

**CABLE TELEVISION
RENEWAL LICENSE**

**GRANTED TO
VERIZON NEW ENGLAND INC.**

JULY 12, 2023

**THE SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF ASHLAND,
MASSACHUSETTS**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLE	PAGE
1. DEFINITIONS.....	1
2. GRANT OF AUTHORITY; LIMITS AND RESERVATIONS	7
3. PROVISION OF CABLE SERVICE	10
4. SYSTEM FACILITIES	12
5. PEG ACCESS SERVICES AND SUPPORT.....	12
6. LICENSE FEES.....	17
7. CUSTOMER SERVICE	18
8. REPORTS AND RECORDS.....	19
9. INSURANCE AND INDEMNIFICATION	20
10. TRANSFER OF LICENSE	22
11. RENEWAL OF LICENSE	22
12. ENFORCEMENT AND TERMINATION OF LICENSE.....	23
13. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.....	24

EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT A – PUBLIC BUILDINGS TO BE PROVIDED CABLE SERVICE
SUBJECT TO SECTION 3.3

THIS CABLE TELEVISION RENEWAL LICENSE AGREEMENT (this "License" or "Agreement") is entered into by and between the Select Board of the Town of Ashland, as Issuing Authority for the grant of cable television license(s) pursuant to the Massachusetts Cable Law, and Verizon New England, Inc., a corporation duly organized under the applicable laws of the State of New York (the "Licensee").

WHEREAS, the Issuing Authority is a "franchising authority" in accordance with Section 602(10) of the Communications Act, and is authorized to grant one or more nonexclusive cable licenses pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 166A;

WHEREAS, the Issuing Authority granted to Licensee effective as of June 18, 2008, a nonexclusive Cable Television Final License to install, maintain, extend, and operate a Cable System in the Town for a term of fifteen (15) years (the "Final License");

WHEREAS, the Licensee has operated a Cable System in accordance with the Final License as of the effective date on its existing Telecommunications Facilities consisting of a Fiber to the Premises Telecommunications Network ("FTTP Network") in the Town which also transmits Non-Cable Services pursuant to authority granted by M.G.L. c. 166 and Title II, which Non-Cable Services are not subject to the Massachusetts Cable Law or Title VI;

WHEREAS, pursuant to and in accordance with applicable federal and State law, the Issuing Authority undertook a process to determine whether it should renew the Final License and the terms for such a renewal;

WHEREAS, the Issuing Authority has examined the past performance of Licensee and has determined that Licensee is and has been in material compliance with the Final License and applicable law;

WHEREAS, pursuant to and in accordance with applicable federal and State law, the Licensee submitted to the Issuing Authority a proposal to renew the Final License to operate a Cable System in the Town; and

WHEREAS, following good faith negotiations between the parties, the Issuing Authority and Licensee have agreed on the terms for a renewal license under which Licensee will continue to operate its Cable System in the Town.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the Issuing Authority's grant of a renewal license to Licensee, Licensee's promise to continue providing Cable Service to residents of the Town pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth herein, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and the adequacy of which are hereby acknowledged,

THE SIGNATORIES DO HEREBY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

1. DEFINITIONS

Except as otherwise provided herein, the definitions and word usages set forth in the Communications Act are incorporated herein and shall apply in this Agreement. In addition, the following definitions shall apply:

1.1. *Access Channel*: A video Channel which the Licensee shall make available to the Town or the PEG Access Designee without charge for non-commercial public, educational, or governmental use for the transmission of Video Programming as directed by the Issuing Authority, in accordance with the terms of this License and subject to applicable law.

1.2. *Affiliate*: Any Person who, directly or indirectly, owns or controls, is owned or controlled by, or is under common ownership or control with, the Licensee.

1.3. *Basic Service Tier*: Any service tier which includes the retransmission of local television broadcast signals as well as the PEG Channels required by this License.

1.4. *Cable Division*: The Cable Television Division of the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Cable ("DTC") or successor governmental agency if any.

1.5. *Cable Service or Cable Services*: Shall be defined herein as it is defined under Section 602(6) of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. § 522(6).

1.6. *Cable System or System*: Shall be defined herein as it is defined under Section 602(7) of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. § 522(7), meaning a facility, consisting of a set of closed transmission paths and associated signal generation, reception, and control equipment that is designed to provide cable service which includes video programming and which is provided to multiple Subscribers within the Town, but such term does not include (A) a facility that serves only to retransmit the television signals of one or more television broadcast stations; (B) a facility that serves subscribers without using any public right-of-way; (C) a facility of a common carrier which is subject, in whole or in part, to the provisions of Title II of the Communications Act, except that such facility shall be considered a cable system (other than for purposes of Section 621(c) of the Communications Act) to the extent such facility is used in the transmission of video programming directly to subscribers unless the extent of such use is solely to provide interactive on-demand services; (D) an open video system that complies with Section 653 of the Communications Act; or (E) any facilities of any electric utility used solely for operating its electric utility systems.

1.7. *Channel*: Shall be defined herein as it is defined under Section 602(4) of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. § 522(4).

1.8. *CMR*: The Code of Massachusetts Regulations.

1.9. *Commercial Subscriber*: A commercial, non-residential Subscriber.

1.10. *Communications Act*: The Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

1.11. *Complaint*: Shall be defined herein as it is defined by the Cable Division's Order Adopting Revised Form 500 (June 11, 1999), meaning any written or verbal contact with the Licensee in connection with Cable Service in which a Person expresses dissatisfaction with an act, omission, product or service that is (1) within the Licensee's control, and (2) requires a corrective measure on the part of the Licensee.

1.12. *Control*: The ability to exercise de facto or de jure control over day-to-day policies and operations or the management of Licensee's affairs.

1.13. *Educational Access Channel*: An Access Channel available for the non-commercial use of the Issuing Authority, public schools in the Town, as well as the PEG Access Designee, as determined by the Issuing Authority in accordance with 47 U.S.C. § 531 and the terms of this License.

1.14. *FCC*: The United States Federal Communications Commission, or successor governmental entity thereto.

1.15. *Force Majeure*: An event or events reasonably beyond the ability of a party to anticipate and control. This includes, but is not limited to, severe or unusual weather conditions, strikes, labor disturbances, lockouts, war or act of war (whether an actual declaration of war is made or not), insurrection, riots, act of public enemy, accidents for which a party is not primarily responsible, fire, flood, or other acts of God, or with respect to Licensee's obligations hereunder, actions or inactions of any government instrumentality or public utility including condemnation, work delays caused by waiting for utility providers to service or monitor utility poles to which Licensee's FTTP Network is attached, and unavailability of materials and/or qualified labor to perform the work necessary, where such utility provider work delays or unavailability of materials and/or labor are beyond the reasonable control of the Licensee.

1.16. *FTTP Network*: Shall have the meaning set forth in the recitals of this Agreement.

1.17. *Government Access Channel*: An Access Channel made available by the Licensee for use of the Issuing Authority and/or the PEG Access Designee as determined by the Issuing Authority to present non-commercial governmental and government-related programming as determined by the Issuing Authority in accordance with 47 U.S.C. § 531 and the terms of this License.

1.18. *Gross Revenues*: All revenue, as determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP"), derived by Licensee and/or its Affiliates from the operation of the Cable System to provide Cable Service in the Town, including, without limitation, the following items: subscriber fees, charges and payments collected from Subscribers (including Commercial Subscribers) for Cable Services (including, but not limited to, basic and premium Cable Services, video-on-demand Cable Service and pay-per-view Cable Service); installation, reconnection, change of service and similar charges; revenues received from rentals or sales to Subscribers of converters, remote controls and other Subscriber equipment used to provide Cable Service over the Cable System; additional outlet fees; fees from third parties for leased access programming; revenues that Licensee receives from home shopping channels for the use of the Cable System to sell merchandise as prorated to include such revenue attributable to the Cable System in the Town based on the number of Subscribers; advertising revenues (after deducting sales commissions) as prorated to include such revenue attributable to the Cable System in the Town based on the number of Subscribers and all fees imposed on Licensee by this License and applicable law that are passed through and paid by Subscribers ("fee-on-fee") (including the

License Fee, PEG Access Support and PEG Grant) to the extent that the Issuing Authority provides the Licensee with evidence that such fees and charges are included in the gross revenues of other cable operators in the Town) in accordance with applicable law. For the avoidance of doubt, Gross Revenue shall include the amount of Licensee's gross advertising revenue (i.e., without netting advertising commissions paid to third parties), calculated in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Provided, however, that Gross Revenues shall not include:

