

MINUTES

Special Rate Hearing & Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Broadband Authority

July 21, 2016

Board members in attendance were: Katie Nunez, Steve Miner, Pete Lalor(via skype), Elaine Meil and John Reiter.

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

Members of the public attending were:
Alex Vargas, Charles Knitter, Glen Salmon, Ian McDonald, Terry Rose, Jean Hungerville, Jill Wilt, Barry Toser, Matt Eyrtle

Steve Miner called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Mr. Reiter motioned to adopt the amended agenda and move the first closed session after item 6.

Ms. Meil seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

4. Alex Vargas-Resident of Onancock and works from home. Mr. Vargas suggests that the Authority reduces rates across the board by at least half.

Charles Knitter –Technician at Wallops that had to close his computer repair business because Verizon DSL was the only thing available.

Glen Salmon-Resident of Painter, would like to see options other than Verizon DSL for at home businesses.

Ian McDonald-Resident of Belle Haven, has no affordable internet options at his home/office.

Terry Rose-Real Estate Agent who says that her customers move elsewhere because of poor internet options. Her business and personal life are also being affected.

Jean Hungerville-Chamber of Commerce, does not have internet service at her home. Ms. Hungerville states that affordable service is needed for home, business, and education.

Jill Wilt-Resident of Onancock, claims that the pricing structure is too high.

5. Barry Toser- Neubeam, DNG receives 18 times more bandwidth in Garrett County working with a middle mile provider.

Jill Wilt- Implores the ESVBA to be open to the last mile providers.

Alex Vargas- States that if ESVBA were the last mile provider it would negatively affect the competition.

6. Terry Rose- Service is beneficial to education and taking college courses online from home.

Matt Eyrte-Chesapeake Bay Communications, has been using the WISP EVPL pricing but can't get it to his customers in Keller.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion to enter into closed session according to Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended;) Paragraph 7: Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members, consultants, or attorneys pertaining to actual or probably litigation, and consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by the Authority regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by counsel. Paragraph 34: 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 records and trade secrets excluded from this chapter pursuant to subdivision 19 of § 2.2-3705.6 made by Mr. Reiter, seconded by Ms. Meil. The following board members were present Ms. Nunez, Mr. Miner, Ms. Meil and Mr. Reiter and voted affirmative.

After closed session, the Chair reconvened the meeting. Motion was made by Mr. Reiter, seconded by Ms. Nunez that the Board had entered the closed session for that purpose as set out in Paragraph 7 and Paragraph 34 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 34. The following board members were present Ms. Nunez, Mr. Miner, Ms. Meil, and Mr. Reiter and voted affirmative.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Ms. Meil moved to approve the Annual and Regular Meeting Minutes from May and the Special Meeting Minutes from June.

Mr. Reiter seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

STATUS REPORT

1. Bloxom Tower- Mr. Pascaretti provided an update stating that the construction is in progress and the tower is scheduled to be installed July 12, 2016.
2. Town Broadband Initiative Program (BIP)- Mr. Pascaretti reported that Nassawadox, Cape Charles, and Cheriton were both awarded, and Nassawadox was activated July 1, 2016.
3. Accounting/ERP System- The system has been up and running since May.
4. Wi-Fi Hotspots- Mr. Pascaretti reported that there are 3 new potential Hotspots, Exmore Park, Old Mary Nottingham Smith School, and Parksley Park.
Ms. Nunez motioned to move forward with the 3 new Wi-Fi Hotspots. Ms. Meil seconded. Motion passed unopposed.
5. VDOT Road Jobs- ESVBA needs to relocate fiber cable for Bayshore Concrete Roadway.
6. Community Solar Energy: Oak Hall Fiber Relocation- ESVBA has relocated the aerial fiber underground.
7. Service Level Metrics- On May 27th a supervisor card failed at the Mill Dam Hut but was switched over to the redundant supervisor card and there were no service interruptions. During repair, the supervisor card restored to an older version of software which caused intermittent performance issues for 10 minutes.
On June 17th a fire burnt the ESVBA fiber in Cape Charles and one customer was affected. Service was restored that afternoon.
On July 1 the WiFi access points in Melfa were destroyed by lightning. Service was restored that evening.
8. WISP EVPL Program- 13 sites are in service, 4 are waiting for signed change orders, and 3 are in planning.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Residential Pricing & IP Price Reduction
Ms. Nunez motioned to table residential and small business internet service pricing rate structure. Mr. Reiter seconded. Motion passed unopposed.
Ms. Meil moved to authorize as advertised the dedicated internet

service. Mr. Reiter seconded. After some discussion, motion passed unopposed.

Ms. Meil motioned to have the Executive Director look into the cost of a rate study and BID process. Mr. Reiter seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

- b. 2017 Budget- Mr. Pascaretti presented the board with a copy of the purposed Budget.

Mr. Reiter moved to approve the 2017 Budget as presented with the addition of Sanford. Ms. Nunez seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

- c. Bloxom Tower Lease Agreement- Mr. Pascaretti presented the board with a lease agreement for the Bloxom tower.

Ms. Nunez motioned to establish the lease for the Bloxom tower at the rates identified by Nicholas Pascaretti and to extend the BIP program pricing to their established vendor for one year with no fees. Mr. Reiter seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. PPEA RFP-

Mr. Miner moved to advertise the amended contract with the details discussed in Closed Session. Mr. Reiter seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

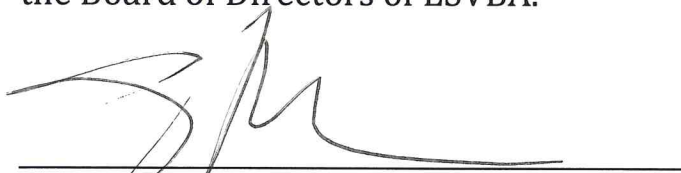
Board Comment

Ms. Nunez requested that Nicholas Pascaretti follow up with Carol Vaughn from the Eastern Shore News to provide an update on the pricing and the status of the PPEA contract.

ADJOURNMENT

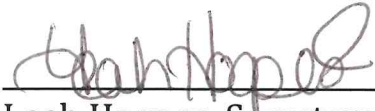
The meeting was adjourned at 4:54pm.

These minutes were approved at the September 15, 2016 meeting of the Board of Directors of ESVBA.



Presiding Officer

Copy teste:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leah Hoopes", written in black ink.

Leah Hoopes, Secretary