



MATHEWS BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD

14 November 2023 at 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

In-person at Library and on ZOOM

MINUTES

INTRODUCTIONS: *Judy Rowe, *Greg Lewis, *Willie Love, *Joe Syslo, *Page Herbert, *Marshall Ruffin, Jeff Beekhoo, Pearl Foster, Deb Falco, Patrick Depumpo, Mr. Risio (11)

* Voting members - quorum = 5

MINUTES: 9/12/23 and 10/10/23 Minutes by email.

9/12/23 Willie moved. Greg seconded. Approved. 10/10/23 Willie moved. Joe seconded. Approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Monopole Towers: Ramona/Patrick

Lights on towers brought up in last BOS Meeting. Ramona at VACO Conference. Patrick did not know the status.

OpenBroadband VATI Grant Project: Joe

Still certifying in Gloucester. 26 connected in Mathews. Need help.

Speed Tests to provide data for BEAD funding: Jeff

Jeff reported DHCD Challenge process is ongoing. Need residents to take speed tests to determine they are getting speeds of 100/20. Put link on county website. Will get in the paper and take flyers to the BOS meeting to get as much public awareness. Flyers to Library also. Process ends 30 November.

Website: Page

Just want everyone's eyes on it to check for accuracy. tbdev.us

Virtual Office Space: Pearl Foster

Morris Enterprise has taken one of the spaces that were available but she is still working on it.

Telehealth: Marshall Ruffin

Marshall Ruffin has been working with Ramona Wilson and Three Rivers Health System. Judy recommended a public forum in the sprung with Marshall/Telehealth being the centerpiece. Greg offered the Library as

a place to host smaller audiences on telehealth. This will be a part of the application for the BEAD funding. Judy expressed her appreciation for all of his work on this.

NEW BUSINESS

Verizon Project BEAD Funding: Jeff

This project is for residential broadband. Providers (Verizon) will be the applicants. Fiber to the home (FTTH) will be available all over the county. Jeff will talk with Verizon and DHCD to make sure there is not double construction when the original deployment of fiber passes a CAI. We are waiting to hear more from Verizon. Having the county on board will add 20 points to the application.

Community Anchor Institutions (CAI): Jeff

Second part of the BEAD funding process. Looking to make sure they have a speed of Gig/Gig (1,000Mbps/1,000 Mbps), a synchronous network. Mathews would apply for it and partner with a provider. We will have conversation with DHCD about who/what qualifies. Post Offices, fire stations, telehealth, education, etc. Museums, maybe not.

RFPs on Monopole Towers: Ramona

Jeff said we are going to reach out to wider bidding sites. We will have to leave it out there for at least 60 days. DHCD had told Judy that it takes a long time to get through these big companies.

Budget: Joe

Joe reported that Ramona said the budget was already covered. the current budget runs through the fiscal year (30 June 2024).

Christmas Parade Float: Judy

BAB Float Theme: Connecting Mathews. Donnie has a plan. Judy asked for help putting it together on Saturday, 9 December at THMS parking lot. Towers will be mostly built from poster board. Judging will take place in front of Food Lion. We have an Elf on the Shelf to place on one of the towers.

Final report: Judy announced the BOS meeting is tonight due to holiday schedules. She reported that the information to help residents get connected was included in the Agenda each month and it is also on the county website. She is hoping to see the take rate for both VATI grants increase. Judy urged OBB to work in Mathews to increase the take rate

since the 180 homes here would represent the 60% that we need to complete this project. Mr. Risio said he would ask his question later.

ADJOURN – Willie moved to adjourn. Greg seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:34.