

**MATHEWS BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
14 July 2020 9AM - 10AM on ZOOM**



**Present:** Judy Rowe, Rob Quartel, Thomas Jenkins, Willie Love, William Vrooman, Mike Anthony, Joe Syslo, Dee Russell, Chuck Huntley, Tyler Beekhoo, Amy Dubois, Julie Kaylor, Elizabeth Tollis, Mindy Conner, Greg Lewis, Jackie Ingram, and Cynthia Hayes

## **MINUTES**

### *PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS & INTRODUCTIONS:*

- 1. Who is in the meeting?*
- 2. If you are not a member of this Board, please introduce yourself when you want to speak.*

**I. Call to Order:** Judy Rowe called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

**II. Good-bye and many thanks:** Judy recognized and bid good-byes to the BBA members Bri Sadler, Charlene Winter, Bill Vrooman.

**Bri Sadler**, physical therapist with Sentara, took a job elsewhere. She gave us a great deal of information on the issues of insufficient broadband to run the Sentara Physical Therapy center at Hudgins.

**Charlene Winter**, realtor, is chair of the Chamber of Commerce and has taken over as chair of the CTE Advisory Committee at MHS. She told me to still call on her if she could help! thanks to her for making a Broadband Moment Video for us.

**Bill Vrooman**, Director of Technology for MCPS, is retiring from that position and moving out of state to be closer to family. He has been a valuable participant and contributor on the board from the very beginning. He set up his own special Survey station at THMS including videos for the public. He has worked for many years to make sure that Mathews Students and teachers had the best equipment and the best access that he could possibly provide. He faced many challenges! He has developed plans for students and teachers for the coming school year that hopefully this board can help make possible.

Judy concluded with the message: "We will miss all of you. Thanks for jumping in to help Mathews County face this challenge head-on!"

Next, Judy recognized and thanked Edith Turner for taking over for Teeny Hughes as Media Reporter. Judy noted we have become quite busy as a board, it is crucial that all of our information get out to the public through the website, the newspaper, and social media. Teeny has taken on new responsibilities in her day job and felt that she could not get these things done. Edith Turner is the technology instructor at LJES and pioneered with me for many years to create opportunities in MCPS and in The Middle Peninsula Summer Governor's School. She has organized and coached many outstanding Great Computer Challenge Teams. Edith has been gracious enough to step up to get this done. Judy gave thanks to Teeny for being willing to take on the job originally, and I hopes she can participate in other ways moving forward.

### **III. Information:**

#### **The Lifeline Program: FCC Notice, from Senator Warner**

Judy shared the following from Senator Warner:

Even before the pandemic, only 7 million out of the 38 million people who were eligible for the Lifeline program were enrolled. While we understand that the FCC has traditionally issued guidelines for states and telecommunications providers to advertise the Lifeline program, given the critical role of internet connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we urge the FCC to coordinate directly with USDA and HHS as well as states and stakeholders to help ensure people in need are informed about their eligibility for the Lifeline program. We also respectfully request responses to the following questions:

1. What is the FCC currently doing to work with the USDA and HHS to help ensure that people in the U.S. who are newly eligible for the Lifeline program are aware that they can receive subsidized communications services?
2. What data has the FCC collected on the number of people in the U.S. who are newly eligible for the Lifeline program since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic and how many of those newly eligible have enrolled in the program?
3. Please detail the additional resources and authorities the FCC needs to ensure qualifying people in the U.S. know that they are eligible for the Lifeline program.

### **IV. Old Business**

#### **VATI Grant with Gloucester, Middlesex and ISP to be determined**

Mindy Conner reported there was one response to the RF, and the response was reviewed last Friday (July 10, 2020).

#### **VATI Grant with Lancaster, Middlesex, Caroline and ABB**

Julie Kaylor reported that a letter of application was forwarded to VATI yesterday (July 13, 2020).

Thomas Jenkins stated he had nothing new to add. He will circulate the spreadsheet in August.

