



Town of Middlefield

Communications Committee

Date: April 5, 2017

To: Middlefield Selectboard

Subject: Last Mile Broadband Recommendation

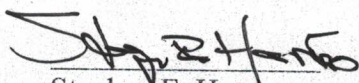
We are delighted to see that the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Economic Development has listened to our insistence that last mile towns must control all of our broadband funds.

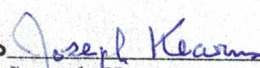
The new Last Mile Infrastructure Grant Program gives towns full control over the development and construction of municipally-owned broadband networks. Grant awards will include both the "professional services" allocation and the "construction" allocation designated for each town – \$580K in Middlefield's case.

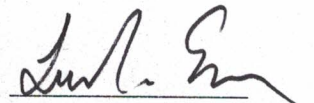
We therefore recommend that:

- The town apply to implement the Hybrid Broadband Project in the attached budget which, at an estimated cost of \$483K, would entail no cost to Middlefield taxpayers.
- That the project be implemented in three phases:
 - An initial wireless pilot to provide engineering specs.
 - A wireless rollout to the entire town.
 - Fiber implementation in the town's Business District, including Skyline Trail from 140 Skyline to the Town Hall.
- That the town engage with Westfield Gas + Electric to implement the project on a MLP-to-MLP basis.

Sincerely,


Stephen E. Harris


Joseph Kearns


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