

TOWNSHIP OF UPPER DEERFIELD

RESOLUTION 20-149

REQUESTING ALL SERVICE PROVIDERS OF AERIAL LINE HIGH-SPEED INTERNET TO PROVIDE HIGH-SPEED INTERNET SERVICE TO EVERYONE IN THE RURAL AREAS

WHEREAS, rural areas of the State of New Jersey are serviced by service providers with respect to aerial line high-speed internet service; and

WHEREAS, having access to aerial line high-speed internet service is a necessary and vital part of living in today's society; and

WHEREAS, the recent pandemic of COVID-19 further illustrates just how vital access to aerial line high-speed internet has become to society, especially during times of crisis or emergencies and how not having access to aerial line high-speed internet has the potential to cripple a community, particularly a rural one, denying the community the capacity for remote student learning and remote working arrangements with a resident's employer;

AND FURTHERMORE, that during a time of crisis not having access to aerial line high-speed internet has the potential to shut down all functions of government by denying essential employees and elected officials from the ability to work, communicate, distribute information, conduct meetings, and perform the other requirements of a functioning government through remote capabilities; and

WHEREAS, Upper Deerfield Township believes that the service providers of aerial line high-speed internet in the State of New Jersey are more than capable of and financially sound enough to achieve a 100% rate of aerial line high-speed internet accessibility but choose not to pursue that goal unless forced to through regulation because the providers feel it is not profitable; and

WHEREAS, not having access to aerial line high-speed internet service is a plight on students, reducing their educational opportunities and ability to learn in a modern world; and

WHEREAS, not having access to aerial line high-speed internet service could potentially have life and death consequences for the elderly or those with various health complications; and

WHEREAS, not having access to aerial line high-speed internet service causes a great burden to businesses, places them at a disadvantage, and reduces chances for economic development in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, not having access to aerial line high-speed internet service can cause rural healthcare facilities to shut down because they cannot access required networks to function, thereby further creating negative impacts on New Jersey residents' health; and

WHEREAS, the rural municipalities in Cumberland County being good stewards of the environment by according a high priority to farmland and open space preservation should be rewarded, not penalized, with some quid pro quo consideration requiring deployment of aerial line high-speed internet access to the farms, businesses and residents, in the rural municipalities in Cumberland County; and

WHEREAS, Upper Deerfield Township is desirous of assisting and cooperating with other public entities and State officials to pursue a petition before the Board of Public Utilities to enact regulations requiring a 100% rate of aerial line high-speed internet accessibility in each individual municipality throughout the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, unless the Board of Public Utilities requires service providers of aerial line high-speed internet to provide 100% aerial line high-speed internet access in the rural municipalities in Cumberland County and all municipalities throughout New Jersey, the State will have unintentionally subverted the public’s significant investment in farmland and open space preservation by not allowing those preserved farm businesses to be economically competitive and viable over the long term.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Township Committee of the Township of Upper Deerfield in Cumberland County that the Board of Public Utilities is requested to order all service providers of aerial line high-speed internet to provide aerial line high-speed internet service to all municipalities throughout the State with each municipality being afforded a 100% rate of aerial line high-speed internet accessibility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that our State representatives use their authority to require service providers of aerial line high-speed internet to achieve a 100% rate of high-speed internet access for each individual municipality throughout the State of New Jersey; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerk for the Township of Upper Deerfield be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of New Jersey, the Senate President of the New Jersey State Senate, the Speaker of the Assembly of the State of New Jersey, the Cumberland County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and the Board of Public Utilities.

Moved By: Bruce T. Peterson

Seconded By: John T. O’Neill, Sr.

<u>VOTING</u>	<u>In Favor</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>Absent</u>
James P. Crilley	X			
John L. Daddario	X			
John T. O’Neill, Sr.	X			
Bruce T. Peterson	X			
Scott Smith	X			

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of Resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Upper Deerfield, in the County of Cumberland, at a meeting thereof held August 20, 2020.

Roy J. Spoltore, Township Clerk