1.18.1. Revenues received by any Affiliate in exchange for supplying goods or services used by Licensee to provide Cable Service over the Cable System, except to the extent that such revenues are derived from the operation of the Cable System to provide Cable Service in the Town;

1.18.2. Bad debts written off by Licensee in the normal course of its business, provided, however, that bad debt recoveries shall be included in Gross Revenue during the period collected;

1.18.3. Refunds, rebates or discounts made to Subscribers or other third parties;

1.18.4. Any revenues classified as Non-Cable Services revenue under federal or State law including, without limitation, revenues received from Telecommunications Services; revenues received from Information Services, including, without limitation, Internet Access Service, electronic mail service, electronic bulletin board service, or similar online computer services;

1.18.5. Any revenues of the Licensee or any other Person which is received directly from the sale of merchandise through any Cable Service distributed over the Cable System, not including that portion of such revenue which represents or can be attributed to a Subscriber fee or a payment for the use of the Cable System for the sale of such merchandise, which portion shall be included in Gross Revenues;

1.18.6. Revenues from the sale of Cable Services on the Cable System to a reseller, when the reseller is required to pay (and does pay) cable license fees to the Town on the resale of the Cable Services;

1.18.7. The provision without charge of Cable Services to customers which are exempt from being charged for Cable Service pursuant to the Massachusetts Cable Law, including, without limitation, the provision of Cable Services to public institutions pursuant to the Massachusetts Cable Law or as required or permitted herein;

1.18.8. Any tax, fee or assessment of general applicability imposed by a Town, State, federal or any other governmental entity and required to be collected from Subscribers by Licensee and remitted to the taxing entity (including, but not limited to, taxes in the nature of a sales/use tax, communication taxes and non-cable license fees);

1.18.9. Any foregone revenues which Licensee chooses not to receive in exchange for its provision of free or reduced cost cable or other communications services to any

Person, including without limitation, employees of Licensee and public institutions or other institutions designated in this License; provided, however, that such foregone revenue which Licensee chooses not to receive in exchange for trades, barter, services or other items of value shall be included in Gross Revenues;

1.18.10. Revenues from the sales of capital assets or sales of surplus equipment (provided that this exclusion shall not include sales to Subscribers of converters, remote controls and other Subscriber equipment for the provision of Cable Service over the Cable System);

1.18.11. Reimbursement by programmers of marketing costs incurred by Licensee for the introduction of new programming; and

1.18.12. Directory or Internet advertising revenue including, but not limited to, yellow page, white page, banner advertisement and electronic publishing.

1.19. *High-Definition (HD) PEG Access Channel:* A PEG Access Channel in the high definition display format for digital television transmissions with video transmitted in a 16:9 aspect ratio with a resolution of 720p or 1080i.

1.20. *Information Services:* Shall be defined herein as it is defined under Section 3 of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. § 153(24).

1.21. *Internet Access Service:* Dial-up or broadband access service that enables Subscribers to access the Internet.

1.22. *Issuing Authority:* The Select Board of the Town of Ashland, Massachusetts.

1.23. *License Fee or Franchise Fee:* The payments to be made by the Licensee to the Town, which shall have the meaning as set forth in Section 622(g) of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. § 522(g), including payments made by the Licensee to the Town pursuant to Section 9 of the Massachusetts Cable Law (M.G.L. Chapter 166A).

1.24. *Licensee:* Verizon New England Inc., and its lawful and permitted successors, assigns and transferees.

1.25. *Massachusetts Cable Law:* Chapter 166A of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the regulations thereunder.

1.26. *Non-Cable Services:* Any service that does not constitute Cable Service(s) as defined herein over the FTTP Network in the Town, including, but not limited to, Information Services and Telecommunications Services.

1.27. *PEG:* Public, educational, and governmental.

1.28. *PEG Access Channel*: An Access Channel made available to the Town and/or the PEG Access Designee for PEG Access Programming pursuant to the terms of this License, and managed by the Issuing Authority and/or the PEG Access Designee as determined by the Issuing Authority.

1.29. *PEG Access Designee*: Any non-commercial and/or governmental entity designated by the Issuing Authority for the purpose of owning and/or operating the equipment and facilities used in the production and/or broadcast of PEG Access Channel programming for the Issuing Authority, including but not limited to, any nonprofit Access Corporation.

1.30. *PEG Access Programming*: Non-commercial Video Programming transmitted on the PEG Access Channel(s) pursuant to the terms of this License and applicable laws.

1.31. *Person*: An individual, partnership, association, joint stock company, trust, corporation, or governmental entity.

1.32. *Prime Rate*: The prime rate of interest as published in the *Wall Street Journal*.

1.33. *Public Access Channel*: An Access Channel made available by the Licensee for the non-commercial use by the residents in the Town and/or the PEG Access Designee, as determined by the Issuing Authority in accordance with 47 U.S.C. § 531 and this License.

1.34. *Public Rights-of-Way*: The surface and the area across, in, over, along, upon and below the surface of the public streets, roads, bridges, sidewalks, lanes, courts, ways, alleys, and boulevards, including public utility easements and public lands used as Public Rights-of-Way, as the same now or may thereafter exist, which are under the jurisdiction or control of the Town. Public Rights-of-Way do not include the airwaves above a right-of-way with regard to cellular or other non-wire communications or broadcast services.

1.35. *Service Area*: The entire existing territorial limits of the Town.

1.36. *Standard-Definition ("SD") PEG Access Channel*: A PEG Access Channel in the standard definition display format for digital television transmissions with video transmitted in a 4:3 aspect ratio with a resolution of 480i.

1.37. *State*: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

1.38. *Subscriber*: A Person who lawfully receives Cable Service over the Cable System with the Licensee's express permission.

1.39. *Telecommunications Facilities*: The Licensee's existing Telecommunications Services and Information Services facilities, including the FTTP Network.

1.40. *Telecommunication Services*: Shall be defined herein as it is defined under Section 3 of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. § 153(53).

1.41. *Title II*: Title II of the Communications Act.

1.42. *Title VI*: Title VI of the Communications Act.

1.43. *Town*: The Town of Ashland, Massachusetts.

1.44. *Transfer of this License*:

1.44.1. Any transaction in which:

1.44.1.1 an ownership or other interest in Licensee is transferred, directly or indirectly, from one Person or group of Persons to another Person or group of Persons, so that Control of Licensee is transferred; or

1.44.1.2 the rights held by Licensee under this License are transferred or assigned to another Person or group of Persons.

1.44.2. However, notwithstanding Sections 1.44.1.1 and 1.44.1.2 above, a Transfer of this License shall not include transfer of an ownership or other interest in Licensee to the parent of Licensee or to another Affiliate of Licensee; transfer of an interest in this License or the rights held by the Licensee under the License to the parent of Licensee or to another Affiliate of Licensee; any action which is the result of a merger of the parent of the Licensee; or any action which is the result of a merger of another Affiliate of the Licensee, except to the extent that any of the foregoing are determined to be a transfer of control pursuant to 207 CMR 4.01, in which case such transaction shall be subject to the Cable Division's transfer regulations (207 CMR 4.00 et. seq.) and Section 10 of this License.

1.45. *Video Programming or Programming*: Shall be defined herein as it is defined under Section 602(20) of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. § 522(20).

1.46. *Video Service Provider or VSP*: Any entity using any portion of the Public Rights-of-Way to provide Video Programming services to multiple subscribers within the territorial boundaries of the Town, for purchase, barter, or free of charge, regardless of the transmission method, facilities or technologies used. A VSP shall include, but is not limited to, any entity using any portion of the Public Rights-of-Way that provides Cable Services, multi-channel multipoint distribution services, broadcast satellite services, satellite delivered services, wireless services, and internet-protocol based services within the territorial boundaries of the Town.

2. GRANT OF AUTHORITY; LIMITS AND RESERVATIONS

2.1. *Grant of Authority*: Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement and the Massachusetts Cable Law, the Issuing Authority hereby grants the Licensee the right to own, operate and maintain a Cable System in, over and along the Public Rights-of-Way within the

Town and subsequent additions thereto, in order to provide Cable Service. No privilege or power of eminent domain is bestowed by this grant; nor is such a privilege or power bestowed by this Agreement. This License grants no authority for the Licensee to use the Public-Rights-of-Way within the Town for any purpose other than as provided herein. However, nothing in this License shall be construed to prohibit or limit the Licensee from offering any service over the Cable System that is not prohibited by federal or State law provided that any requirements for Town authorization or permitting not inconsistent with federal and State law are satisfied. The Licensee's FTTP Network in the Public Rights-of-Way is subject to M.G.L. c. 166, s. 22, and as such is subject to regulation by the Town consistent with that law, including all lawful and applicable Town bylaws and regulations regarding rights-of-way and public works matters, including rights-of-way management requirements with regard to public safety and other legitimate municipal concerns. To the extent that grants of location may be required for the ownership, operation and maintenance of the Cable System along the Public Rights-of-Way within the Town, the Town reserves the right to require that Licensee obtain grants of location and comply with such grant of location requirements.

