

# MINUTES

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

September 21, 2023

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

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

Members of the public attending were: Mike Zodun

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

### **AGENDA ADOPTION**

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **REVIEW OF MINUTES**

*Mr. Mason 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 27 of the 28 hotspots in service. Ebenezer Church is still offline.
2. Residential Broadband- Mr. Bridgham reported that the Authority has 3375 active residential customers. He stated that there are 80 customers in service in Harborton, 33 in Bobtown,

188 in Church Neck, 67 in Sanford, 45 on Cheapside, 4 on Cobbs Station, 106 in Accomac, 9 in Townsend, 435 in Greenbackville, 75 in Atlantic, 83 in Wattsville/Horntown, 112 in Oak Hall, 115 in Hallwood, 82 in Painter/Quinby, 113 in Eastville, 128 in Nassawadox, 8 in Oyster, 308 in Exmore, 111 in Belle Haven, 42 in Cheriton, 45 in Wachapreague, 449 in Onancock, 343 in Cape Charles, 181 in Parksley, 4 in Nocks Landing, 44 in Saxis, 30 on Chincoteague, and 135 on Tangier. The Authority hit 112 installs for the first time.

3. WISP EVPL Program- Mr. Bridgham informed the BOD that there are still 59 sites are in service.
4. Microcommunity Program- There are 42 communities that are in service and 2 new communities that are interested.
5. USDA Bailey Neck & Mt Nebo CDF- The ESVBA submitted all requisite documents and filings as of 9/13/23 and are awaiting USDA to review and either draft a contract for review or inquire about the filings. Mr. Bridgham stated that there are about 100 homes and about 90 of them will be aerial.
6. Assistance Programs- Mr. Bridgham presented a report showing details for all of the assistance programs. The ACP had 136 subscribers in the month of September.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. VATI FY22 Report – Mr. Bridgham provided a report for the board on the VATI update showing the progress in each area. The state agreed to extend the deadline for special construction for another year.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. VATI FY24 application & BEAD update – The ESVBA will be submitting applications for both BEAD and VATI24. There is no information yet on when BEAD will open or close. The state still has not set a date for when they will be awarding the VATI grant but the due date for the application is 12/19 and requires a 20% match.

*Mr. Mason authorized the Authority to apply for VATI24. Mr. Kolakowski seconded. Motion passed unopposed.*

*Mr. Pettit authorized the Authority to ask the counties for commitment letters for the required match for VATI and BEAD. Ms. Meil seconded. Motion passed unopposed.*

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

N/A

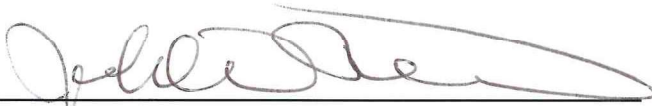
**BOARD COMMENTS**

N/A

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:46pm.

These minutes were approved at the November 30, 2023 meeting of the Board of Directors of ESVBA.



Presiding Officer

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Leah Hoopes, Secretary