

## Second Public Benefit Findings Hearing for Broadband Bond Funding

### Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 6:30 PM

**Via Zoom per Gov. Sununu Emergency Orders #12 & #16**

Meeting opened by Caisse (Select Board, Chair) at 6:30 PM

Read Emergency Order Checklist – Ken Caisse

Roll Call Attendance taken:

Select Board: Ken Caisse (Chair), Chair, Bill Ezell

*Absent: George Willard*

CAC Broadband Subcommittee Members: Jessica Hipp (Chair), Christine Robidoux, Dana Nowell, Keith Charlton, Mike Flynn

*Total participants: 27, including Select Board and CAC Broadband Sub-Committee*

#### Presentation by Broadband Subcommittee

Introduction of committee members and welcome from Jessica Hipp. This is the second hearing, and questions are welcome at any time.

See Slide presentation posted on the town website: <https://www.templenh.org/temple-cac-broadband-committee> or by request at [TempleBroadband@TempleNH.org](mailto:TempleBroadband@TempleNH.org).

#### Town of Temple Master Plan

##### Vision Statement:

- Home businesses should be allowed and encouraged.
- Temple should coordinate with electrical and communications utilities to facilitate meeting the needs of its residents and businesses.

##### Economic Development:

- The business landscape is changing...as computer technology and service availability has enabled *some* residents to telecommute and has provided opportunities for others to create their own home-based businesses.

Like many towns in our region, Temple has a “donut problem”. We have decent coverage in the center of town, but not in the outlying areas.

##### Primary Goals:

- Provide access to broadband internet to 100% of Temple residents.
- Minimize impact on Taxpayers

##### Secondary Considerations:

- Provide service that will meet future needs... speeds greater than 25/3. Broadband internet will be able to accommodate the need for faster speeds in the not too distant future.
- Control costs to individual subscribers

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- Many residents have long driveways and have received high quotes to run line from the street to their house.

Why are we looking at this?

- Discontent with **internet reliability and service** expressed extensively on Facebook and a survey conducted in spring 2020.
- Anecdotal evidence of **internet problems** through public discourse
- **COVID-19 Pandemic** highlighting inequitable internet access for students and “work from home” families/individuals.
- Increase or maintain **property values**. Evidence suggests your property is worth more if you have access to broadband.
- Enable **expanded public participation** in town forums, meetings and events
- **Promote economic development** as highlighted in the Master Plan.

Public vs. Private Benefit Findings

By improving the speed, reliability and cost over existing service, the following are areas where town residents and businesses benefit at no cost to taxpayers:

- Economic Impact:
  - Improves infrastructure for business development:
    - Supports small/home-based businesses
    - Improves ability of residents to telecommute
    - Improves access to employment opportunities
  - Improves desirability for home buyers to purchase in Temple
  - Increases the value of your home
- Educational:
  - Improved Internet access for students
  - Improved access to higher education for adult learners
- Public Access:
  - Enable residents to fully participate virtually on town committees, forums, and hearings during health emergencies like COVID-19
- Safety:
  - Fire Dept and Highway Dept communications enhanced
- Enhanced quality of living
  - Every home has access to online services: i.e. streaming movies, CCiTV, telemedicine, shopping, etc

Current Providers

Town residents and businesses are served by:

- DSL provider Consolidated Communications
- Cable TV provider Comcast
- Others utilize TDS, satellite internet or various 4G cellular providers.

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DSL service over copper phone lines is limited by distance from a “central office” switch box, which are distributed throughout town.

Cable internet connections are copper coaxial cable with shared bandwidth, resulting in decreased speed with more data consumption within a neighborhood.

Federal Definition of Broadband (FCC) is 25 megabits per second (Mbps) download speed or greater, 3 Mbps upload speed or greater. There is a movement to increase the download speed to 50, but these are the legal definitions at this point.

