

A Resolution in Support of Tompkins County's Initiative to Expand Broadband Internet Access

RESOLUTION #2024-_____

Whereas, this Enfield Town Board has long believed, as was stated in the official Minutes of its September 12, 2012 Town Board meeting that, "broadband internet access is an inalienable right," and that the goal, consistent with that of New York State "is to get (the service) to everyone"; and

Whereas, Tompkins County in 2023 issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to identify parties that could extend high speed broadband infrastructure to unserved locations in Tompkins County, including to locations in Enfield; and

Whereas, seven bids were subsequently submitted to Tompkins County in response to the RFP, among them the bid by Point Broadband, said bid determined by Tompkins County administrators to be the preferred applicant toward serving five of Tompkins County's towns directly, with Point Broadband also establishing sub-contractual agreements with incumbent Internet Service Providers in the Towns of Enfield and Ulysses to provide service within those municipalities; and

Whereas, at a meeting of the Tompkins County Legislature's Housing and Economic Development Committee on April 3, 2024, Charles Bartosch, the chief executive of Point Broadband, stated categorically that his firm intends to sub-contract with Haefele Connect, Enfield's incumbent cable television franchisee, and with no other firm, toward providing internet access to unserved households in the Town of Enfield; and

Whereas, the sub-contractual arrangement presented by Mr. Bartosch holds distinct advantages for the Town of Enfield in that it would provide a much-needed benefit for those among its residents who currently lack high speed internet access; and

Whereas, the County Legislature's Housing and Economic Development Committee on April 3, 2024 unanimously recommended authorization of the Partnership Agreement with Point Broadband, and recommended that Tompkins County appropriate \$100,000 in County Contingency funds toward "walk-out" engineering studies that would take the first step toward extending such service, a recommendation which has been referred to the full Tompkins County Legislature for final adoption; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Enfield Town Board hereby endorses the proposed Partnership Agreement between Tompkins County and Point Broadband toward the expansion of high speed Internet access to unserved households, and also the expenditure of \$100,000 in County funds toward furtherance of that service, along with the Partnership Agreement's implicit expectation that Point Broadband will sub-contract with Haefele Connect for service extensions within the Town of Enfield; and be it further

Resolved, that the Clerk shall transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Clerk of the Tompkins County Legislature and to the Chair of the Legislature, the Hon. Daniel Klein

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