



MATHEWS BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD

13 February 2024 at 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

In-person at Library and on ZOOM

MIINUTES

INTRODUCTIONS: *Judy Rowe, *Greg Lewis, *Willie Love, *Page Herbert, *Marshall Ruffin, MD, *Rob Quartel, *Pearl Foster, Tim Doss, Deb Falco, Ramona Wilson, Judi Green, Tim Tillage, Jeff Beekhoo, Joni Close, Sherry Hamilton
* Voting members - quorum = 5

OPENING: Chair called the meeting to order.

1/9/24 Minutes: approved as emailed

BREAKING NEWS:

INCOMING REVENUE

Commitment with Verizon Wireless on the tower at Hudgins now with plans to also commit to the tower at Bohannon later in the year. Revenue of \$2,400.00 per month, per tower with 1.5% yearly increase for 25 year lease. We expect to get a commitment on the Bohannon tower later in the year.

TELEHEALTH

Greg and Bette have arranged for the presentation about My Chart and basic telehealth by Marshall Ruffin, MD. Presentation 2:00 - 4:00 PM on 2/20/24 will introduce local residents to the basics telemedicine at the Library. What Mathews can do to make money and bring funding and services to the county.

OLD BUSINESS

Power and lights on the Towers: Jeff, Ramona

Sole source to providers on the towers because we had no responses to the RFPs. We are also looking at putting public safety on towers. Power due to go on the tower on 8 March for main Dominion feed. Jonathan Morr is working on all this.

OBB VATI Grant: Judy

Consider Mathews completed; 180 homes have access. Grant is not complete because Gloucester is waiting to finish their areas.

Rob: Are they finding this is helping their business? Is it business positive?

Willie: Many have found other service while they have been waiting. Both companies have admitted that this grant approach is not business as usual. Their marketing has been disappointing along with the take rate.

Website: Page Herbert

Ready to go live. Turned over to Greg. Page welcomes any input. Purchasing URL. Recordings will have to be posted elsewhere. Greg will establish how input can be submitted. Contact information for BAB voting members is on the page. Page encrypted email address for those.

2024 Timeline

Smart Poles: Tim Tillage, Maintenance County Facilities

Manager

Situation: Within two weeks sign at Aaron's Beach is missing (cost \$750.00). Jeff wants to meet up and look at sites where vandalism is happening. Look at options. Tim ordered cameras. He would like to possibly use smart poles to mount them in places that do not have power.

Rob: Who monitors tapes? How long are videos kept? Jeff: set of rules through the Sheriff's Office. Just installed cameras on Liberty Square. Issue of privacy rights. Consider signage as a deterrent.

Ramona: If they are on county property, they have no privacy rights. Jeff gave examples of what other places are doing. Possibility of using signage. In other cities and counties everything goes through the sheriff's office. Jeff will get documentation on what others are doing.

Judy wants to talk with the property owners where smart poles are located. Jeff will look into other uses for data gathering, like sea level rise. Rob suggested consider contacting VIMS, Go VA is funding such projects. Willie noted the one installed on Gwynn's Island by Department of Emergency Services.

NEW BUSINESS

The Big Picture: Spreadsheet of numbers (PowerPoint)

Funded Project Summary

Project Name	Funding Opportunity	Date	Total Cost	Grant Contribution	Mathews Contribution
Solar Powered Wi-Fi-Enabled Smart Poles	C.A.R.E.S. Act	Installed February 2021	\$ 190,244.00	182,144.00	14,400.00
Mathews Memorial Library "Wi-Fi to Go"	C.A.R.E.S. Act/MPA	Procured February 2021	\$ 67,145.75	58,142.30	9,003.45
WAT Four County/Breezeline Project	DHCD WAT 21	Completed March 2023	\$ 7,158,534.00	4,501,234.00	433,400.00
WAT Open Broadband Mathews/Coucester	DHCD WAT 21	Ongoing	\$ 476,654.00	62,725.00	82,725.00
Tier 1 Tower Build	American Rescue Plan Act	Completed August 2023	\$ 876,554.88	679,554.88	-
BTS Consulting for 3.5 Years	C.A.R.E.S. & American Rescue Plan Act	Started June 2020	\$ 635,000.00	451,000.00	75,000.00
Network Universal Coverage (UCAD) Proposal	UCAD Program	TBA (Spring 2024)	\$ 35,000,000.00	10,000,000.00	-
Total			\$ 8,144,735.44	5,652,799.86	653,531.45
Total MPA Verizon Projections			\$ 38,144,735.44	22,652,799.86	653,531.45

This presentation for the 15 February BOS Meeting was to show the value coming into the county, particularly what Broadband Telecom had brought to us, and what Mathews had paid.

The Cost Avoidance Picture: Jeff, Judy

Judy is waiting for the costs of telecommunications for anchor institutions. County Offices and schools are first. Should save at least 50% - 60%.

BOS approved Voting Board and officers of BAB for 2024.

Joe Syslo has resigned to take over the Economic Development Authority. Marshall Ruffin offered to step in as Financial Coordinator. Unanimous vote to elect him to the position.

Telehealth information: Marshall

Marshall Ruffin, MD and Riverside Physician Charles Frazier, MD will present a two hour workshop about the uses of My Chart. It will be interactive, using Library lap-tops.

ADJOURN:

Submitted by Judy Rowe, on behalf of Pearl Foster, BAB Secretary