2.2. *Issuing Authority Does Not Regulate Telecommunications:* The parties recognize that the FTTP Network is constructed, operated and maintained as an upgrade to and/or an extension of Licensee's existing Telecommunications Facilities under Title II and M.G.L. c. 166. The jurisdiction of the Town over such Telecommunications Facilities is restricted by federal and State law, and the Town does not and will not assert jurisdiction over Licensee's FTTP Network, in contravention of those limitations. The Issuing Authority's regulatory authority under Title VI does not extend to the construction, installation, maintenance or operation of the FTTP Network to the extent the FTTP Network is constructed, installed, maintained or operated for the purpose of upgrading and/or extending Verizon's existing Telecommunications Facilities for the provision of Non-Cable Services.

2.3. *Term:* The term of this License shall be for a period of five (5) years, commencing on July 12, 2023 (the "Effective Date"), and shall expire at midnight on July 11, 2028, unless sooner revoked or terminated as provided herein.

2.4. *Termination Generally:* Notwithstanding any provision herein to the contrary, following the thirtieth (30) month after the Effective Date, Licensee may terminate this License upon one hundred and eighty (180) days' written notice to the Issuing Authority.

2.5. *Modification/Termination Based on VSP Requirements:*

2.5.1. If the Issuing Authority enters into any cable franchise, cable license or similar agreement with a VSP to provide Video Programming services to residential subscribers in the Town with terms or conditions materially less burdensome than those imposed by this License, Licensee and the Issuing Authority shall, within sixty (60) days of the Issuing Authority's receipt of Licensee's written notice thereof, commence negotiations to modify this License to provide that this License is not on terms or conditions materially more burdensome than the terms in any such cable franchise, cable license or similar agreement. Any modification of this License pursuant to the terms of this Section shall not trigger the requirements of 207 CMR 3.07. The PEG

Grant and PEG Access Support, as respectively provided in Sections 5.3 and 5.4, will not be subject to modification under this Section 2.5.1, 2.5.2 or 2.5.3.

2.5.2. Licensee's notice pursuant to Section 2.5.1 shall specify the cable franchise, cable license or similar agreement and the materially less burdensome terms or conditions as set out in Section 2.5.1 above. Licensee shall respond to reasonable information requests from the Town, as may be necessary to review the same.

2.5.3. In the event the parties do not, subject to the procedure and criteria above, reach mutually acceptable agreement on a modification as set out above, Licensee shall in its sole discretion, have the option of exercising any of the following actions:

(i) Commencing License renewal proceedings in accordance with 47 U.S.C. 546 with the License term being accelerated, thus being deemed to expire thirty-six (36) months from the date of Licensee's written notice to seek relief hereunder;

(ii) Terminating the License in no less than thirty-six (36) months from written notice to the Issuing Authority;

(iii) If agreed by both parties, submitting the matter to commercial arbitration by a mutually-selected arbitrator in accordance with the rules of the American Arbitration Association; or

(iv) If agreed by both parties, submitting the matter to mediation by a mutually acceptable mediator.

2.5.4. Modification of the PEG Grant and PEG Access Support under this License shall, as applicable, be in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in Sections 5.3 and 5.4 hereunder. As stated above, the PEG Grant and PEG Access Support are not subject to modification under Sections 2.5.1, 2.5.2 or 2.5.3.

2.6. *Grant Not Exclusive:* This License and the rights granted herein to use and occupy the Public Rights-of-Way to provide Cable Services shall not be exclusive, and the Issuing Authority reserves the right to grant other licenses for similar uses or for other uses of the Public Rights-of-Way, or any portions thereof, to any Person, or to make any such use itself, at any time during the term of this License. Any such rights which are granted after the Effective Date shall not be inconsistent with the rights granted under this License or the Licensee's rights under State law with respect to its telecommunications network.

2.7. *License Subject to Federal and State Law:* Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary herein, this License is subject to and shall be governed by all applicable provisions of federal and State law as they may be amended, including but not limited to the Communications Act and the Massachusetts Cable Law.

2.8. *No Waiver:*

2.8.1. The failure of the Issuing Authority on one or more occasions to exercise a right or to require compliance or performance under this License, the Massachusetts Cable Law or any other applicable law shall not be deemed to constitute a waiver of such right or a waiver of compliance or performance by the Issuing Authority, nor to excuse Licensee from complying or performing, unless such right or such compliance or performance has been specifically waived in writing.

2.8.2. The failure of the Licensee on one or more occasions to exercise a right under this License or applicable law, or to require performance under this License, shall not be deemed to constitute a waiver of such right or of performance of this Agreement, nor shall it excuse the Issuing Authority from performance, unless such right or performance has been specifically waived in writing.

2.9. *Construction of Agreement:*

2.9.1. The provisions of this License shall be liberally construed to effectuate their objectives.

2.9.2. Nothing herein shall be construed to limit the scope or applicability of Section 625 of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. § 545.

2.10. *Police Powers:* Nothing in this License shall be construed to prohibit the reasonable, necessary and lawful exercise of the Town's police powers, provided that the Town shall not exercise its police powers in a manner that would result in a material alteration of the terms and conditions of this License. Any such police powers exercised by the Town in contravention of the preceding sentence shall be of no effect with respect to this License.

2.11. *Compliance with Federal and State Privacy Laws:* Licensee shall comply with the privacy provisions of Section 631 of the Communications Act and all other applicable federal and State privacy laws and regulations. The parties agree that, during the term hereof, Licensee shall not be subject to any local laws or bylaws which conflict with such applicable federal and/or State privacy laws, or which would impose additional or distinct requirements upon Licensee with respect to Subscriber privacy other than those which are expressly set forth in applicable federal and/or State privacy laws.

3. **PROVISION OF CABLE SERVICE**

3.1. *Service Area:* Subject to the issuance of all necessary permits by the Town, the Licensee shall continue to offer Cable Service to all residential households in the Service Area, except: (A) for periods of Force Majeure; (B) for periods of delay caused by the Town; (C) for periods of delay resulting from Licensee's inability to obtain authority to access rights-of-way in the Service Area; (D) in areas where developments or buildings are subject to claimed exclusive arrangements with other providers; (E) in areas, developments, buildings or other residential dwelling units that Licensee cannot obtain permission to access under reasonable terms and conditions after good faith negotiation, as reasonably determined by Licensee; (F) in areas, developments, buildings or other residential dwelling units where Licensee is unable to provide Cable Service for technical reasons or which require non-standard facilities which are not available

on a commercially reasonable basis, including, but not limited to, circumstances where Licensee cannot access the area, development, buildings or other residential dwelling units; (G) in areas, developments, buildings or other residential dwelling units that are not habitable or where the Licensee determines, in good faith, that providing such service is not commercially reasonable; and (H) to Subscribers who fail to abide by Licensee's terms and conditions of service.

3.2. *Availability of Cable Service:* The Licensee shall make Cable Service available to all residential dwelling units, and may make Cable Service available to businesses, within the Service Area in conformance with Section 3.1 and the Licensee shall not discriminate between or among any individuals in the availability of Cable Service. In the areas in which the Licensee shall provide Cable Service, Licensee shall be required to connect, at Licensee's expense, all residential dwelling units that are within one hundred twenty-five (125) feet of trunk or feeder lines not otherwise already served by the Licensee's FTTP Network. The Licensee shall be allowed to recover, from a Subscriber who requests such connection, actual costs incurred for residential dwelling unit connections that exceed one hundred twenty-five (125) feet as well as actual costs incurred to connect any non-residential dwelling unit Subscriber subject to Licensee's prior disclosure of such costs to such Subscriber and subject to such Subscriber's prior consent to same.

