



## **MATHEWS BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

**12 August 2025**

### **MINUTES**

\*Judy Rowe; \*Willie Love; \*Greg Lewis; ; \*Marshall Ruffin, MD; Jeff Beekhoo; Tim Doss; Pearl Foster; Adam Beck; Ramona Wilson

\*Voting Member; Quorum = 5 voting members

#### **Introductions**

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

**Minutes:** No Minutes available.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### **July BOS Meeting Report**

Judy reported that Tim Doss had asked that the BAB report at the July meeting. She gave the report complete with a Power Point of photos from the two tower projects. It was well received by the audience as well as the Board.

##### **Monopole Towers:**

##### **Hudgins/MVRS:**

Jeff: Hudgins is mostly complete. Verizon is getting the wiring done and getting antennas on it We expect it to be live in about a month.

Jeff is meeting with T-Mobile on Thursday to look at the property for construction survey. We are already working on the paperwork. Hoping to have them begin construction by the end of this year.

Judy talked with the crew finishing the fiber then VZW will come in to finish up their work. They were told to put a priority on the towers in Mathews.

##### **Bohannon/MVFD:**

Getting initial construction done. Up and running by the end of the year.

Jeff is working on getting T-Mobile to come on next year.

Ramona said Edward Mueller is going to install the light in September.

The light has been ordered. He is aware of Verizon Wireless's schedule.

We will have two carriers on each tower.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Cyber Security:**

Judy: A recent incident with her email tried to take advantage of other members of the BAB asking for money.

Jeff: Be aware of organizations that make a business out of these scams. Pay close attention to the email address. There is probably only one thing different. If you talk with them, they continue to get more information on you. It is happening everywhere.

Greg: The Library offers a class for this.

Ramona: Know Before program might be available for our group.

Marshall wanted to know where was our anger, disgust and outrage about this. Let's try to get these criminals.

Chesapeake Bank warned of Cash App. Adam warned that ZELLE or any payment method is used, too. Judy and Pearl are going to report it to Sheriff Edwards.

### **Fiber To The Home (FTTH) Project with Verizon/BEAD Funding:**

**Jeff:** We are up in the air right now.. Verizon did not get the funding we applied for. Nothing set in stone. It looks like they are trying to make satellites an added option for the funding (it was not before). The cost of fiber is more expensive. But satellite is much less reliable and cannot reach the speeds of fiber. Satellite has to be upgraded where fiber does not need anywhere near as much.

Rivers|Street, a company out of southwest Virginia, bid about half the cost of Verizon. The bid is not viable to put in service in Mathews.

**Judy:** The BAB has met with every person/company who has wanted to enter into negotiations with us. They have all walked away because they could not. We did not know of any company that had bid on Mathews.

**Adam:** What about All Points Broadband?

**Jeff:** They are currently 4 years behind in delivery of what they had promised. Several Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck counties joined their network for \$250,000.00. Mathews did not.

**Willie:** Is there any accountability for any of these projects? Basically they just have to pay the money back to the state and we are left with what they did not do. The other problem with RiverStreet is they have no back haul into the county. Verizon has the back haul.

**Capacity Grant:**

**Greg:** Still waiting to hear.

**Tiny Smart Home:** Carpentry teacher off for the summer. Hope to hear more when school reopens.

**Digital Navigator:** Digital Capacity Plan has been finished. It will be reviewed when Tyler gets back.

**ADJOURNED 9:32 AM**

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Judy Rowe*