



MATHEWS BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

11 February 2025

MINUTES

*Judy Rowe: *Willie Love: *Greg Lewis: *Page Herbert;
*Marshall Ruffin, M.D.; *Pearl Foster; Jeff Beekhoo; Tyler
Beekhoo; Ramona Wilson; Tim Doss; Deb Falco; David
Walsh; Micky Daniels; 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: 1/14/25 Minutes Approved as emailed. Willie moved; Greg seconded.

Presentation: Micky Daniels, Bullseye Broadband, based in Saluda

Interested in taking advantage of vertical assets. Wants to learn where needs are to collaborate, if possible. Offers fixed wireless. line of sight services.

OLD BUSINESS

Verizon Wireless(VZW) & Monopole Towers:

Bohannon Fire Station Tower

County Attorney is preparing license agreement. Verizon is using the county's easement. Could possibly start construction this year depending budget. Ramona said County Attorney preparing an easement.

Hudgins Rescue Squad Tower

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.

Gwynn's Island: Ramona reported text amendment completed and approved.

Verizon Fiber To The Home (FTTH) Proposal:

Applications are due on 1 March. Narrative part done. VZW will tweak it design portion until the last minute. Chris Debosier will let us know when it is submitted. Do not have timeline past March 1.

Public Safety: Jeff meeting with parties involve with the radio system later this week.

Website: broadband4mathews.info

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

Survey: link at the very bottom to the page. Tyler will send Paige the final version for the public. Coordination with schools and Mathews Resources to launch and promote. Will there be a timeline? Tyler wants to keep it open as long as possible.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee: Still need a few people.

Planning Grant:

Survey to go live soon. Working on imbedded map on the website. Geographic information System (GIS) Connects citizens with the resources from our partners.

Capacity Grant:

Organizations contacted:

Hampton Roads Community Action Plan; Tech for Troops(veterans)

Telehealth/Geek Squad approach

Presentation from DHCD by Tyler

Deployment Grant from BEAD then non Deployment grant (Digital Skills, Literacy, and Distribution (DSL) Subgrant Program

directly supporting the following eligible activities:

Digital Device Refurbishment and Device Distribution,

Digital Skills and Literacy,

Digital Navigation and Tech Support

Discussion among Marshall, Willie, and Tyler

2 sets of standards physiological devices have to be coded to communicate with HL7 standards. How do we begin? Who should we contact? Many conversations already with Lewis Lawrence, Middle peninsula Planning district; Riverside; UVA; Three Rivers Telehealth Alliance (No response from new director.) Need to talk regionally to see if other counties might join us in this pursuit. Suggest a meeting of those interested outside of BAB Board Meetings to begin.

BAB proposed projects: (\$200,000.00 in possible funding)

Digital Skills and Literacy

- 1. BHAG Event** (Big Hairy Audacious Goal): aka Tech Convention
- 2. Mobile Tiny House**

Digital Navigations and Tech Support

- 3. Local Telehealth Room/Pod** (possibly at the Library.)
- 4. Telehealth Geek Squad and Digital Navigators (regional?)**

Comments: David Walsh noted the critical need for digital skills and literacy programs to be offered in the most timely manner for when citizens will actually have the bandwidth to do all this.

ADJOURNED 10:05

*Respectfully submitted,
Judy Rowe*