3.3. *Cable Service to Public Buildings:* In accordance with applicable provisions of the FCC's 2019 Third Report and Order In the Matter of Implementation of Section 621 of the Cable Act (the "621 Order"), within a reasonable period of time following the Effective Date, the Licensee shall provide not less than one hundred twenty (120) days written notice to the Issuing Authority regarding the manner and process by which the Licensee shall implement the 621 Order's requirements regarding the provision of free or discounted Cable Service to public buildings under a cable license. If there is a final determination or ruling of any agency or court having jurisdiction, after exhaustion of all appeals related thereto, reversing the 621 Order such that the provision of free or discounted Cable Service to public buildings pursuant to a cable franchise should no longer be included in the calculation of franchise fees subject to the five percent (5%) statutory cap under the Communications Act, then, subject to Section 3.1 and pursuant to Section 5(e) of the Massachusetts Cable Law, if requested in writing by the Issuing Authority within sixty (60) days following such ruling, Licensee shall provide a cable drop and an outlet activated for Basic Service along its cable routes within the Service Area at no cost to public schools, police and fire stations, public libraries, and other public buildings designated in writing by the Issuing Authority. All such written designations shall include the street address of each building. The current designation of such buildings and their addresses is set forth in Exhibit A. Licensee shall not be responsible for the cost of any terminal equipment (including television monitors, VCRs, DVDs, DVRs and/or computers) and shall not be responsible for any lost, stolen or damaged converters or other equipment that may be provided by Licensee. The cost of additional drops or outlets, inside wiring for said additional drops or outlets, and any converters requested by the Issuing Authority within the public buildings is the responsibility of the Town. The Licensee shall coordinate the location of each outlet with representatives for each of the buildings receiving service pursuant to this Section 3.3, including consideration of locating such outlet in a building hub or wire closet capable of transmitting signals through the buildings internal wiring where reasonable, technically feasible and not cost prohibitive. The parties hereto agree

that the exercise of any conditional obligations set forth in this Section 3.3 shall not constitute a modification or amendment of the License within the meaning of 207 CMR 3.07.

4. SYSTEM FACILITIES

4.1. *System Characteristics:* The Licensee's Cable System shall meet or exceed the following requirements:

4.1.1. The Cable System shall be operated with a digital carrier passband of between 54 and 863 MHz.

4.1.2. The Cable System shall be operated to be an active two-way plant for subscriber interaction, if any, required for the selection or use of Cable Service.

4.1.3. The Cable System shall comply with applicable FCC technical standards, as such standards may be amended from time to time.

4.1.4. The Cable System shall conform in all material respects to the following standards to the extent applicable: Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations, the National Electrical Code, the National Electrical Safety Code and the Massachusetts Electrical Code.

4.2. *Interconnection:* The Licensee shall design its Cable System so that it may be interconnected with other cable systems in the Town. Interconnection of systems may be made by direct cable connection, microwave link, satellite, or other appropriate methods.

4.3. *Emergency Alert System:* The Licensee shall comply with the Emergency Alert System ("EAS") requirements of the FCC and applicable State and local EAS Plans in order that emergency messages may be distributed over the Cable System.

4.4. *Parental Control Capability:* The Licensee shall comply with all applicable requirements of federal law governing Subscribers' capability to control the reception of any Channels being received on their television sets.

4.5. *Stereo Transmissions:* The Cable System shall be capable of passing through stereo signals to Subscribers.

5. PEG ACCESS SERVICES AND SUPPORT

5.1. *PEG Access Channels:*

5.1.1. The Licensee shall continue to make available to the Issuing Authority and/or the PEG Access Designee, as designated in writing by the Issuing Authority, capacity for three (3) SD PEG Access Channels on its Basic Service Tier. In accordance with Section 5.1.2 below, the Issuing Authority may also request one (1) HD PEG Access Channel for a total of four (4) PEG Access Channels.

5.1.2. In addition to the three (3) SD PEG Access Channels referenced above, the Licensee shall make one (1) HD PEG Access Channel available to the Town and/or the PEG Access Designee, as designated in writing by the Issuing Authority, as follows: Starting on the Effective Date of this Renewal License, the Issuing Authority may make a written request for such an HD PEG Access Channel to the Licensee. Upon receipt of the Issuing Authority's written request, the Licensee shall make such an HD PEG Access Channel available to Town or the PEG Access Designee within two hundred and seventy (270) days of the Licensee's receipt of such written notice from the Issuing Authority. The Issuing Authority shall include in the written notice a statement of whether the programming on such HD PEG Access Channel shall either be a simulcast of existing SD PEG Access Channel programming or distinct programming. The Issuing Authority or the PEG Access Designee, as determined by the Issuing Authority, may subsequently change the programming on the HD PEG Access Channel from an SD PEG Access Channel simulcast in HD to distinct programming, or from distinct programming to an HD simulcast of an existing SD PEG Access Channel, upon one hundred eighty (180) days prior written notice from the Issuing Authority to the Licensee which change shall not occur more than once during the License term. To the extent permitted by law, the Licensee shall be allowed to recover from Subscribers applicable costs incurred to transmit HD PEG Access Channel programming of any type.

5.1.3. All programming content for the HD PEG Access Channel shall be transmitted to Licensee in HD-SDI format with a resolution of 720p or 1080i. The HD PEG Access Channel may not be available at all times during the term of this License on Licensee's Basic Service Tier, and in order to view the HD PEG Access Channel, a Subscriber may be required to upgrade equipment at an additional charge.

5.1.4. The Town waives any objection that it may have with respect to Licensee's carriage of Ashland PEG Access programming outside of the Town to other areas in Massachusetts and releases and forever discharges the Licensee from any and all claims, actions, obligations or liabilities, whether known or unknown, that the Town may have arising from copyright and other intellectual property rights, which may arise from Licensee's carriage of such programming outside of the Town. The Licensee specifically reserves the right to make or change PEG Access Channel number assignments in its sole discretion; provided, however, that Licensee shall provide advance notice of any PEG Access Channel position change(s) to the Issuing Authority and Subscribers in accordance with applicable law. If a PEG Channel provided under this Article is not being utilized by the Town, Licensee may utilize such PEG Channel, in its sole discretion, until such time as the Issuing Authority elects to utilize the PEG Channel for its intended purpose. In the event that the Issuing Authority determines to use such PEG capacity, the Issuing Authority shall provide Licensee with one hundred twenty (120) days' prior written notice of such request.

5.1.5. The Licensee shall monitor the PEG Access Channels for technical quality and shall ensure that they are maintained at standards the same or better than those which apply to the Cable System's commercial Channels of similar format and resolution, provided, however, that the Licensee is not responsible for the production quality of PEG Access programming productions, nor for any deficiencies in the source signal it receives from any party

over which the Licensee has no control, nor for any PEG Access equipment not owned by the Licensee.

5.2. *PEG Access Interconnection:*

5.2.1. The Licensee shall continue to connect its Cable System to equipment owned by the Town and/or the PEG Access Designee at 200 Butterfield Drive, Ashland, (the "PEG Interconnection Site") in order to cablecast all PEG Access programming originated exclusively at the PEG Access Interconnection Site and the following two (2) remote origination locations: (i) Ashland Town Hall (101 Main Street); and (ii) Ashland High School auditorium (65 East Union Street) (each, an "Auxiliary Link"); provided, however, that the Auxiliary Links shall be migrated from physical connections upon expiration of the life of the equipment supporting them. Additionally, within sixty (60) days of Licensee's receipt of a written request from the Town, the Licensee shall provide to the Town and/or its PEG Access Designee, at Licensee's sole cost, two (2) IP decoders for use on an IP network furnished and operated by the Town and/or its PEG Access Designee and three (3) IP encoders. The Licensee shall work with the Town and/or the PEG Access Designee to ensure that said IP encoders function as part of the Town's and/or PEG Access Designee's IP network to deliver PEG Access Programming from the Auxiliary Sites to the PEG Access Studio in order to cablecast said programming. The Town and/or the PEG Access Designee shall own the IP decoders and IP encoders; provided, however, that Licensee shall warranty the IP decoders and IP encoders for a one (1) year period beginning on the date of delivery by Licensee to the Town and/or the PEG Access Designee.

5.2.2. The demarcation point between the Licensee's signal processing equipment (which the Licensee shall own, install and maintain) and the Town's and/or the PEG Access Designee's PEG equipment shall be at the output of the Town's and/or the PEG Access Designee's signal processing equipment at the PEG Interconnection Site. The Town and/or the PEG Access Designee shall be solely responsible for operating its switching equipment and the picture and audio quality of all PEG Access Programming up to the demarcation point and for ensuring all PEG Access Programming is inserted on the appropriate upstream PEG Access Channel. All PEG Access Programming shall be transmitted to the Licensee in baseband, SD-SDI or HD-SDI format with either mono or stereo audio signals, and with signals received by Licensee in stereo cablecast by Licensee in stereo. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Licensee shall not be obligated to provide the Town or PEG Access Designee with either cablecast equipment and facilities or the personnel responsible for maintaining and operating equipment and facilities on the Town's or PEG Access Designee's side of the demarcation point and used to generate or administer any PEG access signals, except as necessary to implement the Licensee's responsibilities specified herein. The Issuing Authority and the Licensee shall work together in good faith to resolve any connection issues. If the Issuing Authority issues a license to, or renews a license with, a competing VSP, the competing VSP may not connect its system to Licensee's System for the purposes of obtaining PEG access programming from the PEG Access Channels transmitted on Licensee's System without Licensee's prior written consent.

