



## MATHEWS BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

10 June 2025

### MINUTES

\*Judy Rowe; \*Willie Love; \*Greg Lewis; \*David Walsh; Jeff Beekhoo; Tyler Beekhoo; Tim Doss; \*\*Adam Beck; Joni Close; \*Marshall Ruffin, MD; Ramona Wilson; Deb Falco  
\*Voting Member; Quorum = 5 voting members (\*\*Appointed)

#### Introductions

**Opening:** The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

**Minutes: 5/13/25 Minutes** Approved as emailed. Willie moved; Greg seconded.

#### OLD BUSINESS

**BOS Report:** Jeff reported on the summary of recaps of our projects.

**Verizon Wireless(VZW) & Monopole Towers: Jeff**

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

Continuing to work with Verizon and Chris Debosier, our contact for Team Mathews.

**Bohannon Fire Station Tower: Jeff, Ramona**

**Jeff reported:** Paperwork going much smoother. Judy asked about the light on the tower.

Ramona: Must record the deed for the easement now and then it will be in VZW's court.

**Hudgins Rescue Squad Tower: Judy, Willie**

The first team arrived Tuesday, 28 May. Once cement pads poured, that team left. Next team would arrive when concrete is set up. Cabinets set up, Called in Miss Utility so fiber will get laid to the road.

Judy noted the conversation with Travis about workforce problems for installing telecommunications. Efforts have been made by the BAB over the last few years about training workers but to no avail at RCC.

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

Page is continuing to update the site.

**Survey:** Tyler brought paper copies to the Library. Prominently displayed there. Tyler has used Mathews Facebook pages, too.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **BEAD Funding: Judy, Willie, Tyler**

**Judy:** Currently in a holding pattern. Two rounds of bids already. Willie and Judy met with a member of Rob Wittman's staff. We proposed that they encourage the BEAD funding be let go if they are ready. Katherine Getty said that the Congressman had a similar recommendation. Judy and Willie plan to contact other Virginia politicians to push for Virginia to be allowed to move forward with shovel ready projects like ours with Verizon for fiber to the home.

**Willie:** Scalability for the future, multiple acceptable technologies, (minimum description of how broadband is defined). He also noted the pricing structure is now left to the ISPs. No longer in the scoring, either.

**Tyler:** NTIA released policy notice of funding opportunity/changes to the program. Redefined what a priority technology is. Was FTTH; 5 - 6 G and scalable. The change is now can be 100 Mbps up -20 Mbps down (low orbit satellite, fixed wireless, cable alongside fiber). Virginia Broadband Office has strong stand and plan. Virginia may have a third round The Benefit of the Bargain Round with a new address list. They will take out a few of the formerly eligible locations - the appropriate service for the least amount of money. DHCD is really savvy with their reframing of this. They have 90 days to get this done to comply.

### **Budget: David**

No activity.

### **Planning Grant > Capacity Grant: Tyler**

No updates. Waiting on updates like BEAD.

Have until 30 June to complete the Planning Grant.

### **Tiny Smart Home: Judy, Adam, David**

Contacted Bayside Joinery, Rick Andrews, for a possible tour for those interested in this project with MCPS. Adam and David are involved and very interested. School needs to be ready for beginning of the school year.

Our enthusiasm is contagious. We are looking for more funding. Group will meet again at the end of June for financial status. Adam and David noted possible investments from local business as well as corporate sponsors.

**Digital Navigator Project Planning Grant with Middlesex: Tyler**

One person available to help out in the communities to help with set up Etc. of technology. Tyler has petitioned PCs for People to open a distribution center in the Middle Peninsula (Middlesex). Use libraries in Gloucester, Middlesex and Mathews, as well as teach digital literacy classes. Funding for there years, after which it would be left to counties. Program would evolve. Telehealth devices and programs could benefit , too. Even using site visits in homes. Greg reported that this would work hand in hand with the Digital Literacy Program funding for which our library has applied.

BOS Meeting changed to Wednesday , 18 June.

**ADJOURNED 9:56 AM**

*Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Rowe*