Netflix recommends a 25 Mbps speed for streaming its top quality video, while Amazon says you’ll need at least 15 Mbps. (Consumer Reports, 2019)

Temple is 55.4% “unserved” with Broadband internet, meaning 55.4% of residents do not meet the minimum speeds of 25/3 as defined by the FCC. If it’s available at the street, you are considered served even if you don’t have it running to your home.

*Map of underserved or unserved roads in town was presented and is attached.*

#### Request for Proposal (RFP)

Initial RFP Sent 9/20/20, Revised RFP Sent 1/27/21

The town received proposals from Comcast & Consolidated Communications (CCI)

Upon receiving and reviewing proposals, the committee ranked the responses and

recommended the Select Board **accept the proposal from Consolidated Communications (CCI) on 2/5/2021.**

#### Highlights of CCI Proposal

- 100% of residents in town will be eligible for Broadband Internet with speeds up to 1 GB/Second.
- As long as there is a communication path from the pole to the house (aerial or through conduit) there will be *no charge* for install.
- Requires us to bond approx. \$710,435 over 20 years for infrastructure (SB170), which CCI guarantees, resulting in *ZERO COST TO THE TOWN.*
- CCI invests an additional \$1.1M in the network
- CCI will charge an infrastructure fee not to exceed \$14/month to re-pay the bond. Residents in Temple only pay the pay IF they subscribe to the new service.

#### Funding through a Public/Private Partnership: NH Senate Bill 170

Allows municipalities to pay for “financing of improvements” to broadband infrastructure for locations unserved with a bond approved at town meeting.

Note: SB 170 does NOT require a fiber solution. It only requires a solution that provides = or > 25/3 service.

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- a. Send Requests for Proposals (RFP) allowing providers to craft and pitch a solution to provide service
- b. "A municipality may select a proposal ... which meets or exceeds the anticipated needs of the community." – Select Board accepted proposal from CCI on 2/5/21
- c. Bonds must be passed at an annual or special town meeting with 2/3 approval of the voters. *(RSA 33:8-a) - Town Meeting is scheduled 6/12/21. Warrant Articles for Broadband Funding in other towns have passed overwhelmingly, with one town recently voting unanimously to approve.*

#### Bonding:

- The CCI proposal requires a Municipal General Obligation Bond of \$710,435 from the NH Bond Bank or another local lender.
- CCI pays Temple the bond payments and supplements their funds with a (not to exceed) \$14/month Infrastructure Fee per subscriber.
- During the roll-out, while the subscriber base is insufficient to cover the bond cost, CCI will make up any difference.
- Again, there will be NO TAX IMPACT ON THE TOWN and ONLY SUBSCRIBERS PAY THE INFRASTRUCTURE FEE.
- Requires 4 public hearings and a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote in favor at June 12 Town Meeting

#### Additional Information:

- Town will own the network for at least 20 years, depending upon bond type. Ownership allows for flexibility through the duration of the bond.
- CCI will retain right of exclusive use to run and maintain the network.
- Internet service will be significantly faster and more reliable than existing DSL network.
- Temple Select Board and CAC Broadband Committee are currently negotiating the contract with CCI.
- Subscribe to e-Alerts News & Announcements on the Temple Website TempleNH.org for information about upcoming Broadband forums/hearings.

If you have additional questions after this hearing, you can email us at:

[TempleBroadband@TempleNH.org](mailto:TempleBroadband@TempleNH.org) or call the Select Board Assistant at (603) 878-2536.

#### Questions from the public

How quickly can orders be made if the bond is passed by voters?

Response from CCI: As soon as the funds are available, construction will start. They are anticipating a September start with construction happening in four phases: laying fiber, splicing, testing, and providing service. There will be two groups dedicated to the town. As different areas are ready to go, they will be brought online. This will result in some residents getting service sooner than others. They anticipate the entire town being online by the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2022.

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How will residents place orders?

CCI will create a dedicated webpage for the town of Temple. Residents will pre-register for service. Bi-weekly updates will be provided to residents through the webpage and the Broadband Committee as to the status of construction in the different areas of town, as mapped by CCI for this project. Residents will be able to view their neighborhood to check the status. After a resident pre-registers, CCI will contact them to discuss site specific needs and arrange service.

