

MINUTES

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

November 21, 2024

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

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

AGENDA ADOPTION

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Mr. Mason moved to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes from September. Mr. Kolakowski 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 4366 active residential customers. He stated that there are 94 customers in service in Harborton, 32 in Bobtown,

- 233 in Church Neck, 70 in Sanford, 49 on Cheapside, 4 on Cobbs Station, 109 in Accomac, 16 in Townsend, 746 in Greenbackville, 95 in Atlantic, 81 in Wattsville/Horntown, 172 in Oak Hall, 123 in Hallwood, 99 in Painter/Quinby, 117 in Eastville, 188 in Nassawadox, 9 in Oyster, 402 in Exmore, 145 in Belle Haven, 44 in Cheriton, 58 in Wachapreague, 539 in Onancock, 454 in Cape Charles, 216 in Parksley, 4 in Nocks Landing, 50 in Saxis, 78 on Chincoteague, and 139 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.
 5. USDA Bailey Neck & Mt Nebo CDF- ESVBA is awaiting USDA's revision of the contract.
 6. USDA Custis Neck & Locustville CDF- The ESVBA received reviews of the area and expect to have all documents to USDA soon.
 7. Assistance Programs- Mr. Bridgham presented a report showing details for all of the assistance programs.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. VATI FY22 Report – Mr. Bridgham provided a report for the board on the VATI update. He stated that there are a few areas that have not been completed. The new routers have been received and installed.
- b. BEAD Status- Mr. Bridgham gave an update on the status for BEAD. The application process is currently on hold. The funding of the 25% match and the “low cost service option” will need to be addressed. Mr. Bridgham will be attending an event that the state is holding for BEAD in December and plans to have more answers then.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Consider 2025 Board Meeting Schedule–
*Ms. Meil motioned to approve the 2025 board meeting schedule.
Mr. Mason seconded. Motion passed unopposed.*
- b) Resolution to authorize ED to execute USDA RUS forms-
Ms. Meil motioned to authorize the Executive Director to execute

the USDA RUS forms. Mr. Pettit 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 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 Mr. 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. 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.


MOTION

Ms. Meil motioned to approve the staff bonuses as presented in closed session. Mr. Pettit seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kolakowski moved to adjourn at 3:31pm.

These minutes were approved at the January 23, 2025 meeting of the Board of Directors of ESVBA.



Presiding Officer

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Leah Hoopes, Secretary