

MINUTES

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

December 2, 2021

Board members in attendance were: John Reiter, Mike Mason, Charles Kolakowski, 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: Bob Meyers, Sue Mastyl

Mr. Reiter called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm.

AGENDA ADOPTION

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Meyers (Silver Beach)-Mr. Meyers explained that ESVBA bypassed Prettyman Circle and has duplicated what Spectrum is doing. He suggested getting other forms of funding to provide service to Prettyman Circle.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Mr. Kolakowski moved to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes from September and the Work Session Minutes from October. Ms. Meil seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

SYSTEM STATUS & BUILD REPORT

1. WiFi Hotspots- There are currently 27 hotspots in service.
2. Residential Broadband- Mr. Bridgham reported that the Authority has 1954 active residential customers. He stated that there are 54 customers in service in Harborton, 21 in Bobtown, 73 in Church Neck, 72 in Sanford, 42 on Cheapside, 4 on Cobbs

Station, 89 in Accomac, 6 in Townsend, 109 in Greenbackville, 60 in Atlantic, 65 in Wattsville/Horntown, 63 in Oak Hall, 79 in Hallwood, 58 in Painter/Quinby, 54 in Eastville, 49 in Nassawadox, 8 in Oyster, 220 in Exmore, 50 in Belle Haven, 44 in Cheriton, 32 in Wachapreague, 271 in Onancock, 211 in Cape Charles, 126 in Parksley, 5 in Nocks Landing, 35 in Saxis, 7 on Chincoteague, and 47 on Tangier.

Mr. Mason suggested a press release when the Authority hits the 2000 residential customer mark.

Mr. Bridgham explained that he is working with the marketing company on things they can do to ramp up sales.

Mr. Mason asked if the Authority has the ability to chart aerial vs underground installs.

3. WISP EVPL Program- Mr. Bridgham informed the BOD that 58 sites are in service, 2 new sites on-order and underway.
4. Microcommunity Program- There are 26 communities that are in service and 7 others that are in various stages of progress.
5. EBB Program- The program had 68 subscribers in the month of November.

Mr. Mason asked if any of the EBB customers took advantage of the Installation Assistance Program.

Mr. Bridgham replied that he will start adding that number to the report.

6. 2021 CARES projects in Accomack and Northampton- Mr. Bridgham reported that all of the approved Northampton County extensions are built and completed. About half of the Accomack County extensions are completed. 4 micro communities in Northampton and 4 in Accomack County are built and complete.

OLD BUSINESS.

a. VATI Application -

Mr. Bridgham reported that there were 2 challengers to the application and the ESVBA submitted rebuttals. The state decided to drop Chincoteague and Tangier from the application.

b. Consider Shore Wide Expansion Plans- Mr. Bridgham presented buildout forecast models to the board.

He explained that scenario 3 covers about 8k homes and scenario 1 covers about 12k homes. Scenario 2 is not viable at

this time.

Mr. Reiter asked if it would be reasonable for the Authority to go out and get the \$14M in scenario 3.

Mr. Kolakowski asked what the barrier was for getting more customers hooked up per month.

Mr. Bridgham explained that before it was the resources and underground construction that was causing the delays and now the sales just need to be ramped up. He explained that he has concerns about the cash flow if 200 customers were to be hooked up per month.

This subject will be revisited at the next board meeting pending the decision on the grant.

NEW BUSINESS.

- a. **ESVBA 2022 Board Meeting Schedule**– Mr. Bridgham presented the dates for the 2022 meeting schedule.
Mr. Mason motioned to adopt the schedule. Ms. Meil seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Mason presented the Treasurer's Report.

Ms. Meil asked why the payroll expenses fluctuate monthly and asked about the what the amount under other income was for.

Mr. Bridgham explained that the payroll fluctuates depending on how many paydays there are in that month. He also stated that the amount under other income is the construction costs that were charged to the counties and disconnect fees.

BOARD COMMENTS

None

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; and evaluation of performance of departments or schools of public institutions of higher education where such evaluation will necessarily involve discussion of the performance of specific individuals. Any teacher shall be permitted to be present during a closed meeting in which there is a discussion or consideration of a disciplinary matter that involves the teacher and some student and the student involved in the matter is present, provided the teacher makes a written request to be present to the presiding officer of the appropriate board. Nothing in this subdivision, however, shall be construed to authorize a closed meeting by a local governing body or an elected school board to discuss compensation matters that affect the membership of such body or board collectively. 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 Ms. Meil, seconded by Mr. Kolakowski. The following board members were present: Mr. Mason, Mr. Reiter, Mr. Kolakowski, and Ms. Meil and voted affirmative.

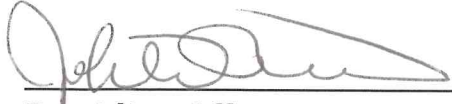
After closed session, the Chair reconvened the meeting. Motion was made by Mr. Kolakowski, seconded by Ms. Meil that the Board had entered the closed session for that purpose as set out in Paragraph 1 and 33 of Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended. Roll call vote taken Vote was that no other business discussed than as advised in Paragraph 1 and 33. The following board members were present: Mr. Mason, Mr. Reiter, Mr. Kolakowski, and Ms. Meil and voted affirmative.

Ms. Meil motioned to authorize the staff bonuses totaling \$26,950 based on Mr. Bridgham's recommendation. Mr. Kolakowski seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

ADJOURNMENT

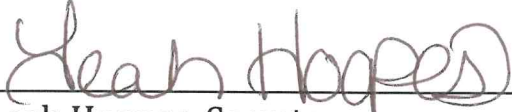
The meeting was adjourned at 3:38pm.

These minutes were approved at the February 15, 2022 meeting of the Board of Directors of ESVBA.



Presiding Officer

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Leah Hoopes, Secretary