

# MINUTES

## Work Session Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Broadband Authority (DRAFT)

February 27, 2020

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

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

Members of the public attending were:  
John Reiter, Joe Betit, Pat Coady, Ben Fox

Ms. Meil called the meeting to order at 2:09 pm.

Moment of silence for Scott Webb

### **AGENDA ADOPTION**

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

### **BUILD STATUS**

Mr. Bridgham gave an update on the buildout.

He stated that everything except for the Cheriton to Exmore path has been engineered and about 90 miles of that has been fully constructed.

Mr. Mason asked about the pole attachment fees for ANEC.

Mr. Bridgham replied that the application pole attachment fees are very small but there is an ongoing discussion about the make ready fees.

Mr. Bridgham stated that the Authority is turning up about 50-60 customers a month.

Mr. Mason asked what the current wait time is and if underground requests affect it.

Mr. Bridgham replied that the wait time is still between 6 and 8 weeks but underground has taken longer due to issues with contractors.

Ms. Meil asked how the funds for the build out are looking and if there is going to be money left over.

Mr. Bridgham stated that the Authority is meeting the financial objectives and he believes there will be funds left over for continued expansion.

Ms. Meil questioned if there was an area that just requires aerial where the funds would go further and if there's additional resources that could be added.

Mr. Bridgham explained that there is a cash reserve but he's concerned that the increase in subscribers per month will impact the cash reserve.

### **NEW BUSINESS.**

- a. Economic Incentive Program-** Mr. Bridgham explained that the Authority was approached to work on a project with Northampton County in order to help business development on the Eastern Shore through the GIG.

This program would allow the counties to award free broadband to an entity for a period of time. There are excess funds that won't be expended by the end of the fiscal year that will help fund the program.

Mr. Mason spoke about setting limitations for the amount of bandwidth issued to the entity.

Ms. Meil suggested having the document looked over by the attorney.

- b. Future Work Session Topics-** Mr. Bridgham presented the board with a list of topics to discuss at the remaining 2 work session meetings.

Ms. Meil added the discussion for future build out with the remaining funds to the list.

The board agreed that the rates would be the number one discussion in the June meeting.

Mr. Mason recommended that the discussion for the October meeting be about the remaining funds from the bond.

Mr. Kolakowski suggested getting a subcommittee to discuss a few of the items first.

**BOARD COMMENT**

The GIG is having a grand opening on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:14 pm.

These minutes were approved at the \_\_\_\_\_ meeting of the Board of Directors of ESVBA.

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Presiding Officer

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Leah Hoopes, Secretary