How will phone service work?

Through Voice over IP (VOIP). There will be an additional \$15/month fee for this service. It is optional, and not “bundled” with internet. International phone rates will be available soon. You can keep your current phone number if you switch to VOIP.

Information about voting at town meeting.

There will be another forum on Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup> to allow residents to ask any final questions before town meeting. At town meeting, the Bond is the 2<sup>nd</sup> warrant article on the ballot. Voting will be open for an hour, and there will be time for residents to ask questions. CCI will be present at town meeting to address any questions or concerns.

What are the specs for conduit?

CCI will share the specs document with the Broadband Committee after this hearing. (*Attached*)

What are the rates being offered for the different levels of service?

The Broadband mailer is *attached*, and displays the different levels of service and their rates. Business rates will be available soon and will be shared with the Broadband Committee. This includes rates for dedicated IP's for businesses. All rates will include the \$14 Infrastructure fee.

What happens during a weather event if the power goes out?

The OLT's (Optical Line Terminals) have a battery back-up, however an individual property will also need a generator or battery back-up.

What about TV service?

CCI is currently negotiating with several streaming services. More information will be available soon. If you currently have Netflix, Amazon, Hulu, etc. you will still be able to use those services. You will also still have access to local channels.

Discussion of future speeds:

You will likely see 50/50 or even 250/250 “out of the gate”. CCI is working in Rindge right now and is seeing multi-gig capabilities. CCI is overprovisioning their lines to be ready for the future. This is a 20 year relationship and they will be ready to meet future demands.

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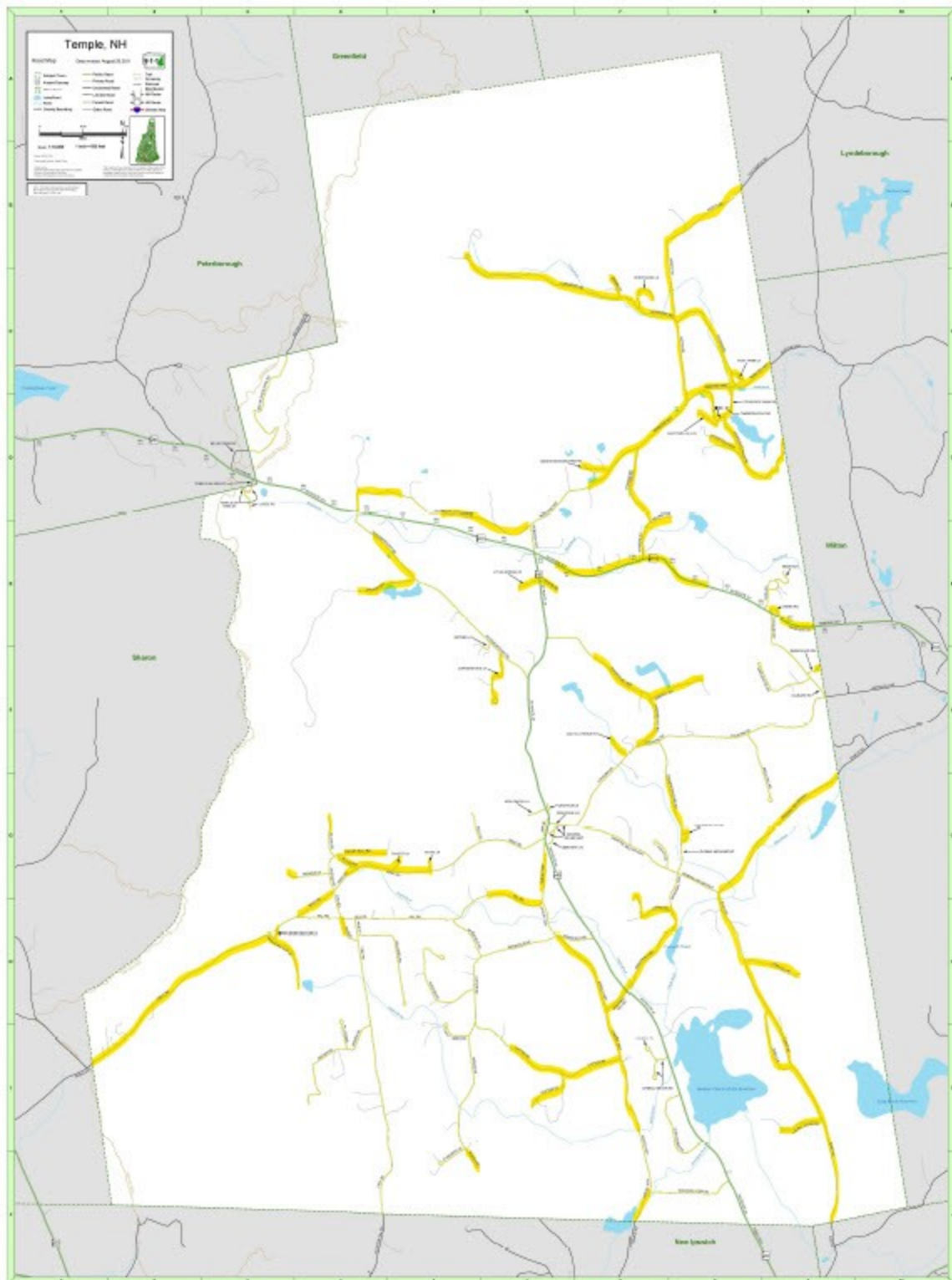
**Via Zoom per Gov. Sununu Emergency Orders #12 & #16**

