and the Management Letter. MACPAGE noted that the decline in annual revenues into the ConnectME Fund appears to have leveled off. MACPAGE recommends that the Authority continue to be prudent in obligating funds for grants to ensure that revenue meets or exceeds expenditures. MACPAGE also recommended spot checking of reports submitted by communication service providers. Board members agreed with this recommendation.

Two instances of wording changes in the documentation were noted for correction.

The Board voted unanimously to accept the audit report, with wording changes previously requested.

3. Rulemaking, Chapter 101 - Status

Staff updated the Board relative to the rulemaking initiative for Chapter 101. A public hearing will be held at the next Board meeting (November 18, 2016) and comments on the draft rule will be due on Monday, November 28, 2016.

4. Executive Director Report

Financial Reports - Phil Lindley reviewed financial information included in the meeting packet.

Mapping Contract Status – Staff is developing the draft contract for review with the vendor and the proposal evaluation team members. A final contract to be executed by the parties is expected by mid-November.

FirstNetME Update - Staff informed the Board that a decision of a single vendor for the national public safety broadband network will not be made by November 1, 2016. Staff will be attending a required meeting in Phoenix, AZ in November.

5. Public Comment

It was suggested to the Board that, should the legal case involving the Broadband Sustainability Fee result in payment to the Authority, the funds be made available for disbursement in the manner specified in the repealed statute.

The public portion of the meeting was suspended at 3:02PM in order to allow the Board to move into Executive Session.

6. Executive Session – Personnel Matters

The Board held an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. The Executive Session concluded at 4:00PM. No voting occurred within the Executive Session.

The Board opened the meeting to public participation and, seeing none, adjourned the meeting at 4:00PM.