



**MATHEWS BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
17 AUGUST 2021 10AM - 11AM  
HYBRID MEETING: MATHEWS MEMORIAL LIBRARY & ZOOM**

*PRESENT: Greg Lewis, Judy Rowe  
Rob Quartel, Jeff Beekhoo, Phil Dunn, Michael Lesniak, Amy DuBois,  
Julie Kaylor, Donnie Lewis, Sherry Hamilton*

**MINUTES**

As an opener, Judy presented a tribute to Dick Couch, who had contributed to the quest for broadband in 2010 with other members of the Chamber of Commerce. He surveyed the locations of all the towers in Mathews and created a map of them. He recently passed away in a fire.

Many members were absent due to Opening Day at RCC and MCPS. Not having a quorum, the minutes were held for approval at the next meeting.

**PROJECT UPDATES:**

<i>ONGOING</i>	<i>IN PROCESS</i>	<i>NEW</i>
<i>Smart Buses</i>	<i>400+ Homes with ABB &amp; DHCD</i>	<i>Bohannon Fire Station Tower</i>
<i>Smart Poles</i>	<i>180 Homes with OBB &amp; DHCD</i>	<i>Rescue Squad Tower</i>
<i>MiFis To Go</i>	<i>Emergency Services Radio System</i>	<i>VATI 2022 Grant for Expansion with repeaters</i>
		<i>Governor's \$700 million for back haul into</i>

Greg reported how the Library is going to expand the MiFi To Go program in the fall with more MiFis and laptop devices to provide access to their digital literacy program.

Ongoing projects are band-aids and still very necessary with the lack of broadband. Projects in process are moving along but will take time before any ground breaking. New projects include the building of two towers. Jeff reported on the steps taken so far to create the paperwork needed to move forward: MOUs and Lease agreements. Jeff, Tyler and Judy met with and presented information to the MVFD Board of Directors and then with the full membership. They plan to meet with the MVRS next week. These meetings are in preparation for the agreements that are needed between the county and each of these organizations for the use of their property.

Jeff and Julie both pointed out that we could not apply for a 2022 VATI Grant to provide expansion from the towers because we do not have the agreements and do not have them in place. The grant application is due 9/14/21.

Julie reported that we have meeting with Carol Steele to discuss a possible VATI grant to bring in a back haul. This is about creating a fiber ring out of Virginia Beach. There is another meeting this week with DHCD to talk about this possibility.

Jeff reported that we have to look further into how the \$700 million from the Governor's Office will be managed.

Market Days:

Judy is gathering people and materials to display that will highlight all of our projects in the BAB booth.

Go VA:

THMS and MHS CTE programs are in conversation with Region 6 Go VA about possible projects that would be appropriate for Mathews. Ken Noonan, Assistant Principal of THMS offered his model as a pilot program. Broadband might be a side topic in the discussions of entrepreneurship, internships, etc.

Thank You!

Kudos to county staff: Michael Lesniak, Julie Kaylor, Thomas Jenkins! Thanks to Amy DuBois and the Board of Supervisors for all the 5 - 0 votes.

Meetings:

An opinion poll was taken and the group decided to stay on Zoom for the first and third Tuesdays at 9:00 AM on Zoom.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Rowe, Acting Secretary