5.3. *PEG Grant:*

5.3.1. Licensee shall pay to the Issuing Authority, or to the PEG Access Designee if requested in writing by the Issuing Authority, a PEG Grant to be used for PEG Access Channel capital funding purposes in the total amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00) (the "PEG Grant"), as follows: Licensee shall pay to the Issuing Authority the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) within forty-five (45) days of the Effective Date. Two (2) additional payments in the amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) each shall be paid by the Licensee to the Issuing Authority on the first (1st) and third (3rd) anniversaries of the Effective Date. The Issuing Authority and/or PEG Access Designee, as determined by the Issuing Authority, shall own all facilities and equipment purchased with the PEG Grant.

5.3.2. If the Issuing Authority enters into any new or renewed cable license agreement with any other VSP which contains obligations associated with a PEG Grant or other comparable program that are lesser than the obligations set forth above, the Licensee's obligations under this Section shall be reduced, on an annual basis and upon the effective date of said agreement, to an amount equal to the lowest total payment required to be made by any such VSP to the Town. The relief available in the event of the foregoing is equitable relief going forward, and the Licensee shall not recover amounts already paid to the Town. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if at any time during the term of this License, any other such VSP ceases to provide cash grants to the Town in support of the production of local PEG programming in accordance with the terms of its respective cable license agreement, then Licensee's PEG Grant obligation shall also cease for so long as such other VSP's cash payments have ceased. The Issuing Authority shall provide notification to Licensee within thirty (30) days of such other VSP's failure to provide a cash grant in accordance with the schedule set forth in such VSP's license agreement with the Issuing Authority. Equipment, services and other in-kind, non-monetary contributions to the Town by such VSP shall not count towards the cash grants referenced in this paragraph.

5.4. *PEG Access Support:*

5.4.1. The Licensee shall provide annual funding to the Issuing Authority, or to the PEG Access Designee if requested in writing by the Issuing Authority, for PEG Access Channel operating support or other PEG Access Channel costs and expenses ("PEG Access Support") in the amount equal to five percent (5%) of annual Gross Revenue, subject to the limitation in Section 6.2; however, if the Issuing Authority issues or renews any cable license on or after the Effective Date that provides for a lower percentage of PEG Access Support, then the percentage of the Licensee's PEG Access Support payments shall be reduced to match such lower percentage over that same time period. The Issuing Authority shall place Licensee's PEG Access Support payments in a restricted account for PEG Access purposes in the nature of a grant account or other lawful restricted special cable account and not into the general fund, which account will be under the Issuing Authority's control subject to applicable law.

5.4.2. The PEG Access Support payments shall be made no later than forty-five (45) days following the end of each calendar quarter. Each such quarterly payment shall be accompanied by a statement certified by a duly authorized representative of Licensee setting forth in reasonable detail the Gross Revenues subject to the fee. The Licensee shall be allowed to

provide an extra payment if needed to correct any payments that were incorrectly omitted, and shall have the right to offset against future payments any payments that were incorrectly submitted, in connection with the quarterly remittances, within ninety (90) days following the close of the calendar quarter for which such payments were applicable. For purposes of the PEG Access Support payment, the period for determining Gross Revenues shall be the preceding calendar quarter. If Cable Services are provided to Subscribers in conjunction with Non-Cable Services, then the calculation of Gross Revenues shall be adjusted, if needed, to include only the value of the Cable Services billed to Subscribers, as reflected on the books and records of the Licensee in accordance with FCC rules, regulations, standards or orders.

5.5. *Third-Party Financial Disclosure Forms:* If requested by the Licensee, the Issuing Authority shall provide copies of financial disclosure forms required by the Massachusetts Attorney General's Public Charities Division of any entity designated by the Issuing Authority to receive payment pursuant to Sections 5.3.1 and 5.4.1.

5.6. *PEG Operational Rules.* The Issuing Authority and/or the PEG Access Designee shall establish rules and regulations that require all local producers and users of any of the PEG facilities or Channels to assume individual responsibility for any program-based liability including but not limited to liability for copyright infringement or defamation, and to hold the Issuing Authority, the Town and the Licensee harmless for same, subject to applicable federal statutory and FCC requirements. The Issuing Authority and/or the PEG Access Designee shall establish rules and regulations for use of PEG facilities consistent with, and as required by, Section 611 of the Communications Act (47 U.S.C. § 531) and this License.

5.7. *Recovery of Costs.* To the extent permitted by federal law, the Licensee shall be allowed to recover from Subscribers the costs of the PEG Grant, the PEG Access Support, the costs of PEG interconnection and any other costs arising from the provision of PEG services and to include such costs as separately billed line items on each Subscriber's bill. Without limiting the foregoing, if allowed under state and federal laws, Licensee may externalize, line-item, or otherwise pass-through interconnection costs to Subscribers.

5.8. *Non-Commercial Programming:* The Issuing Authority and PEG Access Designee shall not use the PEG Access Channels to provide for-profit commercial programming. Nothing in this Section shall prohibit the Issuing Authority or the PEG Access Designee from having memberships, sponsorships, underwriting or acknowledgements (such as underwriting and acknowledgements accepted by PBS), to the extent not otherwise prohibited by applicable law and regulation.

5.9. *Late Payments.* In the event that the PEG Grant, the PEG Access Support fee or the License Fee is not paid within thirty (30) days after the due dates set forth in this License for such payments, then interest shall accrue from thirty (30) days after the due date until the date paid at a rate equal to the Prime Rate.

5.10. *Listing of PEG Access Channels On Licensee's Electronic Program Guide:* If the Licensee lists PEG Access Channel program content titles on its electronic program guide in any other municipality in the State (other than on a test or trial basis), then it shall, upon written

request of the Issuing Authority, discuss in good faith with the Issuing Authority or the PEG Access Designee, the technical feasibility and commercial reasonability of listing the Town's PEG Access Channel program content titles on the Licensee's electronic program guide; however, the Licensee shall not be required to list the Town's PEG Access Channel program content titles on its electronic program guide.

5.11. *PEG Access Channel Video-On-Demand*: If the Licensee provides any other municipality in the State with PEG Access Channel programming "video-on-demand" (VOD) (other than on a test or trial basis), then it shall, upon written request of the Issuing Authority, discuss in good faith with the Issuing Authority, the technical feasibility and commercial reasonability of providing PEG Access Channel programming VOD in the Town; however, the Licensee shall not be required to provide PEG Access Channel programming VOD in the Town.

5.12. *No PEG Access Designee Rights*: The Issuing Authority and the Licensee herein acknowledge and agree that any PEG Access Designee is not a party to this License and that any provisions herein that may affect a PEG Access Designee are not intended to create any rights on behalf of any PEG Access Designee. In particular, the Issuing Authority's written designation of the PEG Access Designee as the entity to receive payments under Sections 5.3 and 5.4 does not vest in the PEG Access Designee any right, title or privilege to receive payments under the License. The Licensee may in its sole discretion upon seventy-five (75) days written notice to the Issuing Authority cease making such payments to the PEG Access Designee and instead make payments directly to the Issuing Authority if the Issuing Authority is in non-compliance with Section 5.5 of this License.

6. LICENSE FEES

6.1. *License Fee*: Pursuant to Section 9 of the Massachusetts Cable Law, the Licensee shall pay to the Town, throughout the term of this License, a license fee equal to fifty cents (\$.50) per Subscriber per year (the "License Fee").

6.2. *Maximum Franchise Fee Obligation*: The Licensee shall not be liable for a total Franchise Fee, pursuant to this License and applicable law in excess of five percent (5%) of annual Gross Revenues and in accordance with the definition of the term Franchise Fee and the five percent (5%) cap on Franchise Fee(s) as set forth in Section 622 of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. § 542 and FCC regulations and orders pursuant thereto.

6.3. *Payment Information*: In determining the License Fee, the number of Subscribers shall be measured as of December 31st of the preceding calendar year. The License Fee shall be paid no later than March 15th of each year during the term of this License.

