

**CABLE TELEVISION
RENEWAL LICENSE**

**GRANTED TO
VERIZON NEW ENGLAND INC.**

June 29, 2024

**SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF GROTON,
MASSACHUSETTS**

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EXHIBIT

EXHIBIT A – MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS TO BE PROVIDED CABLE SERVICE
(SUBJECT TO SECTION 3.3)

THIS CABLE RENEWAL LICENSE AGREEMENT (this “License” or “Agreement”) is entered into by and between the Select Board of the Town of Groton, as Issuing Authority for the grant of the cable television license 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 Title VI (as hereinafter defined) (see 47 U.S.C. § 522(10)) and is authorized to grant one or more nonexclusive cable licenses pursuant to the Massachusetts Cable Law;

WHEREAS, the Issuing Authority granted to Licensee effective as of June 29, 2009, a nonexclusive 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 and maintain 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 Licensee shall make available to the Town without charge for non-commercial public, educational, or governmental use for the transmission of Video Programming as directed by the Issuing Authority or the PEG Access Designee.

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*: 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.

1.5. *Cable Service* or *Cable Services*: Shall be defined herein as it is defined under Section 602 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 of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. § 522(7), meaning Licensee's 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.

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

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

1.9. *Communications Act*: The Communications Act of 1934, as amended, which includes the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, as amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992 and by the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

1.10. *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.

1.11. *Educational Access Channel*: An Access Channel available for the non-commercial use of the local public schools in the Town, as well as the PEG Access Designee.

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

1.13. *Force Majeure*: An event or events reasonably beyond the ability of Licensee 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, epidemics, act of public enemy, actions or inactions of any government instrumentality or public utility including condemnation, accidents for which the Licensee is not primarily responsible, fire, flood, or other acts of God, or 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.

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

1.15. *Government Access Channel*: An Access Channel available for the non-commercial use of the Issuing Authority and/or the PEG Access Designee.

1.16. *Gross Revenues*: All revenue, as determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, which is 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: fees collected from Subscribers for Cable Services (including, but not limited to, basic and premium Cable Services and pay-per-view Cable Service); installation, reconnection, change-in-service (upgrades, downgrades, etc.) and similar charges; leased access programming revenues; 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; revenues that the 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 as prorated to include such revenue attributable to the Cable System in the Town based on the number of Subscribers; and except as provided below, all fees imposed on the Licensee by this License and applicable law that are passed through and paid to the Licensee by Subscribers. In no event shall revenue of an Affiliate be Gross Revenue to the Licensee if such revenue is otherwise subject to cable franchise and/or license fees to be paid to the Issuing Authority. Provided, however, that Gross Revenues shall not include:

1.16.1. Revenues received by any Affiliate of Licensee, except to the extent that such revenues are derived from the operation of the Cable System to provide Cable Service in the Town;

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

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

1.16.4. Any revenues classified, in whole or in part, as Non-Cable Services revenue under federal or State law including, without limitation, revenue received from Telecommunications Services and Information Services, including, without limitation, Internet Access Service, electronic mail service, electronic bulletin board service, or similar online computer services; directory or Internet advertising revenue including, but not limited to, yellow page, white page, banner advertisement and electronic publishing;

1.16.5. Any revenues which is received directly from the sale of merchandise through any Cable Service distributed over the Cable System, notwithstanding that any 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 (i.e., home shopping channels) shall be included in Gross Revenues;

1.16.6. Revenues from the sale of Cable Services on the Cable System to a reseller, when the reseller is required to pay cable license fees to the Town on the resale of such Cable Services;

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

1.16.8. Any revenues foregone as a result of the Licensee's provision of free or reduced cable or other communications services to any Person, including without limitation, employees of Licensee and public institutions or other institutions as required or permitted herein; 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;

1.16.9. Revenues from the sales of capital assets or sales of surplus equipment (provided that this exclusion shall not include revenues from the sale to Subscribers of Subscriber equipment used for the provision of Cable Service over the Cable System);

1.16.10. Program launch fees; and

1.16.11. Any fees or charges collected from Subscribers or other third parties for the PEG Grant.

1.17. *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.

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

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

1.20. *Issuing Authority:* The Select Board of the Town of Groton, Massachusetts.

1.21. *License Fee:* The payments to be made by the Licensee to the Town, which shall have the meaning as set forth in M.G.L. c.166A, Section 9.

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

1.23. *Massachusetts Cable Law:* Chapter 166A of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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

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

1.26. *PEG Access Designee*: Any 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 Access Corporation.

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

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

1.29. *Public Access Channel*: An Access Channel available for the non-commercial use by residents in the Town and managed by the Issuing Authority and/or the PEG Access Designee.

1.30. *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 and waterways 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.

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

1.32. *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.

