

Article: To see if the Town will vote to accept and approve the following resolution regarding the critical need for immediate action on wired broadband service, as written below,

Whereas the Town's Community Anchor Institutions have NOT been provided broadband service as promised by the Middle Mile campaign; and

Whereas the State's westward expansion of broadband service to our rural towns of is a matter of Equal rights and fair representation as guaranteed by the Massachusetts Bill of Rights; and

Whereas broadband service is THE lifeline to our economic survival; and

Whereas our population is aging and declining; and

Whereas our students' education is compromised in under-enrolled schools and thwarted by their inability to perform required online assignments; and

Whereas our residents are unable to utilize digital internet health care; and

Whereas broadband assures the interconnectivity essential to life in the 21st century; and

Whereas The Massachusetts legislature passed and the governor signed Bill H4355, an Act financing information technology equipment and related projects, on June 6, 2014, which authorized \$50 Million to the Massachusetts Broadband Incentive Fund,

THEREFORE be it resolved that we, the Selectboard of the Town of _____, call upon the Baker/Polito Administration to commit all necessary resources to ensure the provision of wired broadband service to Heath in its entirety thus meeting the internet needs of all its residents; and

Expediently provide resolution to this most challenging situation by allocating the funds necessary to bring this project to conclusion; and

Instruct the Massachusetts Broadband Institute to work cooperatively with the towns and their agencies, including WiredWest, and to accept input and policy direction from the towns to jointly produce an actionable plan that is acceptable to our town by June 30th, 2016.

Be it further resolved that the Town Clerk be directed to send copies of this resolution to Governor Charlie Baker, Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, and Secretary Jay Ash, or take any action related thereto.