.
MATHEWS BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
6 April 2021 9AM - 10AM on ZOOM

MINUTES

Present: Judy Rowe, Rob Quartel, Joe Syslo, Dee Russell, Greg Lewis, Jeff Beekhoo, David Blanks, Willie Love, Page Herbert, Debbie Falco, Donnie Lewis, Chuck Kirby, David Ihrie, Sherry Hamilton, Julie Kaylor, and Cynthia Hayes

OPENER: Judy opened the meeting with, **"**Yes, we did! More than $4.5 million in two VATI Grants - nearly 600 households will have access. Judy recognized Jeff, Julie, and Tyler for all the work they put into the two grant applications. Jeff welcomed Chuck Kirby and David Ihrie. Jeff reported that even with all the changes and modifications from the original grant application (mapping, remapping, and removal of census blocks) at the end of the day it was a group effort by everyone and he hopes we can do this again.

MINUTES: The 3/16/21 Meeting Minutes were emailed. Chairperson Judy Rowe asked if there are any additions or corrections to the Minutes. There being no additions or corrections, Rob Quartel made a motion to accept the Minutes as presented, and Greg Lewis second the motion. The motion carried.

PRESENTATION: SMART COMMUNITIES (Chuck Kirby and David Ihrie) Judy recognized and welcomed our guest Chuck Kirby and David Ihrie to the meeting. Rob recognized Chuck and David as long-time friends at CIT, and Dave heads the larger group in dealing with a number of issues.

David Ihrie introduced himself as the Chief Technology Officer for CIT, an extension of the state government to oversee the Virginia Innovation Partnership Authority. David runs the Strategic Initiatives Portfolio for the Commonwealth (Virginia Unmanned Systems Center, Partnership with Homeland Security Science and Technology, and Smart Communities). Chuck Kirby is the Vice President of Smart Communities with the main focus of building on broadband infrastructure.

Chuck Kirby started by sharing how proud he is of everyone's effort to get the 4.5 million dollar VATI grants (the second highest total of VATI grants in Virginia). Chuck recognized Dave's efforts, as the Commonwealth of Virginia has been recognized for two consecutive years as the number one state for the Unmanned Systems. Chuck made a presentation titled Smart Communities Technology in Mathews County CIT Smart Communities (see slide presentation). The presentation topics included:

- *What is CIT (Center for Innovative Technology)?*
- *What is a Smart Community?*

- *Benefits of being a Smart Community*
- *Planning Considerations*
- *Next Steps*
- *Conclusion*

To set Smart Communities into the local context, Rob Quartel shared that with adequate broadband, there are some new mobile phone apps that will allow waterman to directly connect with restaurants and individual customers, and the traditional middleman. He pointed out several opportunities for applying Smart Communities locally.

Debbie Falco shared her concern about her need for a good cell data because, as she will be getting a pacemaker next week and will need to transmit her readings for her pacemaker. Like herself, there are others who have broadband connectivity issues and medical issues. Debbie believes a Smart Community is good as long as the community can benefit from it. David responded that broadband is the "enabler" and what Debbie described is what the county would build upon the infrastructure which would allow for those kinds of services for residents.

Rob asked Chuck and David to comment on the money in the Infrastructure Bill, and David responded that there is a lot of money at the state and federal level (Infrastructure Bill) target to universal broadband, and there are newer wireless technologies that providers like Verizon have not yet adopted. David offered their help in working with Mathews Broadband to help understand how the different pieces of technology that would help in this community. Chuck suggested Mathews County apply for the USDA telehealth grant. Rob pointed out the problem with Mathews is that we are not technically considered a rural community but rather a subset of the Hampton Roads, and Chuck stated he has a contact who the BBA could talk to about this issue. David said he would be happy to support those conversations. Jeff agreed that Rob was on-point with this observation. Chuck cautioned that it will be an uphill battle (but not impossible) getting those classifications changed. Judy thanked Chuck and David for sharing the information about Smart Communities. Judy suggested Debbie checkout one the MiFi's from the Library and try it at her house. Greg agrees it is worth a try.

OLD BUSINESS:
Updates:
- Smart Poles & Towers: Jeff Beekhoo reported Bethel Smart Pole is being constructed to day, and he has been tracking usage of the Smart Poles. Jeff is still waiting on Verizon in the process for getting the two towers. Donnie Lewis requested help with getting the information from Verizon (What do they want?) so that he can on to pass on the information ot to the Fire Department.

- Stakeholder Focus Groups: Judy reported the Business Group has met once and plan to meet again, the Public School Group will meet next week, and Nancy has contacted the schools for information. We have extensive notes and videos of the meetings.

- Jeff added that community stakeholders need to make sure that we push Atlantic Broadband supports these causes as a joint effort, not just as joint grant recipients (i.e. telehealth and storm censors). Judy stated that Rob and David will take the lead in this effort and we will help.

NEW BUSINESS:
- Digital Literacy at Old Peninsula Schoolhouse: Let's get started! Judy shared her conversation with Al Dewitt (West Mathews Community Center) about us doing something there in regard to tele education. Judy is looking for volunteers to help.

- Next steps: Jeff Beekhoo
  Jeff reported tele-education grants are the ones he is currently looking at and the grants target the unserved, and once we identify how the towers and equipment will be paid, then we can look at what telehealth and tele-education grants we can get. He also wants to look at Go Virginia, as well.

- Judy reported a meeting with the VATI (Atlantic Broadband and us) on April 15, 2021 to discuss the contract between the three entities. We are still waiting to hear how the meeting will be setup to discuss the VATI grant we have with Gloucester.

ADJOURN   There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

CALENDAR:
BAB Meeting: 20 APRIL 2021 9:00 AM ZOOM
BOS Meeting: 30 APRIL 2021 6:00 PM
As of now -
BAB Meetings: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 9:00 AM on Zoom