1.33. *State*: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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

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

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

1.37. *Title II*: Title II of the Communications Act, as amended.

1.38. *Title VI*: Title VI of the Communications Act, as amended.

1.39. *Town*: The Town of Groton, Massachusetts.

1.40. *Transfer of the License*:

1.40.1. Any transaction in which:

1.40.1.1. 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

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

1.40.2. However, notwithstanding Sections 1.40.1.1 and 1.40.1.2 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 M.G.L. c. 166A, Section 7, and 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.).

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

1.42. *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 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 along the Public Rights-of-Way within the Town, in order to provide Cable Service. Notwithstanding any provision of this License, unless otherwise permitted by federal or State law, the Licensee may not provide Cable Service over the Public Rights-of-Way in the Town other than pursuant to the terms of this License (and any amendments and renewals thereto). However, nothing in this License shall be construed to prohibit the Licensee from offering any service over the Cable System that is not prohibited by federal or State law. No privilege or power of eminent domain is bestowed by this grant; nor is such a privilege or power bestowed by this Agreement.

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, and the FTTP Network is subject to Town regulation consistent with such laws, including all lawful and applicable Town bylaws and regulations regarding rights-of-way and public works matters. The Issuing Authority’s regulatory authority under Title VI and M.G.L. c. 166A does not extend to the construction, installation, maintenance or operation of the Licensee’s Telecommunications Facilities or its provision of Non-Cable Services. 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.

2.3. *Term:* The term of this License shall be for a period of five (5) years, commencing on June 29, 2024 (the “Effective Date”), and expiring at midnight on June 28, 2029, unless sooner revoked or terminated as provided herein.

2.4. *Termination Generally:* Notwithstanding any provision herein to the contrary, Licensee may terminate this License and all obligations hereunder at any time during the term of this License for any reason, in Licensee’s sole discretion, upon sixty (60) days’ written notice to the Issuing Authority.

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

2.5.1. If there is a change in federal, State, or local law that reduces any material financial and/or operational obligation that the Issuing Authority has required from or imposed upon a VSP, or if the Issuing Authority enters into any franchise, agreement, license, or grant of authorization to 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, commence negotiations to modify this License to create reasonable competitive equity between Licensee and such other VSP. Any modification of the License pursuant to the terms of this section shall not trigger the requirements of 207 CMR 3.07.

2.5.2. Licensee’s notice pursuant to Section 2.5.1 shall specify the change in law and the resulting change in obligations. Licensee shall respond to reasonable information requests from the Town, as may be necessary to review the change in obligations resulting from the cited law.

2.5.3. In the event the parties do not reach mutually acceptable agreement on a modification requested by Licensee, Licensee shall, at any time and in its sole discretion, have the option of exercising any of the following actions:

- a. commencing license renewal proceedings in accordance with 47 U.S.C. § 546
- b. terminating the License within two (2) years from written notice to the Issuing Authority;

- c. submitting the matter to mediation by a mutually-acceptable mediator; or
- d. 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.

2.5.4. The PEG Grant and PEG Access Support, as provided in Sections 5.3 and 5.4, will not be subject to modification under this Section 2.5. PEG Grant and PEG Access Support payments under this License shall be modified in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in Sections 5.3 and 5.4 hereunder.

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 themselves, at any time during the term of this License. Any such rights shall not be in conflict with the authority as granted by this License. Disputes between the Licensee and other parties regarding use of Public Rights-of-Way shall be resolved in accordance with applicable law.

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 Title VI 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. However, if the reasonable, necessary and lawful exercise of the Town's police powers results in any material alteration of the terms and conditions of this License, then the parties shall modify this License to the mutual satisfaction of both parties to ameliorate the negative effects on the Licensee of the material alteration. If the parties cannot reach agreement on the above-referenced modification to this License, then the parties agree to submit the matter to binding arbitration in accordance with the commercial arbitration rules of the American Arbitration Association. This Section 2.10 shall be subject to the procedural requirements of 207 CMR 3.07.

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 ordinances 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:

3.1.1. *Service Area*: 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, developments, buildings or other residential dwelling units that Licensee cannot access under reasonable terms and conditions after good faith negotiation, as reasonably determined by Licensee; (E) 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 by using Licensee's existing network pathways and which would thus require the construction of new trunk, feeder, or distribution lines; (F) in areas where the occupied residential household density does not meet the density requirement set forth in Subsection 3.1.2; and (G) in areas, developments, buildings or other residential dwelling units that are not habitable or have not been constructed as of the Effective Date or where Licensee determines, in good faith, that providing Cable Service is not commercially reasonable.

3.1.2. *Density Requirement*: Subject to Section 3.1, Licensee shall make Cable Service available to residential dwelling units existing as of the Effective Date in all areas of the Service Area where the average density is equal to or greater than twenty-five (25) occupied residential dwelling units per mile as measured in strand footage from the nearest technically feasible point on the active FTTP Network trunk or feeder line.