Email address to contact Temple Broadband is [TempleBroadband@TempleNH.org](mailto:TempleBroadband@TempleNH.org).

No further questions.

Ezell motion to adjourn. Second by Caisse. Roll call vote unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM.



**Temple CAC Broadband Committee**  
***Conduit Specifications***

1. Conduit depth: We recommend burying the conduit 18 inches below grade. Minimum depths are not subject to vehicular traffic (please see item 14 below if subjected to vehicular traffic):
  - a. 12 inches on private property.
  - b. 24 inches on City and County Right of Way.
  - c. 36 inches on State Highways.
2. Trench should have a flat surface and be deep enough to obtain minimum cover.
  - a. First 6 inches of backfill must be soft earth or sand and free of rocks. Fill must be able to pass through 1/2 inch screen.
3. Conduit runs of 150 feet and multiples thereof shall have an intermediate pullbox installed. If it's impractical to place a pullbox at 150 feet and the entire length is greater than 225 feet, a larger size conduit must be used.
4. Duct bends: The minimum radius bend should be 6 times the diameter for conduits 2 inches or less, and 10 times the diameter for conduits greater than 2 inches.
5. The service entrance should be located outside of the dwelling and must be accessible at all times. The entry location must conform to current NEC code requirements. The conduit at the home should rise no more than 5 feet and not less than 2 feet above grade.
6. We recommend that the riser conduit on a service pole extend 8 feet above the grade. This is to protect the conductors. All conduits should be capped to prevent water and debris from entering.
  - a. When telephone and electric service conduits terminate on the same service pole, it's preferable to place the two conduits opposite each other on the service pole. It's permissible to place conduits with less separation, but not less than ¼ of the circumference of the pole (climbing space must be maintained).
  - b. Riser conduit must be properly strapped to pole.



