



MATHEWS BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
12 April 2022 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
In-person at Library or on ZOOM
AGENDA

MINUTES: 3/8/2022 by email
Rowe calls meeting to order 9:02
We have quorum. Minutes approved as written bu voice vote

OLD BUSINESS:

Website: Updates: Emily the county website has not been updated. Judy Green would like to continue to manage information for th county website. We are working on the update. Emily is still having trouble gaining access to FB. Judy will look into it.

Towers: Jeff – Always has good news. Two towers being built. One in Bohannon and one at the Rescue Squad. The budget has been done comparing monopole versus self-support towers. Certified drawings are being done using monopole towers which have turned put to be more cost efficient. Cost of materials have gone up 20% in the last year. But we are still within budget. Vendor is re-quoting a turn-key project and should have construction beginning within a month with completion scheduled for September.

VATI Grant with Breezeline: Willie – Breezeline has returned and has started construction on Potato Neck Road. The backhaul fiber should be spliced and complete.

Roads they are scheduled to work on this week are: Holly Cove, Hicks, Potato Neck, Blue Bird point, Gebe, Red ???

VATI Grant with OBB: Joe, Nancy VATI Grant meeting tomorrow morning. No other update.

Public WiFi : Joe - We have free public wi-fi up and running in the courthouse now. The Broadband Committee will conduct a “Big Reveal” at Mayfaire. Donnie added that the interior finish work on the Wi-Fi antennas

is sub-par and needs to be cleaned up. Joe will call and get the contractor to come back.

MiFis To Go/Digital Literacy: Greg – 100% circulation. Lots of new people are coming in to borrow MiFis. Adding both pre-packaged and library-created digital literacy training packages. Lots of folks are checking out library MiFis to see if they work for them before getting one of their own.

Radio System: Willie – Microwave equipment has been installed but remains untested. Fiber optic cable has been installed from the Sheriff's Office to the tower. 911 microwave link goes from Sheriff's Office to the tower. Verizon is installing backhaul from Sheriff's Office. We are working on a middle mile grant with SEGRA will have an update by end of this week. If we don't go with SEGRA we will have to look elsewhere. We are bundling everything under the county umbrella. We need to do this so that we can continue to access federal funds. There is one contingency that fiber must run directly to the schools. Fiber is already there.

Phone comment from Melissa: Going back to the issue of the Broadband Committee becoming an authority. She referenced a conversation that occurred during a budget workshop concerning the timeframe for completing the backhaul and whether schools could be hooked up. She stated the now is a good time to bring that request forward.

NEW BUSINESS:

Back Haul, NTIA Grant, Segra: Jeff – meeting got postponed. Meeting got cancelled but should have an answer by the end of the week

Public Information:

Broadband Installation Training: Judy, Joe – Workforce development Barna and Jeff Lloyd at RCC to discuss what could be done. Proposed budget amendment to include money for training broadband installers. OBB wants. To train broadband installers and RCC wants to get installation training for some of their students. RCC is writing a proposal for five days training for installers with end in sight of having student from RCC hired by OBB as installers.

May Faire, 7 May 9- 3, BAB Tent: Joe – We will have a tent with a banner manned from 9am – 3pm. Open Broad Band (OBB). FCC is going to require broadband providers to disclose exactly what levels of service they offer. Joe also has a presentation that loops that provides information on what the Broadband Committee has accomplished and what is yet to come. Several adjustments to the presentation were discussed.

Radio presentation - Rob & Joe – Joe has a list of media contact points. Rob will be travelling a lot in June. Judy is available for interviews on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Senior Health Fair: 21 June – We have been invited to do a 30-minute presentation and set up a table at the fair. Jeff will bring a mobile broadband trailer that demonstrates how broadband works for attendees (seniors). Tele-medicine is a new and exciting field that impacts seniors and training for this demographic is critical. Lots of folks want to be involved.

New contacts: Judy – We reached a regional operations manager from Breezeline who is a great resource. Judy called he has been promoted and has been helping Mathews. Three new heavy hitters are here to help us with the VATI grant. (Sean Brushett, Shaun Blake, Bernie Weeks after this meeting). Lots of work crews are out in the county.

DHCD/VATI Team - Tamarah Holmes, Tammy Breski, Caroline Luxhoj, Chandler Vaughan

Mathews County Citizens - The Sier family, Hannah Goddard, Brent & Stacy Hudgins

Citizen Comment: Karen Schwartz wanted to add that Breezeline Crew workers have been diligent and answered all questions from passersby and left flyers explaining what was going on.

Meeting Adjourned.

Calendar:

BOS Meeting: Tuesday, 26 April 6:00 PM Historic Courthouse

BAB Meeting: Tuesday, 9 May 2022, 9:00 AM

hybrid in-person at Mathews Memorial Library & on Zoom

1	Budget Amendments		
2	Senate	<i>The broadband-related amendments below have been adopted by the Senate to SB30</i>	Link to Senate Finance and Appropriations Subcommittee Reports
3	Item 115 #1s	This amendment would continue the program authorizing municipal broadband authorities to be eligible to receive VATI funds without the need for a private sector partner.	https://budget.lis.virginia.gov/amendment/2022/1/SB30/Introduce/FA/115/1s/
4	Item 249 #1s	This amendment includes \$1.0 million GF the first year toward the planning and establishment of a broadband worker training program to support rapid broadband development in Virginia with qualified, trained workers.	https://budget.lis.virginia.gov/amendment/2022/1/SB30/Introduce/FA/249/1s/



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