

MINUTES

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

January 24, 2019

Board members in attendance were: Mike Mason, Elaine Meil, 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: Mike Zodun, Warren B, Glenn S, Matt Ertle, Ben Fox.

Ms. Meil called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Mr. Mason moved to adopt the agenda. Mr. Webb seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Mr. Webb moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from November, the Reconvened Minutes from December, and the Special Meeting Minutes from January. Mr. Mason seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion to enter into closed session according to Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended;) Paragraph 7: Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members, consultants, or attorneys pertaining to actual or probably litigation, and consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by the Authority regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by counsel, made by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Webb. The following board members were present: Mr. Webb, Mr. Mason, and Ms. Meil and voted affirmative.

After closed session, the Chair reconvened the meeting. Motion was made by Mr. Webb, seconded by Mr. Mason that the Board had entered the closed session for that purpose as set out in Paragraph 7 of Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended. Roll call vote taken Vote was that no other business discussed than as advised in Paragraph 7. The following board members were present: Mr. Webb, Mr. Mason, and Ms. Meil, and voted affirmative.

STATUS REPORT

1. WiFi Hotspots- Mr. Bridgham gave an update that there are currently 12 hotspots in service.
2. Residential Broadband- Mr. Bridgham reported that there are 38 customers in service in Harborton, 19 in Bobtown, 10 in Church Neck, 19 in Sanford, 2 on Cheapside, 1 on Cobbs Station, 30 in Accomac, 2 in Townsend, 4 in Greenbackville, 7 in Atlantic, 6 in Wattsville/Horntown, 8 in Oak Hall, 6 in Hallwood, 0 in Painter/Quinby, 9 in Eastville, 3 in Nassawadox, 2 in Oyster, 7 in Exmore, 3 in Belle Haven, 1 in Cheriton, and Wachapreague, Onancock, and Cape Charles have recently been opened.
Ms. Meil asked that if the wait list drops back down will the Authority increase advertising?
Mr. Bridgham stated that several new people have been hired and if they can get the turn up rate down to around 15-20 days then the Authority will increase advertising. He also reminded the board that only the first few areas have had door hangers.
3. WISP EVPL Program- Mr. Bridgham informed the BOD that 54 sites are in service and bandwidth upgrades continue.
4. Microcommunity Program- Mr. Bridgham stated that 5 homes in Watts Bay have been approved for the Microcommunity policy. A few other communities have applied but would be too expensive to build. Mr. Bridgham stated that they are working with VDOT on issues about crossing Atlantic Rd.

Mr. Mason asked about the slight downward trend in commercial revenue.

Mr. Bridgham stated that one of the larger wholesale providers

just renewed their contract under the new rates.

Ms. Meil asked for an update on the Engineering and Construction of the build out.

Mr. Bridgham stated that there are a few items left to discuss with the Engineering firm before signing the contract but the crews have started on some of the build out for Painter, Exmore, and Cape Charles. The Construction IFB should be rereleased soon.

Ms. Meil asked if the build out for the towns is being tracked and paid for out of the correct account.

Mr. Bridgham explained that each town has its own project number and the jobs will get allocated against it. The money is coming out of the general operating account but funds will be transferred as needed.

NEW BUSINESS.

a. **FY2018 Audit Approval-** Mr. Bridgham presented the Audits to the board.

Mr. Mason moved to accept the FY2018 Audit. Mr. Webb seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

b. **ESVBA Rate Schedule-**Mr. Bridgham explained that one of the wholesale providers were asking for a few rates that the ESVBA doesn't currently have. He provided the board with the suggested rates.

Ms. Meil stated that the rates need to be advertised and the Public Hearing needs to be scheduled.

Mr. Mason moved to advertise and publish the rates and schedule the Rate Hearing for April 25, 2019 at 2pm. Mr. Webb seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

BOARD COMMENT


Ms. Meil reminded everyone that the ESVBA goes back to having board meetings every other month now that the year has ended.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 pm.

These minutes were approved at the March 28, 2019 meeting of

the Board of Directors of ESVBA.



Presiding Officer

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Leah Hoopes, Secretary