**Temple CAC Broadband Committee**  
***Conduit Specifications***

7. Poly pull string or equivalent with a minimum 200 lb. rating should be installed in all conduits.
8. Minimum conduit sizes:
  - a. 1 ½ inches for single residence. 1 inch is allowed if the stub out from the pullbox is 2 inches and you're placing the 1 inch inside the 2 inch stub out.
  - b. 2 inches for service up to 4 residences.
9. Customer retains ownership and maintenance responsibility for conduit system on private property.
10. Consolidated Communications retains ownership of drop and/or cable up to the protector and is responsible for maintenance and repairs on the drops and/or cable up to that point.
11. Customer should ensure conduit and pullboxes on their premises are free from obstruction prior to installation of service drops or cable.
12. Clearance from power conduits and wires must be maintained. Ensure the following separations are maintained between power and telecom conduits as applicable:
  - a. 3 inches when encased in concrete.
  - b. 4 inches when separated with brick or mason.
  - c. 12 inches of well tamped earth when only earth.
  - d. 6 inches when crossing foreign objects, i.e. water, sewer etc.
13. The minimum protection requirements for buried facilities subjected to vehicular traffic should be:
  - a. 24 inches of well tamped earth if direct buried.
  - b. 12 – 18 inches if concrete encased.
14. Please attempt to place conduit systems well away from trees or shrubs





## LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

Temple, NH 03084

PRSR STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM Retail

# Broadband Internet - Coming to Temple!

## What is Broadband Internet?

- **High Speed Internet Access** - meets the national standard for Broadband internet (25 mbps download speeds/3 mbps upload speeds)
- **Supports Educational needs** - Homework/Home Schooling, Online Classes, Webinars
- **Provides Access to Online Medical Services** - telemedicine
- **Supports Small/Home Businesses** – Work from home, e-commerce and communication
- **Provides Entertainment** - Gaming, Movies, TV, Social Media
- **Increases/Protects Property Values** – Modernizes our infrastructure while preserving the small-town look and feel we need to protect

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## Broadband Internet in Temple

- Only 45% of Temple residents currently have access to Broadband internet
  - Most residents that do have Broadband have only one provider to choose from
  - The Broadband Committee took advantage of other towns' experiences to develop a "best in class" proposal that was sent to multiple providers
  - Consolidated Communications (CCI) has been selected as the provider to offer service that **far exceeds** national Broadband standards to ALL Temple residents
  - Contract terms are currently being finalized
  - CCI provides Broadband internet access to many other nearby towns: Chesterfield, Rindge, Harrisville, Walpole, Westmoreland and Dublin
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## The Cost to Bring Broadband Internet Access to Temple

- There is absolutely no cost to the Town, your taxes will NOT be used to fund this work!
- The cost to bring access to all residents is \$1,862,543, split between CCI and Temple
  - CCI's initial investment is \$1,152,108
  - Temple provides \$710,435 via a Bond – **which CCI then repays from its infrastructure fees**
  - This model means there is no financial risk to Temple and no cost to residents that do not subscribe to the service
  - CCI Subscribers in Temple will pay an Infrastructure Fee of \$14 (or less) per month to CCI, which CCI will use to repay the Bond

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## ANTICIPATED COST TO SUBSCRIBERS FOR BROADBAND INTERNET

\*\*\*The Town of Temple pays NOTHING, Non-subscribers pay NOTHING\*\*\*

|                        | <i>Sample CCI Broadband Monthly Pricing</i> |                   |                     |
|------------------------|---|-------------------|---------------------|
|                        | 50 Mbps/50Mbps                              | 250 Mbps/250 Mbps | 1000 Mbps/1000 Mbps |
| Base Rate              | \$50  | \$80              | \$90                |
| Anticipated Promo Rate | \$35  | \$60              | \$70                |
| Max Infrastructure Fee | \$14.00                                     | \$14.00           | \$14.00             |
|                        |   |                   |                     |
| <b>Total Price</b>     | <b>\$49.00</b>                              | <b>\$74.00</b>    | <b>\$84.00</b>      |

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## HOW DO WE MOVE FORWARD? Attend These Town Zoom Meetings!

Broadband Public Benefit  
Hearing, Hosted by the  
Select Board  
April 22, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.

Bond Hearing, Hosted by  
the Select Board  
May 19, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.

Q&A Forum, Hosted by the  
Broadband Committee  
June 5, 2021 @ 2:00 p.m.

Questions? Send an email to [templebroadband@templenh.org](mailto:templebroadband@templenh.org)  
See [www.templenh.org](http://www.templenh.org) for Zoom Meeting details

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