6.4. *Limitation on Actions*: The parties agree that the period of limitation for recovery of any payment obligation under this Agreement shall be three (3) years from the date on which payment by Licensee is due.

6.5. *Recomputation:*

6.5.1. Tender or acceptance of any payment made pursuant to Article 5 and/or 6 herein shall not be construed as an accord that the amount paid is correct, nor shall such acceptance of payment be construed as a release of any claim that the Issuing Authority may have for additional sums, including interest payable under Section 5.9 above and/or pursuant to this Section 6.5. All amounts shall be subject to audit and re-computation by the Issuing Authority pursuant to this Section 6.5.

6.5.2. If the Issuing Authority has reason to believe that any such payment is incorrect, it shall notify the Licensee thereof in writing within ninety (90) business days after receiving such payment. The Licensee shall then have ninety (90) business days after receipt of such notice to provide the Town with additional information documenting the accuracy of such payment. In the event that the Issuing Authority does not reasonably believe that such documentation supports the accuracy of such payment, then the Issuing Authority may conduct an audit of such payment, provided that the Issuing Authority shall be limited to one audit every three years during the term of this License, which audit shall be applicable to the previous three (3) year period in accordance with Section 6.4 above. If, after such audit and re-computation, the Issuing Authority determines that an additional fee is owed to the Town, then the Licensee shall be provided with a reasonable opportunity to review the results of such audit and to dispute any audit results, and shall pay any such undisputed amounts within thirty (30) business days after completion of such review, together with any applicable late charges calculated pursuant to Section 5.9 above.

7. **CUSTOMER SERVICE**

7.1. *Standards:* The Licensee shall comply with the FCC's cable television customer service and notice regulations codified at 47 C.F.R. 76.309(c), 47 C.F.R. 76.1602, and 47 C.F.R. 76.1603, as amended, and the billing and termination of service provisions contained in 207 CMR 10.00, as amended. Measurement of the telephone availability standards in 47 C.F.R. § 76.309(c)(1)(ii) shall include all calls received by the Licensee at all call centers receiving calls from Subscribers, whether they are answered by a live representative, by an automated attendant, or abandoned after thirty (30) seconds of call waiting.

7.2. *Denial of Service:* Subject to applicable laws and regulations, nothing in these standards shall limit the right of the Licensee to deny Cable Service for non-payment of previously provided Cable Services, refusal to pay any required deposit, theft of Cable Service, damage to the Licensee's equipment, abusive and/or threatening behavior toward the Licensee's employees or representatives, refusal to provide credit history information or refusal to allow the Licensee to validate the identity, credit history and credit worthiness via an external credit agency, or failure to abide by the Licensee's terms and conditions of service.

7.3. *Outage Credits:* In the event that all Cable Service is interrupted for twenty-four (24) or more hours, Licensee will grant affected Subscribers a pro rata credit or rebate.

8. REPORTS AND RECORDS

8.1. *Open Books and Records:* Upon at least thirty (30) business days written notice to the Licensee, the Issuing Authority or its designee shall have the right to inspect at an office of the Licensee, the Licensee's books and records pertaining to the Licensee's provision of Cable Service in the Town during Licensee's regular business hours and on a reasonable and non-disruptive basis, as is reasonably necessary to ensure compliance with the terms of this License. Such notice shall specifically reference the section or subsection of this License which is under review, so that Licensee may organize the necessary books and records for appropriate access by the Issuing Authority. The Licensee shall not be required to maintain any books and records for License compliance purposes longer than three (3) years. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth herein, the Licensee shall not be required to disclose information that it reasonably deems to be proprietary or confidential in nature, nor disclose any of its or an Affiliate's books and records not relating to the provision of Cable Service in the Town. If the Licensee believes that the requested information is proprietary or confidential, then the Licensee shall provide the following information to the Issuing Authority: (i) specific identification of the information; (ii) a statement attesting to the reason(s) Licensee believes the information is confidential; and (iii) a statement that the documents are available at the Licensee's designated offices for inspection by the Issuing Authority. The Issuing Authority shall take reasonable steps to the extent consistent with public records laws to protect the confidential nature of any books, records, maps, plans or other requested documents that are provided to the extent they are designated as such by Licensee in accordance herewith, including without limitation, cooperating with the Licensee's exercise of its rights to protect its confidential information from public disclosure. Licensee shall not be required to provide Subscriber information in violation of Section 631 of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. § 551.

8.2. *Records Required:* The Licensee shall at all times maintain:

8.2.1. Records of all written complaints for a period of three (3) years after receipt by the Licensee;

8.2.2. Records of outages for a period of three (3) years after occurrence, indicating date, duration, area, and the number of Subscribers affected, type of outage, and cause;

8.2.3. Records of service calls for repair and maintenance for a period of three (3) years after resolution by the Licensee, indicating the date and time service was required, the date of acknowledgment and date and time service was scheduled (if it was scheduled), and the date and time service was provided, and (if different) the date and time the problem was resolved;

8.2.4. Records of installation/reconnection and requests for service extension for a period of three (3) years after the request was fulfilled by Licensee, indicating the date of request, date of acknowledgment, and the date and time service was extended; and

8.2.5. A map showing the area of coverage for the provisioning of Cable Services.

8.3. *Additional Reports:* Upon written request of the Issuing Authority, the Licensee shall provide a copy of any documents or forms filed by the Licensee with the FCC and/or the DTC that materially pertain to the Licensee's Cable System in the Town.

8.4. *Proof of Performance Tests:* Upon written request of the Issuing Authority, the Licensee shall provide a copy of proof of performance tests required by applicable law.

8.5. *Annual Performance Review:* The Issuing Authority may, at its discretion but not more than once per twelve-month period, hold a performance evaluation session. The purpose of such evaluation session shall be to review Licensee's compliance with the terms and conditions of this License. The Issuing Authority shall provide Licensee with thirty (30) days advance written notice of such evaluation session. The Issuing Authority shall provide Licensee with a written report with respect to Licensee's compliance within thirty (30) days after the conclusion of such evaluation session.

8.6. *Quality of Service:* If there exists credible evidence which, in the reasonable judgment of the Issuing Authority, casts doubt upon the reliability or technical quality of the Licensee's Cable Services in the Town, then, after notice to the Licensee and an opportunity to cure, the Issuing Authority shall have the right to require the Licensee to test, analyze and report in writing on the performance of the Cable System.

9. INSURANCE AND INDEMNIFICATION

9.1. *Insurance:*

9.1.1. The Licensee shall maintain in full force and effect, at its own cost and expense, during the term of this License, the following insurance coverage:

9.1.1.1. Commercial General Liability Insurance in the amount of six million dollars (\$6,000,000) per occurrence for property damage and bodily injury and six million dollars (\$6,000,000) general aggregate. Such insurance shall cover the construction, operation and maintenance of the Cable System, and the conduct of Licensee's Cable Service business in the Town.

9.1.1.2. Automobile Liability Insurance covering all owned, non-owned, hired and/or rented motor vehicles in the amount of six million dollars (\$6,000,000) combined single limit for bodily injury and property damage coverage.

9.1.1.3. Workers' Compensation Insurance meeting all legal requirements of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

9.1.1.4. Employers' Liability Insurance in the following amounts: (A) Bodily Injury by Accident: \$100,000; and (B) Bodily Injury by Disease – each employee: \$100,000; \$500,000 disease-policy limit.

9.1.2. The Town shall be included as an additional insured as their interests may appear under this License on the Commercial General Liability Insurance and Automobile Liability Insurance required herein.

9.1.3. Upon receipt of notice from its insurer(s) the Licensee shall provide the Issuing Authority with thirty (30) days' prior written notice of cancellation of any required coverage.

9.1.4. Each of the required insurance policies shall be with insurers qualified to do business in the State of Massachusetts, with an A.M. Best Financial Strength rating of A- or better.

9.1.5. Upon written request, the Licensee shall deliver to the Issuing Authority Certificates of Insurance showing evidence of the required coverage.

9.2. *Indemnification:*

9.2.1. The Licensee shall indemnify and hold the Town, its officials, councils, committees, agents and employees harmless at all times during the term of this License from any and all claims, suits and judgments, whether for damages or otherwise arising out of the installation, operation, or maintenance of the Cable System or the provision of Cable Services in the Town, provided that the Town shall give the Licensee written notice of its request for indemnification within a period of time from receipt of a claim pursuant to this subsection sufficient to enable Licensee to timely answer complaints, raise defenses and to defend all claims. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Licensee shall not indemnify the Town for any damages, liability or claims resulting from the willful misconduct or negligence of the Town, its officers, agents, employees, attorneys, consultants, independent contractors or third parties, or for any activity or function conducted by any Person other than Licensee in connection with PEG Access or EAS, or the distribution of any Cable Service over the Cable System.

