

# MINUTES

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

August 23, 2018

Board members in attendance were: Mike Mason, Elaine Meil, Charles Kolakowski, and Scott Webb.

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

Members of the public attending were: Jason Parks

Elaine Meil called the meeting to order at 1:59 pm.

### **AGENDA ADOPTION**

*Mr. Kolakowski moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Webb seconded. Motion passed unopposed.*

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Parks (Neubeam) asked the board to consider using telephone poles for WISPs in order to increase back haul capability and giving them the ability to expand in more areas which could increase their customer base by 20%.

### **REVIEW OF MINUTES**

*Mr. Mason motioned to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from July. Mr. Kolakowski seconded. Motion passed.*

### **STATUS REPORT**

1. Residential Broadband- Mr. Bridgham reported that there are 35 customers in service in Harborton, 15 in Bobtown, 10 in Church Neck, 15 in Sanford, 1 on Cobbs Station, 1 on Cheapside, 1 in Townsend, 18 in Accomac, 2 in Atlantic, 2 in

Greenbackville, 4 in Wattsville/Horntown, 1 in Oak Hall, and 1 in Hallwood. Quinby/Painter, Eastville, Nassawadox, and Oyster were recently opened.

### **NEW BUSINESS.**

- a. **Review request to allow telephone poles for delivery of WISP EVPL circuits-** Mr. Bridgham stated that one of the Service Providers requested the height requirements to be changed, allowing them to attach to telephone poles.

Mr. Webb asked why the policy required poles to be at least 50 feet.

Mr. Bridgham explained that Mr. Pascaretti had done research on other WISP programs and it was decided that 50 feet was a general consensus.

Mr. Mason stated that he needs more information before he can make a decision, possibly the financial impact on ESVBA.

Mr. Bridgham indicated that it would be difficult to project without more info from the service providers.

Mr. Kolakowski stated that he also would like more info before voting.

Mr. Mason stated that he would like to revisit and possibly reestablish what the intent of the program is.

Ms. Meil mentioned that the program was never intended to be the wholesale product and that maybe both the WISP program and Wholesale pricing should be looked at. Now that the ESVBA could possibly be financing new network, the rate for the WISP program would probably need to be increased in order to carry the load.

Mr. Webb suggested that the requirements could be lowered in certain cases but lowering the height requirements altogether doesn't seem like an option.

*Mr. Mason moved to table the discussion for the next regular meeting. Mr. Kolakowski seconded. Motion passed unopposed.*

- b. **Consider scheduling a Special Meeting for the week of 9/10-9/14 to adopt resolutions as needed for the bond-** Mr. Bridgham suggested scheduling a meeting in order to adopt a resolution and move forward with the Bond process.

Mr. Davenport stated that they're expected to get a response back from VRA on September 17<sup>th</sup> but they need a resolution by September 21<sup>st</sup>.

*Mr. Mason motioned to schedule a Special Meeting on September 12<sup>th</sup> at 9am. Mr. Kolakowski seconded. After some discussion, Motion passed unopposed.*

**OLD Business**

- a. Discuss bond progress -

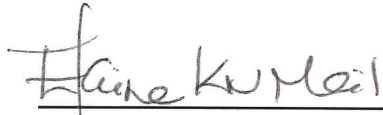
**Board Comment**

Ms. Meil stated that the new State Broadband Advisor has indicated that he wants to meet with the board and see the network.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:28pm.

These minutes were approved at the September 27, 2018 meeting of the Board of Directors of ESVBA.



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Presiding Officer

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Leah Hoopes, Secretary