



## **MATHEWS BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

**14 January 2025**

### **MINUTES**

\*Judy Rowe: \*Willie Love: \*Greg Lewis: \*Pearl Foster: \*Page Herbert; \*Rob Quartel; \*Marshall Ruffin, M.D.; Jeff Beekhoo; Tyler Beekhoo; Ramona Wilson; Marj Terry; David Walsh; Joni Close; Kylisa Harris; Sherry Hamilton

\*Voting Member; Quorum = 5 voting members

**Opening:** The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and asked for introductions.

**Minutes:** Approved as emailed. Willie moved; Greg seconded.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Verizon Wireless(VW) & Monopole Towers:**

**Hudgins:** Ramona reported that she has the final lease agreement with Verizon Wireless. It has now been sent back to their attorney. At the Board of Supervisors(BOS) meeting Thursday there will be a public hearing to accept and authorize her to sign it. Jeff said that VW is eager to duplicate and use Hudgins as a template for the tower at Bohannon. Ramona noted that there would be no requirement for an easement at the Bohannon tower.

#### **Bohannon:**

David Walsh asked if Bohannon could be expedited. Since they are owned differently, they have to go to the BOS separately.

**Gwynn's Island:** Ramona reported that Planning and Zoning Board voted to accept the changes to R2 Zoning to include telecommunication towers.

#### **Verizon Fiber To The Home (FTTH) Proposal:**

Applications are due on 1 March. Mathews' Letter of Support has been submitted. Verizon is finishing the application.

**Public Safety:** Jeff asked Ramona about the ordering of cameras, etc. April is working on the grant funds. Tim Tillage is ordering poles for cameras.

**Website:** [broadband4mathews.info](http://broadband4mathews.info)

Page has created the pages for our partners but they are not live yet.

**CALENDAR NOTE: Broadband Telecom Services contract needs to be extended in October (not is ordinary budget calendar sequence).**

**New Resolution for Broadband Advisory Board (BAB):** Twice in fiscal year July and 56months later make suggestions Ask to be put on the agenda.. Monthly updates on the projects in writing to Ramona for the BOS. Defined much more of our scope of work. Present in July or August and then 6 months later but can request other times, if necessary.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Nominating Committee:**

Set up for 2 years to completion of infrastructure.

### **Planning Grant:**

Digital Opportunity(DO) Grant on webpage. To describe and provide resources, the survey and the GIS viewer will be up soon. Gloucester and Middlesex have been awarded Planning Grants. We can work with them as community partners. Tyler reported briefly to Mathews Resource Council in December and will report more fully to them on Thursday. Looking for other organizations to work with us on shovel ready projects. Survey and site are ready to be promoted.

### **Capacity Grant:**

- 1. BHAG Event** (Big Hairy Audacious Goal): aka Tech Convention Ramona said BAB could use 10 tents from the county. Provide incentives for people to come: raffles, swag bags, etc. Marshall Ruffin would be number one as a keynote speaker.
- 2. Mobile Tiny House** to be built by high school students, equipped with smart home devices, etc. A rolling demo. Proposed by Superintendent, Dr. Daniel.

**3. Local Telehealth Room/Pod** (possibly at the Library.)

**4. Telehealth Geek Squad and Digital Navigators**

Marshall Ruffin's idea of the need for support for the technology.  
Technology calibration, technology training and technology help.

**ADJOURNED 9:35**

*Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Rowe*