

MINUTES

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

November 20, 2025

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

ESVBA management participating in the meeting who were in attendance: Robert Bridgham and Leah Hoopes (Secretary)

Members of the public attending were: Ben Wink

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

AGENDA ADOPTION

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Mr. Kolakowski 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 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 92 customers in service in Harborton, 29 in Bobtown, 250 in Church Neck, 64 in Sanford, 49 on Cheapside, 4 on Cobbs Station, 112 in Accomac, 15 in Townsend, 806 in Greenbackville, 99 in Atlantic, 77 in Wattsville/Horntown, 182 in Oak Hall, 112 in Hallwood, 100 in Painter/Quinby, 125 in Eastville, 204 in Nassawadox, 9 in Oyster, 402 in Exmore, 158 in Belle Haven, 49 in Cheriton, 58 in Wachapreague, 561 in Onancock, 490 in Cape Charles, 223 in Parksley, 4 in Nocks Landing, 50 in Saxis, 113 on Chincoteague, and 148 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- Aerial work is complete and underground is close to being complete.
 - 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

- A. VATI FY22 Report- Audit has been completed and ESVBA should be receiving the additional 10% reimbursement in December.
- B. BEAD Program Progress- Mr. Bridgham stated that as soon as contracts are signed, procurement will start. They have a start date of 6/1/26 and it has a 3-year timeline.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Review staff complaint policy- Mr. Bridgham presented the policy to the board.
- B. Consider 2026 board meeting schedule- Mr. Bridgham presented the new board meeting schedule for 2026. *Ms. Meil motioned to move the November meeting to December and adopt the schedule. Mr. Mason seconded. Motion passed unopposed.*

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Mason presented the treasurer's report

BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Meil stated that additional Wi-Fi hotspots would benefit the public due to the recent cellular issues.

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 5: Discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community. 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 Mr. Kolakowski. The following board members were present: Mr. Reiter, Ms. Meil, Mr. Mason, Mr. Kolakowski, and Mr. Spuck 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, 5, and 33 of Section 2.2-3711 of the

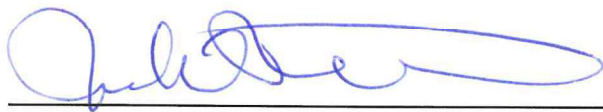
Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended. Roll call vote taken Vote was that no other business discussed than as advised in Paragraph 1 and 33. The following board members were present: Mr. Reiter, Ms. Meil, Mr. Mason, Mr. Pettit, Mr. Kolakowski, and Mr. Spuck and voted affirmative.

Mr. Mason motioned to approve staff bonuses as presented in Closed Session, which were calculated based on historical practice. Ms. Meil seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

ADJOURNMENT


Mr. Kolakowski moved to adjourn at 3:36pm.

These minutes were approved at the January 22, 2026 meeting of the Board of Directors of ESVBA.



Presiding Officer

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Leah Hoopes, Secretary