

MINUTES

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

March 28, 2019

Board members in attendance were: Charles Kolakowski, Peter Lalor, 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:

Ms. Meil called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Mr. Webb moved to amend the agenda to add 7b.) First Bond Payment. Mr. Lalor seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Mr. Mason moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from January. Mr. Webb seconded. Mr. Kolakowski and Mr. Lalor abstained. 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. Lalor, seconded by Mr. Kolakowski. The following board members were present: Mr. Kolakowski, Mr. Lalor, 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. Lalor 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. Kolakowski, Mr. Lalor, 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 41 customers in service in Harborton, 19 in Bobtown, 11 in Church Neck, 21 in Sanford, 2 on Cheapside, 2 on Cobbs Station, 33 in Accomac, 2 in Townsend, 5 in Greenbackville, 7 in Atlantic, 6 in Wattsville/Horntown, 10 in Oak Hall, 8 in Hallwood, 0 in Painter/Quinby, 12 in Eastville, 3 in Nassawadox, 2 in Oyster, 11 in Exmore, 5 in Belle Haven, 3 in Cheriton, 2 in Wachapreague, 7 in Onancock, 3 in Cape Charles, and Parksley and Nocks Landing have recently been opened. Chincoteague will be opening soon.
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 all the legal contracts have been completed. Nasa is working with ESVBA to resolve the issue crossing Atlantic Rd.

Mr. Ertle presented the new WiFi Reports to the board.

NEW BUSINESS.

- a. **Application for USDA Re-connect grant-** Mr. Bridgham spoke to the board about applying for the grant by May 30th.
Mr. Lalor asked about the criteria that will be evaluated once the grant is given.
Mr. Bridgham stated that the USDA are looking to get connectivity to unserved areas, such as farms.
Ms. Mason suggested that USDA define the term "farm".

Mr. Mason motioned to have the Executive Director develop the Re-connect grant application and submit it. Mr. Kolakowski seconded. After discussion, motion passed unopposed.

- b. **First Bond Payment**-Mr. Bridgham explained that the first payment is due on 5/1/19 and wanted to have approval from the board to do it electronically since it is a large amount of money.

Mr. Lalor moved to Authorize the Executive Director to submit the form for electronic payment. Mr. Mason seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Network Expansion progress**- Mr. Bridgham stated that the PSmith Group was awarded the Engineering contract and that about 7 miles of the expansion have already been built. He explained that instead of doing it in segments, they are currently building down the streets that they are already working on. He also plans on having a decision for the Construction bid in April.

Mr. Webb asked Mr. Bridgham if he still felt like he has enough resources to accommodate the growth.

Mr. Bridgham replied that for the time being there are enough resources and the crews are starting to catch up from where they were behind.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Mason presented the board with a comparison of cash balances from December 2018 to February 2019.

Mr. Bridgham stated that on the dashboard under revenue by sector, Residential revenue has increased to 4% of ESVBA's income. Residential Income now exceeds Healthcare and Government Income.

Mr. Webb requested projections on what percentage the Authority expects Residential revenue to be at in 5 and 10 years. He also thinks the public would be interested to know how much money the Authority is investing yearly in residential coverage.

BOARD COMMENT

Mr. Mason asked for an update on the fiber break in Accomack.

Mr. Bridgham stated that they have no proof of who damaged the fiber.

Mr. Webb asked how long the network was down.

Mr. Bridgham replied around 4.5 hours.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.

These minutes were approved at the May 23rd, 2019 meeting of the Board of Directors of ESVBA.



Presiding Officer

Copy teste:



Leah Hoopes, Secretary