

# MINUTES

## Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Broadband Authority

May 18, 2017

Board members in attendance were: John Andrzejewski, Elaine Meil, Pete Lalor, and John Reiter(via phone).

ESVBA management participating in the meeting who were in attendance: Robert Bridgham and Leah Hoopes (Secretary)

Ms. Meil called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm.

### **AGENDA ADOPTION**

*Mr. Lalor moved to adopt the agenda. Mr. Andrzejewski seconded.  
Motion passed unopposed.*

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Ron van Geijn-** Mr. van Geijn provided a document (please see attached) explains that EVPL guidelines prevent Eastern Shore Communications from providing higher bandwidth to residents, unlike new service providers who can qualify for EVPL pricing. He asks that the ESVBA consider removing the restriction and allow more sites to qualify for EVPL pricing. Mr. van Geijn also asked for a procedure to be created where the ESVBA works with service providers when considering new EVPL sites. Also, he feels that ESVBA should work with service providers such as Eastern Shore Communications to provide fiber to the home since they are better qualified to deal with residential customers.

**Bob Nichols-** Mr. Nichols expressed concerns about ESVBA being in direct competition with other service providers since starting fiber to the home. Mr. Nichols suggested that ESVBA hold off on building out the network for residential service until receiving an analysis from the consultant.

**Donald Imhoff-** Mr. Imhoff spoke about possible unfair competitive practice in regards to Sentinel Robotic Solutions. He was asked to submit a proposal from Chase Riley at Sentinel but later learned they had lost the deal to ESVBA. Mr. Imhoff has to disclose an address to ESVBA in order to build fiber to that customer and possibly giving away leads for potential customers.

**Spencer Murray-** Mr. Murray provided documents (please see attached) from the US department of Commerce. He questions the ESVBA's mission and asks "Is ESVBA an open access network or a last mile internet service provider? Can the authority legitimately be both, in that as a private ISP, why would I invest capital to compete locally at a disadvantage? Why would a private ISP identify a potential service area and then compete with not only other ISPs, but also with the Broadband Authority itself?" Mr. Murray states that the Harborton project success announcement precedes the anticipated consultant strategy document for which the ESVBA has contracted. He requests that the details and analysis results of the Harborton test project be provided to the public and to the consultant.

**Bill Parr-** Mr. Parr believes that ESVBA should be competing to sell dark fiber to a company like Microsoft that could potentially create many economic development opportunities. He stated that the funds provided to the ESVBA by the government were for an open access network and economic development. Mr. Parr also spoke about how the Eastern Shore could benefit from data centers like Virginia Beach and how it could provide many job opportunities.

**John Read-** Mr. Read questioned if the service providers would build out the network that distributes broadband to individual houses, such as Vacluse that would cost approximately \$470k. He believes that the open access network should be extended so that it potentially covers everyone on the Eastern Shore and that the ESVBA and other service providers should work together to provide fiber to the home. He also stated that the ESVBA should not stop building out their network just because it competes with other service providers.

**Joe Betit-** Mr. Betit stated that after 15 years he finally has broadband because of the ESVBA's Harborton fiber to the home project and he was able to attend an 8 hour webinar with no issues.

**Richard Jenkins-** Mr. Jenkins lives in Colonial Village near Onley and out of the 42 houses in the development, the vast majority are dissatisfied with the DSL services. He spoke about the issues he faces with DSL and how his community could benefit from fiber to the home.

**Grandville Hogg-** Mr. Hogg believes that broadband is significantly needed on the shore in order for economic development and that the objective should be to supply the community with service. He suggested that the shore work together so that service doesn't overlap but complement each other.

**Brian Manley-** Mr. Manley asked that the ESVBA reconsider the rules and regulations for the EVPL site locations so that it's easier for service providers to branch the service out.

**Mike Zodun-** Mr. Zodun spoke briefly about how he has greatly benefitted from

the Broadband Authority and encouraged the board to make changes that don't negatively affect the quality of service or financial stability of the Authority. He suggested that the service providers take advantage of the opportunities given by the Authority, which could benefit the residents as well as the other service providers.

**MOTION**

*Mr. Reiter moved that Elaine Meil continue to serve as the Chairman of the ESVBA board, John Reiter to be elected as Vice Chairman, and Mike Mason to be elected as Treasurer. Mr. Lalor seconded and moved to close the slate, and the motion carried unanimously.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Mr. Andrzejewski moved to adjourn at 2:51pm. Mr. Lalor seconded. Motion passed unopposed.*

These minutes were approved at the July 20, 2017 meeting of the Board of Directors of ESVBA.

Elaine Meil  
Presiding Officer

Copy teste:

Leah Hoopes  
Leah Hoopes, Secretary