

MINUTES

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

September 25, 2025

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

ESVBA management participating in the meeting who were in attendance: Robert Bridgham (Zoom call) 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. Pettit moved to amend the agenda to add "Annual review of Director's salary" under the personnel section of Closed Session. Ms. Meil seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Mr. Mason moved to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes from July. Mr. Kolakowski seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

SYSTEM STATUS & BUILD REPORT

1. WiFi Hotspots- There are currently 26 of the 28 hotspots in service. Ebenezer Church is still offline.
2. Residential Broadband- Mr. Bridgham reported that the

Authority has 4550 active residential customers. He stated that there are 90 customers in service in Harborton, 28 in Bobtown, 244 in Church Neck, 64 in Sanford, 49 on Cheapside, 4 on Cobbs Station, 109 in Accomac, 15 in Townsend, 810 in Greenbackville, 98 in Atlantic, 78 in Wattsville/Horntown, 181 in Oak Hall, 112 in Hallwood, 102 in Painter/Quinby, 124 in Eastville, 201 in Nassawadox, 9 in Oyster, 407 in Exmore, 155 in Belle Haven, 47 in Cheriton, 55 in Wachapreague, 547 in Onancock, 483 in Cape Charles, 223 in Parksley, 4 in Nocks Landing, 49 in Saxis, 115 on Chincoteague, and 147 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- Project has been started and cable placing will begin soon. Underground construction has been started but delayed due to weather and flagging.
 - b. Custis Neck & Locustville- USDA notified that the project cleared the environmental review and is now in the final contract phases.
6. Assistance Programs- Mr. Bridgham presented a report showing details for all of the assistance programs.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- A. VATI FY22 Report- Audit has been completed and ESVBA should be receiving the additional 10% reimbursement in November.

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 Ms. Meil, 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.

Ms. Meil motioned to raise the Executive Director's salary by 3%. Mr. Mason seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kolakowski moved to adjourn at 3:18pm.

These minutes were approved at the November 20, 2025 meeting of the Board of Directors of ESVBA.



Presiding Officer

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Leah Hoopes, Secretary