

MINUTES

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

November 30, 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:

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

AGENDA ADOPTION

Mr. Kolakowski moved to amend the agenda to move item 7A after Closed Session. Mr. Mason seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Mr. Mason moved to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes from September. 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 3616 active residential customers. He stated that there are 86 customers in service in Harborton, 32 in Bobtown,

197 in Church Neck, 67 in Sanford, 47 on Cheapside, 4 on Cobbs Station, 106 in Accomac, 9 in Townsend, 538 in Greenbackville, 77 in Atlantic, 82 in Wattsville/Horntown, 127 in Oak Hall, 117 in Hallwood, 85 in Painter/Quinby, 115 in Eastville, 140 in Nassawadox, 8 in Oyster, 323 in Exmore, 118 in Belle Haven, 41 in Cheriton, 47 in Wachapreague, 468 in Onancock, 386 in Cape Charles, 181 in Parksley, 4 in Nocks Landing, 46 in Saxis, 31 on Chincoteague, and 134 on Tangier. The Authoirty hit 112 installs for the first time.

Mr. Mason asked how many more active circuits are expected in Captains Cove. Mr. Bridgham replied that only one area is fully complete so there are still a lot of orders to take there.

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 135 subscribers in the month of October.

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. Discuss setting a Rate Hearing- *Ms. Meil motioned to hold a Rate Hearing on December 20, 2023 at 2pm. Mr. Mason seconded. Motion passed unopposed.*
- b. Discuss 2024 Board Calendar- *Mr. Mason motioned to approve the 2024 calendar. Ms. Meil seconded. Motion passed unopposed.*

- c. VATI FY24 application & BEAD update- Mr. Bridgham reviewed the updates provided in the packet for VATI FY24 and BEAD.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Mason provided the board with a Treasurer's report.

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 Mr. Kolakowski, seconded by Ms. Mason. The following board members were present: Mr. Reiter, Ms. Meil, Mr. Mason, Mr. Pettit, and Mr. Kolakowski, and voted affirmative.

After closed session, the Chair reconvened the meeting. Motion was made by Mr. Pettit, seconded by Mr. Mason 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, Ms. Meil, Mr. Mason, Mr. Pettit, and

Mr. Kolakowski, and voted affirmative.

Mr. Mason motioned to authorize the awarding of bonuses to the staff as presented in Closed Session and as included in the current budget. Mr. Kolakowski seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

BOARD COMMENTS

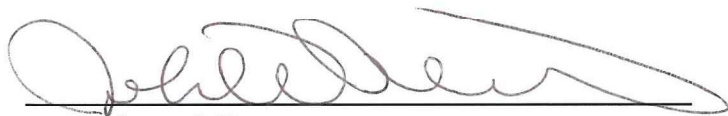
Mr. Mason announced that there is a new Senator and suggested ESVBA have an orientation meeting with him.

Mr. Pettit stated that the radio ads sound very positive.

ADJOURNMENT


The meeting was adjourned at 2:46pm.

These minutes were approved at the Jan 25, 2024 meeting of the Board of Directors of ESVBA.



Presiding Officer

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Leah Hoopes, Secretary