**Consultant:**

Judy presented Tyler Beekhoo as part of the team called Broadband Telecom and asked him to briefly introduce himself and the staff. Tyler stated his group, works with groups in the Hampton Roads area, and presently they are a small operation with a staff of three (Tyler, Jeff Beekhoo, and Elizabeth Tollis). Judy welcomed Tyler and his group to Mathews BBA.

**Focus Groups:**

Judy suggested the Education Focus Group place something in the newspaper to gather information on the number of local people working on degrees from home through distance learning venues.

**V. New Business**

Focus Groups for Digital Literacy

**Training for this board: Zoom**

Judy encouraged BBA members to google Zoom tutorials and choose a tutorial to check out.

**Active Lifestyle Center**

Judy informed the group of Laura Matthews' offer of Tuesdays and Thursdays for digital literacy

**Senior Triad Fair:**

Judy is reaching out to Alice Stewart and requesting that BBA be included in the annual Senior Triad Fair.

**Library:** Greg Lewis presented the following information on digital literacy efforts of the Mathews Memorial Library.

As many of you know, the Mathews Memorial Library offers in-person adult computer classes and digital literacy courses. Our most popular

class, our 4-day Basic Computer Skills Class, has been offered for almost 20 years! The library also offers the following classes:

- Digital Camera Workshop
- iPad Tips & Tricks
- Using Your Kindle
- Android Tablets
- Doing More with Your Smartphone
- Facebook security
- E-commerce and eBay
- Gmail
- Internet Security
- Cloud computing
- Information and Reference Resources on the Web
- Microsoft Word
- Microsoft Excel
- Microsoft PowerPoint

Unfortunately, the current crisis has forced us to cancel in-person classes for the foreseeable future, but we will again offer classes as soon as possible. In the meantime, the Mathews Library (as well as all public libraries in Virginia) has offered **free online courses for library cardholders through Universal Class for several years. This is a wonderful collection of 500+ courses that not only includes digital literacy but many areas of self-improvement. I encourage all of you to check out this service at <http://universalclass.mathewslibrary.org>. If you know of individuals who do not have Internet at home yet, they are more than welcome to come to the library to take these courses.**

The library is always open to developing other classes that would help with digital literacy in Mathews County and I would be happy to hear your thoughts any time.

Schools: Judy stated she spoke with Nancy Welch, Superintendent of Schools, regarding digital literacy.

**Nursing Home:**

Judy shared an article titled *Brighten a Day* about a 15 year old helping and training nursing home staff to provide devices for residents to communicate with family and friends. (see link to article below).

[https://www.inquirer.com/life/hita-gupta-brighten-a-day-foundation-conestoga-high-nursing-homes-20200615.html?\\_\\_vz=medium%3Dsharebar](https://www.inquirer.com/life/hita-gupta-brighten-a-day-foundation-conestoga-high-nursing-homes-20200615.html?__vz=medium%3Dsharebar)

Judy asked the Focus Groups to continue sending digital literacy ideas to her for use in the VATI grant application narrative.

**Next Steps:** Tyler Beekhoo noted the next step is to get on the CAMS (?) portal. His group will be working with Michael from Atlantic Broadband to see what they already have laid out. He will be coordinating with all four counties involved in the VATI grant application.

**VI. Other Business:**

Judy noted she is pressured by the public for broadband information and noted the BBAB needs to decide what information we can release to the public.

Rob Quartel asked for clarification on the VATI grant application deadlines. Julie stated the letter of intent deadline was July 13, 2020, and the application deadline is August 17, 2020.

Julie Kaylor asked if we move our meeting date up a week in order to get information together to present to the Board of Supervisors at the August 28, 2020 meeting.

Judy asked Jackie Ingram about a rumor she heard regarding real estate sales booming in Lancaster County. Jackie confirmed the rumors are correct and stated it is happening here in Mathews with out-of-town people purchasing small houses to serve as second homes during this pandemic/quarantine.

**VII. ADJOURN** With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:49 am.

CALENDAR:           BBAB Meeting Tuesday, 28 July 2020 9:00 AM ZOOM (tabled)  
                          BOS Meeting: Tuesday, 28 July 2020 6:00 PM