

MINUTES

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

September 29, 2022

Board members in attendance were: John Reiter, 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: Mike Zodun

Mr. Reiter called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Mr. Kolakowski moved to adopt the agenda. M. Pettit seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Mr. Kolakowski moved to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes from July. Mr. Pettit seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

SYSTEM STATUS & BUILD REPORT

1. WiFi Hotspots- There are currently 26 of the 27 hotspots in service. There has been a request for a WiFi hotspot at the Wachapreague Park.
Mr. Reiter asked how much it costs to install a hotspot.
Mr. Bridgham stated it generally costs between \$1500 and

\$2000.

2. Residential Broadband- Mr. Bridgham reported that the Authority has 2,487 active residential customers. He stated that there are 56 customers in service in Harborton, 31 in Bobtown, 74 in Church Neck, 66 in Sanford, 40 on Cheapside, 4 on Cobbs Station, 108 in Accomac, 7 in Townsend, 138 in Greenbackville, 66 in Atlantic, 87 in Wattsville/Horntown, 72 in Oak Hall, 110 in Hallwood, 69 in Painter/Quinby, 88 in Eastville, 101 in Nassawadox, 8 in Oyster, 255 in Exmore, 83 in Belle Haven, 43 in Cheriton, 37 in Wachapreague, 382 in Onancock, 235 in Cape Charles, 167 in Parksley, 5 in Nocks Landing, 40 in Saxis, 12 on Chincoteague, and 103 on Tangier. Mr. Bridgham explained that although Chincoteague and Cape Charles are very similar, Chincoteague's take rate is much lower despite continued marketing.
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 38 communities that are in service and 3 others that are in various stages of progress.
5. ACP Program- The program had 87 subscribers in the month of August.
6. Assistance Programs- Mr. Bridgham presented a report showing details for all of the assistance programs.
Mr. Pettit asked if any of the programs assist with any of the build out to the resident's curb.
Mr. Bridgham explained that if the customer is in a VATI area they should have little to no costs. The VATI assistance program covers from the curb to the home and there is no limit to the amount.
7. VATI FY22 Status- Mr. Bridgham announced that the engineering is complete for areas 1, 3, 5, 12, 13, and 14. Construction and splicing are almost done for Captains Cove. The Kiptopeke area is about 90% constructed and splicing has begun. Construction has begun for area 5 and 13. Materials are being received ahead of schedule aside from hand holes.
8. Vaocluse- Northampton County and Vaocluse HOA signed an agreement for the ESVBA to construct and provide service to Vaocluse. Fiber has been spliced in some areas and customers and starting to come online.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. **VATI FY23** – Mr. Bridgham explained that the application was submitted for VATI FY23 to cover the remaining 316 miles on the Eastern Shore. The project is for \$12.7M and passes about 6800 homes.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Bridgham gave an overview of the financials.

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 (§ et seq.) of confidential proprietary information and trade secrets subject to the exclusion in subdivision 19 of § ., made by Mr. Kolakowski, seconded by Mr. Pettit. The following board members were present: Mr. Reiter, Mr. Pettit, and Mr. Kolakowski, and voted affirmative.

After closed session, the Chair reconvened the meeting. Motion was made by Mr. Kolakowski, seconded by Mr. Pettit 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. Reiter, Mr. Pettit, and Mr. Kolakowski, and voted affirmative.

Mr. Kolakowski moved to authorize the ESVBA to schedule a Rate Hearing for 100GB circuit @ \$21k per month on 1/26/23.

Mr. Kolakowski suggested a Work Session to discuss revenue and increasing take rate.

Mr. Pettit would like to have a discussion on service provider competition and the ESVBA's goals.

Mr. Bridgham stated he would put something together and notify the BOD.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:32pm.

These minutes were approved at the December 1, 2022 meeting of the Board of Directors of ESVBA.



Presiding Officer

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Leah Hoopes, Secretary