9.2.2. With respect to the Licensee's indemnity obligations set forth in Section 9.2.1., the Licensee shall, at its own expense, provide the defense of any claims brought against the Town by selecting counsel of the Licensee's choice to defend the claim, subject to the consent of the Town, which shall not unreasonably be withheld. Nothing herein shall be deemed to prevent the Town from cooperating with the Licensee and participating in the defense of any litigation by its own counsel at its own cost and expense, provided however, that after consultation with the Town, the Licensee shall have the right to defend, settle or compromise any claim or action arising hereunder, and the Licensee shall have the authority to decide the appropriateness and the amount of any such settlement. In the event that the terms of any such proposed settlement includes the release of the Town and the Town does not consent to the terms of any such settlement or compromise, the Licensee shall not settle the claim or action but its obligation to indemnify the Town shall in no event exceed the amount of such proposed settlement.

9.3. *Performance Bond.* The Licensee shall provide to the Town, and shall maintain throughout the term of this License, a performance bond in the Town's favor in the amount of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000), which shall insure against material default by Licensee of the performance of its obligations under this License. In the event that a

performance bond provided pursuant to this License is not renewed or is cancelled, the Licensee shall provide a new bond pursuant to this Article within thirty (30) days of such failure to renew or cancellation. Neither cancellation, nor termination nor refusal by the surety to extend the bond, nor the inability of the Licensee to file a replacement bond or replacement security for its obligations under this License, shall constitute a loss to the Town recoverable under the bond. If the Town suffers any damages as a result of the Licensee's failure to comply with the material provisions of this License, then the Town may recover from the surety of the bond all such damages suffered by the Town, provided that the total of such damages recovered from the bond shall not exceed the amount of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000). Recourse by the Town of remedies available under this Section 9.3 shall not be exclusive of other lawful remedies available to the Town at law and equity.

10. TRANSFER OF LICENSE

Subject to Section 617 of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. § 537, no Transfer of this License shall occur without the prior consent of the Issuing Authority, provided that such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld, delayed or conditioned. Such consent shall be given only after a public hearing upon a written application and forms therefore as provided by the FCC and the Cable Division. No such consent shall be required, however, for a transfer in trust, by mortgage, by other hypothecation, by assignment of any rights, title, or interest of the Licensee in this License or the Cable System in order to secure indebtedness, or for transactions otherwise excluded under Section 1.42 above, except to the extent that any of the foregoing are determined to be a transfer of control pursuant to 207 CMR 4.01, in which case such transaction shall be subject to the Cable Division's transfer regulations (207 CMR 4.00 et. seq.). The transferee of any Transfer of this License shall be subject to the terms and conditions contained in this License.

11. RENEWAL OF LICENSE

11.1. *Governing Law:* The Town and the Licensee agree that any proceedings undertaken by the Town that relate to the renewal of this License shall be governed by and comply with the provisions of Section 626 of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. § 546, the Massachusetts Cable Law and Section 13.12 below.

11.2. *Needs Assessments:* In addition to the procedures set forth in Section 626 of the Communications Act, the Town shall reasonably notify the Licensee of its assessments regarding the identity of future cable-related community needs and interests, as well as the past performance of the Licensee under the terms of this License consistent with the requirements of applicable law. Such assessments shall be provided to the Licensee by the Town such that the Licensee has adequate time to submit a proposal under Section 626 of the Communications Act prior to expiration of its term and consistent with any applicable timetables or requirements set forth in applicable law.

11.3. *Informal Negotiations:* Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth herein and subject to applicable law, the Licensee and the Town agree that at any time during the term of the then current License, while affording the public appropriate notice and opportunity to comment, the Town and the Licensee may agree to undertake and finalize informal negotiations

regarding renewal of the then current License and the Issuing Authority may grant a renewal thereof.

11.4. *Consistent Terms:* The Licensee and the Town consider the terms set forth in this Article 12 to be consistent with the express provisions of Section 626 of the Communications Act.

12. ENFORCEMENT AND TERMINATION OF LICENSE

12.1. *Notice of Violation:* If at any time the Issuing Authority believes that Licensee has not complied with the terms of this License, the Issuing Authority shall informally discuss the matter with the Licensee, however the Issuing Authority reserves the right to inform Licensee in writing prior to informal discussions. If these informal discussions do not lead to resolution of the problem in a reasonable time, the Issuing Authority shall then notify the Licensee in writing of the exact nature of the alleged noncompliance (for purposes of this Article, the "Noncompliance Notice").

12.2. *Licensee's Right to Cure or Respond:* The Licensee shall have thirty (30) days from receipt of the Noncompliance Notice to: (i) respond in writing to the Issuing Authority, if Licensee contests (in whole or in part) the assertion of noncompliance; (ii) cure such noncompliance; or (iii) in the event that, by its nature, such noncompliance cannot be cured within such thirty (30) day period, initiate reasonable steps to remedy such noncompliance and notify the Issuing Authority of the steps being taken and the date by which they are projected to be completed. In no event shall the cure period exceed a total of ninety (90) days from response pursuant to (i) unless the Licensee demonstrates in good faith to the Issuing Authority that such noncompliance cannot be cured within such 90-day period. Upon cure of any noncompliance, the Town shall provide Licensee with written confirmation that such cure has been effected.

12.3. *Public Hearing:* In the event that the Licensee fails to respond to the Noncompliance Notice pursuant to the procedures required by this Article, or in the event that the alleged noncompliance is not remedied within thirty (30) days or the date projected pursuant to Section 12.2(iii) above, and if the Issuing Authority seeks to continue its investigation into the alleged noncompliance, then the Issuing Authority shall schedule a public hearing. The Issuing Authority shall provide Licensee at least thirty (30) business days prior written notice of such public hearing, which will specify the time, place and purpose of such public hearing, and provide Licensee the opportunity to be heard.

12.4. *Enforcement:* Subject to applicable federal and State law, in the event the Issuing Authority, after the public hearing set forth in Section 12.3, determines that Licensee is in default of any provision of this License, the Issuing Authority may:

12.4.1. Seek specific performance of any provision, which reasonably lends itself to such remedy, as an alternative to damages; or

12.4.2. Commence an action at law for monetary damages or seek other equitable relief; or

12.4.3. Submit a claim against an appropriate part of the performance bond pursuant to Section 9.3 above; or

12.4.4. In the case of a substantial noncompliance of a material provision of this License, seek to revoke this License in accordance with Section 12.5.

12.5. *Revocation:* Should the Issuing Authority seek to revoke this License after following the procedures set forth in this Article, including the public hearing described in Section 12.3, the Issuing Authority shall give written notice to the Licensee of such intent. The notice shall set forth the specific nature of the noncompliance. The Licensee shall have ninety (90) days from receipt of such notice to object in writing and to state its reasons for such objection. In the event the Issuing Authority has not received a satisfactory response from Licensee, it may then seek termination of this License at a second public hearing. The Issuing Authority shall cause to be served upon the Licensee, at least thirty (30) business days prior to such public hearing, a written notice specifying the time and place of such hearing and stating its intent to revoke this License.

12.5.1. At the designated public hearing, the Licensee shall be provided a fair opportunity for full participation, including the right to be represented by legal counsel, to introduce relevant evidence, to require the production of evidence, to compel the relevant testimony of the officials, agents, employees or consultants of the Issuing Authority, to compel the testimony of other persons as permitted by law, and to question and/or cross examine witnesses. A complete verbatim record and transcript shall be made of such hearing.

12.5.2. Following the second public hearing, the Licensee shall be provided up to thirty (30) days to submit its proposed findings and conclusions to the Issuing Authority in writing and thereafter, the Issuing Authority shall determine (i) whether an event of default has occurred under this License; (ii) whether such event of default is excusable; and (iii) whether such event of default has been cured or will be cured by the Licensee. The Issuing Authority shall also determine whether it will revoke this License based on the information presented, or, where applicable, grant additional time to the Licensee to effect any cure. If the Issuing Authority determines that it will revoke this License, the Issuing Authority shall promptly provide Licensee with a written determination setting forth the Issuing Authority's reasoning for such revocation. The Licensee may appeal such written determination of the Issuing Authority to an appropriate court, which shall have the power to review the decision of the Issuing Authority de novo. The Licensee shall be entitled to such relief as the court finds appropriate. Such appeal must be taken within sixty (60) days of the Licensee's receipt of the written determination of the Issuing Authority.

