

MINUTES

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

March 23, 2023

Board members in attendance were: John Reiter, Charles Kolakowski, Elaine Meil, and Mike Mason (remotely attending from Onancock, VA for medical reasons).

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

Members of the public attending were: Rick Willis, Justin Nick

Mr. Reiter called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm.

AGENDA ADOPTION

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

Ms. Meil motioned to allow Mr. Mason to participate in the meeting. Mr. Kolakowski seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Mr. Kolakowski moved to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes from January. Ms. Meil seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

Mr. Mason moved to approve the Work Session Meeting Minutes from February. Ms. Meil seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

SYSTEM STATUS & BUILD REPORT

1. WiFi Hotspots- There are currently 27 of the 28 hotspots in service. Ebenezer Church is still offline.
2. Residential Broadband- Mr. Bridgham reported that the Authority has 2,922 active residential customers. He stated that there are 69 customers in service in Harborton, 35 in Bobtown, 154 in Church Neck, 68 in Sanford, 43 on Cheapside, 4 on Cobbs Station, 107 in Accomac, 7 in Townsend, 231 in Greenbackville, 69 in Atlantic, 88 in Wattsville/Horntown, 87 in Oak Hall, 112 in Hallwood, 80 in Painter/Quinby, 107 in Eastville, 123 in Nassawadox, 8 in Oyster, 286 in Exmore, 96 in Belle Haven, 41 in Cheriton, 43 in Wachapreague, 423 in Onancock, 278 in Cape Charles, 178 in Parksley, 4 in Nocks Landing, 42 in Saxis, 21 on Chincoteague, and 118 on Tangier. Mr. Reiter asked how many teams the Authority has that are on payroll and doing installs. Mr. Bridgham stated that there are currently 4 contractor teams and 1 installer in house.
3. WISP EVPL Program- Mr. Bridgham informed the BOD that 59 sites are in service.
4. Microcommunity Program- There are 40 communities that are in service and 2 others that are in various stages of progress.
5. ACP Program- The program had 105 subscribers in the month of March.
6. Assistance Programs- Mr. Bridgham presented a report showing details for all of the assistance programs.

Ms. Meil asked how the Authority finds out about a LECAP applicant. Mr. Bridgham explained that DHCD notifies ESVBA that there is a subscriber in the region and ESVBA gives DHCD an estimated cost. DHCD then has to approve it and ESVBA has 90 days to complete it. Mr. Bridgham announced that he had a meeting with Congresswoman Kiggans to talk about what ESVBA is working on and possible additional funding.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. VATI FY22 Report – Mr. Bridgham provided a report for the board on the VATI update. He stated that the funds from the

state were received. The retainage will be held until the end unless it can be negotiated.

Mr. Bridgham stated that he was notified that VATI FY23 will be released soon.

- b. LOC increase – The request to increase the LOC to \$2M was completed on March 6, 2023. In February, \$400k was drawn down and has already been paid back.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approve FY22 Audit-

Mr. Mason motioned to approve the FY22 Audit. Ms. Meil seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

None

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 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. Reiter, Ms. Meil, Mr. Mason, and Mr. Kolakowski, and voted affirmative.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:12pm.

These minutes were approved at the May 25, 2023 meeting of the Board of Directors of ESVBA.



Presiding Officer

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Leah Hoopes, Secretary