

Bringing Broadband Internet Service to Harrisville

(Warrant Article #3 at Town Meeting, 3/10/20)

What is happening?

The town of Harrisville has an opportunity to bring high speed internet service to every home and business in Harrisville. Using a “Fiber to the Home” infrastructure, Consolidated Communications will provide symmetrical speeds up to 1 gigabyte per second to subscribers.

What will it cost?

The total project budget is \$1,596,375.

- As proposed, the Town will issue a municipal bond (ie/ loan) for \$896,375, and Consolidated Communications will pay the balance, approximately \$700,000.
- The bond will be held by the town, but paid off by Consolidated, as described below.

What will it cost *ME*?

- Subscribing to internet service with Consolidated is optional. If you do not want high-speed internet, this project will cost you nothing.
- If you do want high speed, fiber internet, you can subscribe at the following rates:

Speed	2-Year Promotion	Rate after 2 year promo	Bond Surcharge
15 mb/s	\$37.99	\$62.95	\$10
50 mb/s	\$48.99	\$73.95	\$10
100 mb/s	\$60.99	\$85.95	\$10
1 gb/s	\$79.9	\$99.95	\$10

What will it cost *THE TOWN*?

The project to provide broadband throughout Harrisville will not cost the town anything.

- Consolidated will take full responsibility for repayment of the bond.
- Taxes will NOT be affected.
- In fact, it will include free internet service for town buildings, an expense currently carried in the town’s operating budget.

Why should I vote YES to Article #3?

High-speed internet offers numerous public and private benefits including:

1. Education

A significant amount of student learning is now done online. Harrisville students need access to internet to do their assignments, complete homework, and enrich their educations.

2. Business

Most businesses require high-speed internet to communicate with clients, make sales, and share and store information. Having businesses in Harrisville keeps our economy strong and healthy and our community vibrant.

3. Attracting Young People and Families

The town’s long-term sustainability depends on the continued presence of young people and families. High-speed internet is important to young people, and having broadband will help to continually attract people to keep school enrollment and our economy strong.

4. Public Safety

The ability to communicate immediately and consistently is an important part of emergency response. Our police and fire departments need reliable internet, as do many residents who depend on online systems to connect them to health care providers.

5. Real Estate Marketability and Value

Real estate is all about location, location, location. While Harrisville is a gorgeous place where some people choose to vacation “unplugged,” in order for people to reside here permanently, it is important that they have the ability to connect with the outside world. Having reliable high-speed internet is essential to selling homes at market value to permanent residents.

6. Entertainment and Leisure

Streaming (Netflix, Hulu, gaming, etc.), shopping, making vacation plans, researching restaurants, keeping up on news, etc. are largely done online. It is recommended that people have at least 100 mb/s to facilitate modern living.

Even if you don’t feel the need for fast, reliable internet service to your home, please understand that it is important to the people around you, and can be achieved at no cost to you. Please VOTE YES to bring broadband to Harrisville by authorizing the town to issue a bond to finance the project.