



## MATHEWS BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

9 September 2025

### MINUTES

\*Judy Rowe; \*Willie Love; \*Greg Lewis; \* Marshall Ruffin, M.D.; \*Page Herbert; Jeff Beekhoo; Tyler Beekhoo; Tim Doss; Pearl Foster; \*\*Adam Beck

\*Voting Member; Quorum = 5 voting members (\*\*Appointed)

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

**7/8/25 Minutes and 8/12/25 Minutes** Approved as emailed. Willie moved; Greg seconded.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### **Monopole Tower at Hudgins/MVRS: Jeff**

The equipment is installed. VZW will be testing signal strength and making adjustments. Tweaking the antennas. They will also do a burn before going live. Should be live in three weeks.

#### **Monopole Tower at Bohannon/MVFD:**

VZW putting in lots of fiber. The conduits will go from Bohannon Fire Station to Route 14. Once that is in the climbers will arrive to install the antennas.

#### **T-Mobile: Jeff**

Working on the lease for Hudgins. Draft lease in a few weeks. Bohannon will be in 2026. Their equipment will be 10 feet below VZW.

**Water Issue at Bohannon:** Trenching crew used water from fire hydrant not knowing that they were drainage 10,000 gallon tank for fire fighting. With two days of many phone calls, Willie and Jeff got in touch with VZW to correct the situation. Judy made two trips down to the site to talk with the crew. A call between VZW and Donnie Lewis MVFD President resolved the matter.

#### **Cyber Security: Jeff & Greg**

Different programs for county employees, IT provides materials. Greg has program through the library. Greg presents 2 1/2 hour class introductory to keep you safe online. Register online.

**Budget: David (out of town)**

Judy questioned the cost of the locksmith. Was it for the towers which have codes for VZW locks.(\$646.00 Locksmith 6/30)?

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

Willie: We had been blindsided by RiverStreet. We did not have any idea that Verizon was not awarded Mathews. Judy was notified by Sherry Hamilton, Gazette -Journal reporter. We sent in a letter to the Public Comment period to NTIA with help of Jeff and Tyler. If they only covered the addresses Mathews would be cherry picked again with no way to bring in another carrier. We have not seen RiverStreet's plan. Very concerned about what will happen. We have talked to every politician to emphasize the importance.

Judy: We have never heard from RiverStreet. Dr. Holmes and Chandler Vaughn have urged us to push back. Judy also noted how many ISPs the ABA has met with and heard their proposals. /we have a valid argument against the cost/their bid being impossible.

**Politicians: Willie and Judy**

Willie and Judy reached out to Warner, Wittman and Kaine. Warner's people were interested and took notes. Others have responded, as well. We are asking for intervention into the process where the rules were changed in June. Tyler: RiverStreet's bid was so low (\$5,600.00), roughly 50% of Verizon's bid. Robert Taylor of RiverStreet copied us on an email to Chandler Vaughn that he was on vacation and would get back to us later but has not as yet. The push from NTIA is for more satellite as cheaper. Satellite has never been considered reliable and affordable broadband.

**Hot Spots at Library:** Greg reported that the county has agreed to fund these. Brendan's Carr has announced that the FCC is not going to be continuing that e-rate funding. They are taking away the stop gap.

**Tyler:** The Joint Commission on and Science reached out to Tyler and did an interview about the Digital Opportunity and Affordability Plan and Made

recommendations on how they could reframe to push along BEAD non-deployment. He asked for more legislative backing. We need to keep fighting and make our voices heard.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Towers:** Light has been installed at Bohannon

### **Politicians:**

The Mathews Board of Supervisors also wrote a letter to NTIA to ask for intervention for the Verizon project to be reconsidered.

Kathryn Getty, Wittman's aide noted that she had heard about Mathews from a colleague. This was probably from Tyler's interview.

### **What about satellite?: Marshall**

Should we be considering that service. Judy reminded that it is not affordable at \$200 a month, At this point it is not a good choice. Judy is hearing many complaints. Adam Beck noted that the costs are coming down for service. Startup cost from \$3,000 to \$300 now but does not have the speeds. Fiber is not going to get any cheaper. Satellite will get better and faster. Should we be waiting for the government to dig up every street to get fiber to the homes. Adam agreed. We might need a strategic partnership with cellular and satellite. T-Mobile is partnering with satellite, way ahead of Verizon. Technology is changing. FCC definition 100 Mbps over 20Mbps. LEO is more competent. DHCD did award some satellite in Mathews, Amazon and Starlink. 50% of satellite was awarded in Virginia. Greg: satellite award covers the start up costs.

### **Breezeline: Judy**

They are still the only game in town. They want \$80,000 to come to Marshall. Kurt Kurtzmilller, Native plan nursery owner in Mathews, complains about drop in Breezeline service for his online business. He moved to Mathews 9 years ago having checked out the service here. This is a change in service. Does court need to request Breezeline to come to meetings for accountability according to the franchise agreement. Tim Doss reported that the franchise agreement had no teeth in it to cover internet service. Tech reported connecting fiber to cable and back to fiber was the problem of losing signal.

**Website:** Page noted no updates but asked for minutes and pictures. He is grabbing pictures at Bohannon since he passes there.

**Survey:** Winner of gift card for Survey participants: Maxine Francisco

**ADJOURNED 10:05 AM**

*Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Rowe*