

MINUTES

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

March 28, 2024

Board members in attendance were: John Reiter, Charles Kolakowski, Kelvin Pettit, Elaine Meil, 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: None

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

AGENDA ADOPTION

Mr. Kolakowski moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Mason seconded. After discussion, the motion was amended to add item 9C-Business Opportunity to closed session. Motion passed unopposed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Mr. Pettit moved to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes from January. Ms. Mason seconded. Ms. Meil abstained. After discussion, the Minutes were amended to reword the Board Comment: "Mr. Reiter requested that the Vice Chairman form a committee with county representatives to discuss Broadband's next steps" to "Mr. Reiter requested that the Vice Chairman form a committee with county representatives to discuss Non deployment BEAD funds and how those will be used." 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 3877 active residential customers. He stated that there are 84 customers in service in Harborton, 33 in Bobtown, 205 in Church Neck, 67 in Sanford, 47 on Cheapside, 4 on Cobbs Station, 105 in Accomac, 12 in Townsend, 652 in Greenbackville, 81 in Atlantic, 79 in Wattsville/Horntown, 141 in Oak Hall, 115 in Hallwood, 88 in Painter/Quinby, 116 in Eastville, 161 in Nassawadox, 8 in Oyster, 353 in Exmore, 125 in Belle Haven, 42 in Cheriton, 50 in Wachapreague, 490 in Onancock, 408 in Cape Charles, 192 in Parksley, 4 in Nocks Landing, 44 in Saxis, 35 on Chincoteague, and 137 on Tangier.
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 ESVBA met with USDA to review documents and confirm final paperwork. Awaiting contract.
6. USDA Custis Neck & Locustville CDF- The ESVBA was awarded \$286K to help provide service to Custis Neck and Locustville.
Mr. Reiter asked about the non-deployment BEAD funds.
Mr. Bridgham explained that they are taking 7 areas in VA that have not been served and ESVBA does not qualify.
7. Assistance Programs- Mr. Bridgham presented a report showing details for all of the assistance programs. The ACP had 162 subscribers in the month of March. Mr. Bridgham explained that the ACP program will be ending after May but customers are able to downgrade their service or cancel their contracts.

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.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Mason stated that the state still has over \$2M between retainage and the next grant reimbursement.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Mason asked for an update on the rate reduction.

Mr. Bridgham replied that out of the 4 renewals, 2 customers have taken the rate reduction.

Mr. Pettit asked that with the billboards, if the Authority is going after an open market or certain areas.

Mr. Bridgham stated that now that there is more coverage, they will continue to raise awareness of broadband.

CLOSED SESSION

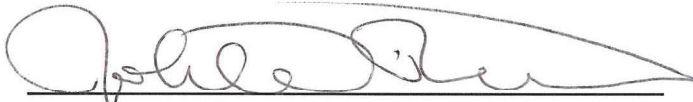
Motion to enter into closed session according to Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended;) Paragraph 1: Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation 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 Ms. Meil, 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. 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, Ms. Meil, Mr. Mason, Mr. Pettit, and Mr. Kolakowski, and voted affirmative.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10pm.

These minutes were approved at the May 23, 2024 meeting of the Board of Directors of ESVBA.



Presiding Officer

Copy teste:



Leah Hoopes, Secretary