

## MINUTES

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

January 23, 2025

Board members in attendance were: John Reiter, Elaine Meil, and Kelvin Pettit

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**

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

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

#### **REVIEW OF MINUTES**

*Ms. Meil moved to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes from November. 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 4414 active residential customers. He stated that there are 94 customers in service in Harborton, 31 in Bobtown,

- 235 in Church Neck, 67 in Sanford, 50 on Cheapside, 4 on Cobbs Station, 108 in Accomac, 15 in Townsend, 761 in Greenbackville, 96 in Atlantic, 82 in Wattsville/Horntown, 173 in Oak Hall, 121 in Hallwood, 102 in Painter/Quinby, 120 in Eastville, 185 in Nassawadox, 9 in Oyster, 404 in Exmore, 139 in Belle Haven, 45 in Cheriton, 59 in Wachapreague, 549 in Onancock, 461 in Cape Charles, 219 in Parksley, 4 in Nocks Landing, 48 in Saxis, 95 on Chincoteague, and 138 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 grants
    - a. Bailey Neck & Mt Nebo CDF- USDA issued release of funds and a field representatives met with ESVBA. The project is set to begin soon.
    - b. Custis Neck & Locustville- ESVBA is awaiting a response from USDA on the next steps.
  6. 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 the network is built, the routers are in, paperwork has been filed and they are just waiting on the Special Construction to be completed.
- b. BEAD application status- Mr. Bridgham gave an update on the status for BEAD. All areas have been reviewed and a network plan is being put in place. Both counties have provided a letter of support and Congresswoman Kiggans has also offered to provide a letter of support as well. BEAD requires a low cost residential bandwidth option, proof of commitment to fund the 25% match, and ESVBA is prohibited from charging special construction fees for a minimum of 12 months after broadband service is made available to a BEAD funded location.

*Ms. Meil moved to advertise a product that is 100/20 for \$74.99 and hold a Rate Hearing in February, date to be determined after consulting with absent board members. Mr. Pettit seconded. Motion passed unopposed. Ms. Meil motioned to pledge what's on hand, not to exceed \$4M, and to*

*reconsider using other sources if necessary. Mr. Pettit seconded. Motion passed unopposed.*

- c. Cybersecurity Audit Briefing- Mr. Ertle gave an overview of the Cybersecurity audit.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Consider FY24 Audit-  
*Ms. Meil motioned to approve the FY24 Audit. Mr. Pettit seconded. Motion passed unopposed.*

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

None

**BOARD COMMENTS**

Mr. Pettit suggested going after mobile home parks for easements.

**ADIJOURNMENT**

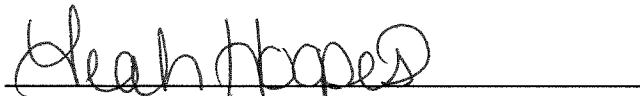
*Ms. Meil moved to adjourn at 3:53pm.*

These minutes were approved at the March 27, 2025 meeting of the Board of Directors of ESVBA.



Presiding Officer

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Leah Hoopes, Secretary