12.5.3. The Issuing Authority may, at its sole discretion, take any lawful action that it deems appropriate to enforce the Issuing Authority's rights under this License in lieu of revocation of this License.

13. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

13.1. *Actions of Parties:* In any action by the Town or the Licensee that is mandated or permitted under the terms hereof, such party shall act in a reasonable, expeditious, and timely manner. Furthermore, in any instance where approval or consent is required by either

party under the terms hereof, such approval or consent shall not be unreasonably withheld, delayed or conditioned.

13.2. *Binding Acceptance:* This Agreement shall bind and benefit the parties hereto and their respective receivers, trustees, successors and assigns.

13.3. *Preemption:* In the event that federal or State law, rules, or regulations preempt a provision or limit the enforceability of a provision of this Agreement, the provision shall be read to be preempted to the extent and for the time, but only to the extent and for the time, required by law. In the event such federal or State law, rule or regulation is subsequently repealed, rescinded, amended or otherwise changed so that the provision hereof that had been preempted is no longer preempted, such provision shall thereupon return to full force and effect, and shall thereafter be binding on the parties hereto, without the requirement of further action on the part of the Issuing Authority.

13.4. *Force Majeure:* The parties shall not be held in default under, or in noncompliance with, the provisions of this License, nor suffer any enforcement or penalty relating to noncompliance or default, where such noncompliance or alleged defaults occurred or were caused by a Force Majeure, provided that the Licensee takes reasonable steps under the circumstances to comply with the obligations of the License to the maximum extent possible without endangering the health or safety of the Licensee's employees or property, or the health or safety of the Town or the public, or their property. In the event that any such delay in performance or failure to perform affects only part of the Licensee's capacity to perform, the Licensee shall perform to the maximum extent it is able to do so in as expeditious a manner as possible under the circumstances. Furthermore, the parties hereby agree that it is not the Town's intention to subject Licensee to penalties, fines, forfeitures or revocation of this License for violations of this License where the violation was a good faith error that resulted in no or minimal negative impact on Subscribers.

13.5. *Delivery of Payments:* Licensee may use electronic funds transfer to make any payments to the Town or Issuing Authority required under this Agreement. Said electronic transfer must be in the form, including necessary explanatory information and documentation, and to the account, all as reasonably required by the Town or Issuing Authority.

13.6. *Notices:* Unless otherwise expressly stated herein, notices required under this License shall be mailed first class, postage prepaid, to the addressees below. Each party may change its designee by providing written notice to the other party.

Notices to the Licensee shall be mailed to:

Verizon New England Inc.
6 Bowdoin Square
10th Floor
Boston, MA 02114
Attention: Niall Connors, Franchise Service Manager

with a copy to:

Verizon
1300 I St. NW
Suite 500 East
Washington, DC 20005
Attention: Tonya Rutherford, VP and Deputy General Counsel

Notices to the Issuing Authority shall be mailed to:

Select Board
Ashland Town Hall
101 Main Street
Ashland, MA 01721

13.7. *Entire Agreement:* This License and the Exhibit hereto constitute the entire agreement between Licensee and the Issuing Authority and supersede all prior or contemporaneous agreements, representations or understandings (written or oral) of the parties regarding the subject matter hereof. Any bylaws or ordinances or parts thereof that conflict with the provisions of this License are superseded by this License.

13.8. *Amendments:* Amendments or modifications to this License shall be mutually agreed to in writing by the parties, except as otherwise provided herein.

13.9. *Captions:* The captions and headings of articles and sections throughout this Agreement are intended solely to facilitate reading and reference to the sections and provisions of this Agreement. Such captions shall not affect the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement.

13.10. *Severability:* If any section, subsection, sentence, paragraph, term, or provision hereof is determined to be illegal, invalid, or unenforceable, by any court of competent jurisdiction or by any State or federal regulatory authority having jurisdiction thereof, such determination shall have no effect on the validity of any other section, subsection, sentence, paragraph, term or provision hereof, all of which will remain in full force and effect for the term of this License.

13.11. *Recitals:* The recitals set forth in this Agreement are incorporated into the body of this Agreement as if they had been originally set forth herein.

13.12. *FTTP Network Transfer Prohibition:* Under no circumstance including, without limitation, upon expiration, revocation, termination, or denial of renewal of this License or any other action to forbid or disallow the Licensee from providing Cable Services, shall the Licensee or its assignees be required to sell any right, title, interest, use or control of any portion of the Licensee's FTTP Network including, without limitation, the Cable System and any capacity used for Cable Service or otherwise, to the Town or any third party. The Licensee shall not be required to remove the FTTP Network or to relocate the FTTP Network or any portion thereof as a result of revocation, expiration, termination, denial of renewal or any other action to forbid or disallow the Licensee from providing Cable Services. This provision is not intended to contravene leased access requirements under Title VI or the PEG requirements set out in this Agreement.

13.13. *Interpretation:* The Issuing Authority and the Licensee each acknowledge that it has received independent legal advice in entering into this Agreement. In the event that a dispute arises over the meaning or application of any term(s) of this Agreement, such term(s) shall not be construed by the reference to any doctrine calling for ambiguities to be construed against the drafter of the Agreement.

13.14. *No Third Party Beneficiary:* Nothing in this License shall be construed to create or confer any rights or benefits to any third party.

13.15. *Jurisdiction.* Except as otherwise set forth in this License, exclusive jurisdiction and venue over any dispute arising out of this License shall be in a federal or state court of appropriate venue and subject matter jurisdiction located in the State, and the parties hereby agree to be subject to the personal jurisdiction of such court for the resolution of any such dispute.

13.16. *Counterparts:* This License may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original and all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument. Further, this License may be executed by facsimile, email, electronic signature or other electronic means, and so executed shall have the full force and legal effect as an executed original of this License.

SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS

AGREED TO THIS 12th DAY OF JULY, 2023.

TOWN OF ASHLAND

By its Select Board:

Brandi Kinsman, Chair

Robert K. Scherer, Vice-Chair

Steve Mitchell, Clerk

Yolanda Greaves, Member

Joseph J Magnani, Jr.

Approved as to Form:

William August, Esq.
Epstein & August, LLP
Counsel to the Town of Ashland

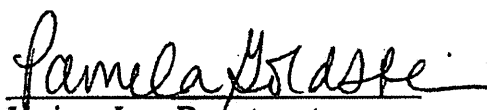
VERIZON NEW ENGLAND INC.



By:

Kevin M. Service, Senior Vice
President of Operations – Consumer
and Mass Business Markets


Approved as to Form:


Verizon Law Department
6/2/23


Signature Page

AGREED TO THIS 12th DAY OF JULY, 2023.

TOWN OF ASHLAND
By its Select Board:



Robert K. Scherer, Chair

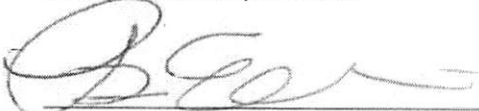


Yolanda Greaves, Vice-Chair

Joseph J. Magnani, Jr., Clerk



Claudia Bennett, Member



Brandi Kinsman

Approved as to Form:



William August, Esq.
Epstein & August, LLP
Counsel to the Town of Ashland

VERIZON NEW ENGLAND INC.

By:

Kevin M. Service, Senior Vice
President of Operations – Consumer
and Mass Business Markets

Approved as to Form:

Verizon Law Department

Signature Page

EXHIBIT

**EXHIBIT A – PUBLIC BUILDINGS TO BE PROVIDED CABLE SERVICE
SUBJECT TO SECTION 3.3**

Exhibit List

**Town of Ashland – Verizon New England Inc.
Cable Television Renewal License – July 12, 2023**

EXHIBIT A
PUBLIC BUILDINGS TO BE PROVIDED CABLE SERVICE
SUBJECT TO SECTION 3.3

1. Warren School - 73 Fruit St
2. Middle School - 87 W Union St
3. Mindess School - 90 Concord St
4. Pittaway School - 75 Central St
5. Fire Dept - 151 Main St
6. Library - 66 Front St
7. Access Studio - 87 W Union St
8. Town Hall - 101 Main St
9. Fire Dept - 70 Cedar St
10. Historical Commission Building - 2 Myrtle St
11. DPW Dept - 20 Ponderosa Rd
12. Public Safety Building – 12 Union St
13. Community Center - 162 W Union St
14. High School - 65 E Union St

Exhibit A

Town of Ashland – Verizon New England Inc.
Cable Television Renewal License – July 12, 2023