

## **MINUTES**

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

**May 19, 2022**

Board members in attendance were: John Reiter, Mike Mason, Charles Kolakowski, and Kelvin Pettit.

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

Members of the public attending were: Rick Willis and Sue Mastyl

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

#### **AGENDA ADOPTION**

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

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Sue Mastyl spoke about the need for broadband coverage and the high install costs.

Rick Willis spoke about the possible funding for hotspots for migrant camps. Mr. Mason asked that information on the VATI grant budget be added to the Status Report.

Mr. Bridgham explained that there are programs that help with installation costs and about \$2.2M will be applied towards special construction for VATI covered areas. There will be a new page on the ESVBA website dedicated to VATI updates.

#### **REVIEW OF MINUTES**

*Mr. Mason moved to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes from March. Mr. Kolakowski 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 2,218 active residential customers. He stated that there are 53 customers in service in Harborton, 27 in Bobtown, 76 in Church Neck, 66 in Sanford, 40 on Cheapside, 4 on Cobbs Station, 101 in Accomac, 7 in Townsend, 123 in Greenbackville, 63 in Atlantic, 73 in Wattsville/Horntown, 62 in Oak Hall, 85 in Hallwood, 66 in Painter/Quinby, 57 in Eastville, 88 in Nassawadox, 7 in Oyster, 233 in Exmore, 72 in Belle Haven, 44 in Cheriton, 35 in Wachapreague, 340 in Onancock, 203 in Cape Charles, 151 in Parksley, 5 in Nocks Landing, 39 in Saxis, 7 on Chincoteague, and 91 on Tangier. Mr. Bridgham presented a new report showing the number of turn-ups per month and the average install per month.
3. WISP EVPL Program- Mr. Bridgham informed the BOD that 58 sites are in service, 1 new site is on-order and underway.
4. Microcommunity Program- There are 36 communities that are in service and 2 others that are in various stages of progress.
5. ACP Program- The program had 80 subscribers in the month of April.
6. VATI FY22 Status- Mr. Bridgham announced that all filings required by DHCD have been completed and were submitted on or before the deadline. The easements for the construction of Captain's Cove have been executed and ESVBA is awaiting the execution of the contract. The preliminary materials list for the construction has been out to bid, evaluated, and the intent to award has been placed.  
Mr. Kolakowski asked what the main reason is for residential customers terminating service.  
Mr. Bridgham explained that the number one reason customers disconnect service is due to relocating. He stated that the Authority is looking into a grant to work with the local schools/Community College to assist in educating the public on broadband.

## **OLD BUSINESS.**

- a. Present costs for migrant worker camps-** Mr. Bridgham presented the BOD with a cost estimate for local migrant worker farm camps.  
Mr. Mason asked how portable the solar power option would be.  
Mr. Bridgham explained that the poles would be set in the ground by foundation so you could move the equipment but it would not be very cost effective to do so.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. FY2023 Budget-** Mr. Bridgham presented the BOD with the FY23 budget, along with an organization chart. The salaries that are included in the wages and benefit section do include the fully loaded costs as part of the salary compensation study. The 5-year pole survey accrual has also been added along with the current balance of the existing accrual accounts. The fuel expense account was increased.  
Mr. Mason asked for more information on the pole survey.  
Mr. Bridgham explained that the agreement states that the ESVBA would share component costs with ANEC to do a pole survey every 5 years.  
*Mr. Kolakowski motioned to adopt the FY23 Budget. Mr. Mason seconded. Motion passed unopposed.*
- b. VATI FY23 -** The guidelines are available for VATI FY23 and it could help the ESVBA reach the last 25% of the Eastern Shore that's unserved.  
Mr. Mason stated that he is concerned with the six-month overlap and the work load. He would like to explore the concept of the Broadband Authority bonding for the local match with the financial advisers.  
*Mr. Mason moved to have the Executive Director to craft a Letter of Intent. Mr. Kolakowski seconded. Motion passed unopposed.*

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

None

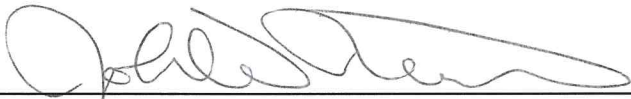
**BOARD COMMENTS**

Mr. Pettit stated that he would be interested in learning more about the migrant camps and looking into creating a partnership with the farmers to help cover the costs.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:08pm.

These minutes were approved at the July 28, 2022 meeting of the Board of Directors of ESVBA.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Officer

Copy teste:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Leah Hoopes, Secretary