

MINUTES

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

August 8, 2019

Board members in attendance were: Charles Kolakowski, Mike Mason, Elaine Meil, Peter Lalor, 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:
Pat Coady, Bryan Daffin

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

AGENDA ADOPTION

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Coady spoke about the cost of residential installs being too high and suggested that the Authority figure out a way to split up the costs of installs so that the first customer to sign up doesn't get hit with the higher installation fee. Mr. Daffin is a new residential customer and a member of the Tasley VFD and wants the board to consider having a separate rate for Volunteer Fire Departments.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Mr. Webb moved to approve the Annual and Regular Meeting Minutes from May. Mr. Kolakowski seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

STATUS REPORT

1. WiFi Hotspots- Mr. Bridgham gave an update that there are currently 12 hotspots in service.

Mr. Bridgham stated that anyone that can reach the hotspot can use it, there are no data limits.

2. Residential Broadband- Mr. Bridgham reported that there are 43 customers in service in Harborton, 22 in Bobtown, 12 in Church Neck, 27 in Sanford, 2 on Cheapside, 2 on Cobbs Station, 39 in Accomac, 2 in Townsend, 7 in Greenbackville, 16 in Atlantic, 6 in Wattsville/Horntown, 14 in Oak Hall, 14 in Hallwood, 3 in Painter/Quinby, 18 in Eastville, 7 in Nassawadox, 3 in Oyster, 29 in Exmore, 10 in Belle Haven, 4 in Cheriton, 7 in Wachapreague, 31 in Onancock, 29 in Cape Charles, 6 in Parksley, and 4 in Nocks Landing.
3. WISP EVPL Program- Mr. Bridgham informed the BOD that 53 sites are in service, 1 that is under contract, and bandwidth upgrades continue.
4. Microcommunity Program- Mr. Bridgham stated that all the construction has been completed and all signed customers in Watts Bay have been turned up. There is a second microcommunity in Church Neck that has passed the review.

Mr. Bridgham gave an update on the buildout.

He stated that about 76 miles has been engineered and about 22 miles of that has been constructed.

Mr. Lalor asked about the ability to split up the installation costs or giving customers rebates.

Mr. Bridgham stated that the network has always been built based on the previous customer and it would be very difficult to calculate which customers get rebated and how much.

Mr. Mason asked if the fiber is already in place, how long does it take for the customer to get connected.

Mr. Bridgham replied that the time frame is 6-8 weeks.

Ms. Meil asked how the Authority has built out 22 miles for only \$250k.

Mr. Bridgham stated that the cost of construction has been right on track with what they expected and the crews are mostly working on the towns for now.

Mr. Mason would like to see a time frame of the buildout so that the public can stay updated.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Member selection for compensation committee-** Mr. Webb volunteered to serve on the compensation committee, which sets

the goals for the Executive Director

OLD BUSINESS

a. **Rate Hearing-** Mr. Bridgham presented the new rates to the board. There were no public comments.

Mr. Lalor moved to adopt the rates. Mr. Mason seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

b. **Consideration of the ESVBA Dark Fiber Policy-**Mr. Bridgham made the correct changes to the policy.

Mr. Webb asked that the policy be reworded and the 4th bullet from the bottom say 10% of the strands instead of 14 strands.

Mr. Webb moved to adopt the Dark Fiber Policy with the amendment. Mr. Lalor seconded. After discussion, motion passed unopposed.

BOARD COMMENT

Ms. Meil wished Mr. Mason a Happy Birthday!

CLOSED SESSION

Motion to enter into closed session according to Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended;) Paragraph 1: Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body. Paragraph 33: Discussion or consideration by a local authority created in accordance with the Virginia Wireless Service Authorities Act (§ [15.2-5431.1](#) et seq.) of confidential proprietary information and trade secrets subject to the exclusion in subdivision 19 of § [2.2-3705.6](#), made by Mr. Kolakowski, seconded by Mr. Mason. The following board members were present: Mr. Kolakowski, Mr. Webb, Mr. Mason, Mr. Lalor, and Ms. Meil and voted affirmative.

After closed session, the Chair reconvened the meeting. Motion was made by Mr. Kolakowski, seconded by Mr. Mason that the Board had entered the closed session for that purpose as set out in Paragraph 1 and 33 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 1 and 33. The following board members were present: Mr. Kolakowski, Mr. Webb, Mr. Mason, Mr. Lalor,

and Ms. Meil, and voted affirmative.

MOTION

Mr. Lalor motioned to authorized the compensation committee to complete the personnel evaluation up to the amount discussed and pay that amount. Mr. Mason seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

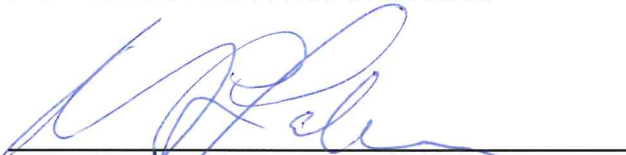
MOTION

Mr. Kolakowski motioned to authorize an IRU for business opportunity B in the amount discussed and the terms discussed in Closed Session. Mr. Mason seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:16 pm.

These minutes were approved at the September 26, 19 meeting of the Board of Directors of ESVBA.



Presiding Officer

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Leah Hoopes, Secretary