3.2. *Availability of Cable Service*: 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 Licensee shall not discriminate between or among any individuals in the availability of Cable Service. In the areas in which Licensee provides Cable Service, Licensee shall be required to connect, at Licensee's expense, all residential dwelling units that are within three hundred (300) feet of trunk or feeder lines not otherwise already served by Licensee's FTTP Network. Licensee shall be allowed to recover, from a Subscriber that requests such connection, actual costs incurred for residential dwelling unit connections that exceed three hundred (300) feet and actual costs incurred to connect any non-residential dwelling unit Subscriber.

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 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, if requested in writing by the Issuing Authority within sixty (60) days following such ruling, Licensee shall provide, without charge within the Service Area, one service outlet activated for Basic Service to each fire station, public school, police station, public library, and other public buildings as are designated by the Issuing Authority and set forth in **Exhibit A**. Licensee shall be permitted to recover, from any school or other public building owner entitled to free service, the direct cost of installing, when requested to do so, more than one outlet, or concealed inside wiring; provided, however, that Licensee shall not charge for the provision of Basic Service to the additional service outlets once installed. 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:* Licensee's Cable System shall meet or exceed the following requirements:

4.1.1. The System shall be operated with a digital carrier passband of between 50 and 860 MHz.

4.1.2. The 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.

4.2. *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:* 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 System.

5. PEG SERVICES AND SUPPORT

5.1. PEG Set Aside:

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, two (2) 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 three (3) PEG Access Channels.

5.1.2. In addition to the two (2) SD PEG Access Channels referenced above, the Licensee shall make one (1) HD PEG Access Channel available to the Issuing Authority and/or the PEG Access Designee, as designed 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 the Issuing Authority 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 its 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 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 (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 Issuing Authority expressly acknowledges that in order to view the HD PEG Access Channel, a Subscriber may be required to upgrade equipment for an additional charge.

5.1.4. The Town waives any objection that it may have with respect to Licensee’s carriage of Groton 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. If a PEG Channel provided under this Article is not being utilized by the Town, Licensee may utilize such PEG Access Channel, in its sole discretion, until such time as the Town elects to utilize the PEG Access Channel for its

intended purpose. In the event that the Town determines to use such PEG capacity, the Town 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 Interconnection and Cablecasting:*

5.2.1. The Licensee shall continue to connect to equipment owned by the Town and/or the PEG Access Designee at the PEG Access studio located at 703 Chicopee Road, Groton, MA (the "PEG Interconnection Site") in order to cablecast all PEG Access Programming and shall provide, install, maintain, repair and replace its own equipment as may be reasonably necessary to receive and transmit PEG Access Channel programming from the Interconnection Site to Subscribers. The Issuing Authority or, if designated by the Issuing Authority in writing to Licensee, the PEG Access Designee, shall be required to pay Licensee for all costs associated with: (i) any equipment upgrade where the need for the upgrade is initiated by the Issuing Authority or PEG Access Designee; (ii) relocating any connection where the need for relocation is initiated by the Issuing Authority or PEG Access Designee; (iii) re-installing and/or replacing any connection at an existing location where the need for such re-installation and/or replacement is initiated by the Issuing Authority or PEG Access Designee; or (iv) installing any new connection if initiated by the Issuing Authority or PEG Access Designee; provided, however, that Issuing Authority and/or PEG Access Designee responsibility for the foregoing costs is subject to the Issuing Authority's express written consent, and subject further to Licensee's prior disclosure of such costs and prior consent to same by the Issuing Authority or 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 PEG equipment shall be at the output of the Town'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 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 a PEG grant to be used for PEG Access Channel capital funding purposes in the total amount of Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00) (the "PEG Grant"), payable in three (3) equal installments of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) each, due and payable within forty-five (45) days of the Effective Date, and on the first (1st) and second (2nd) anniversaries of the Effective Date.

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 obligation 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 VSP to the Issuing Authority. 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 Issuing Authority. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if at any time during the term of this License, any other 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 license agreement, then Licensee's PEG Grant obligation shall also cease. The Issuing Authority shall provide notification to Licensee within thirty (30) days of such other provider's failure to provide a cash grant in accordance with the schedule set forth in such provider'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 for PEG Access Channel operating support or other PEG Access Channel costs and expenses ("PEG Access Support") in the amount equal to four and twenty-five hundredths percent (4.25%) of annual Gross Revenue, subject to the limitation in Section 6.2; however, if the Town issues or renews any cable license on or after the Effective Date that provide for a higher or lower percentage of PEG Access Support, then the percentage of the Licensee's PEG Access Support payments shall be increased or reduced to match such higher or lower percentage over that same time period; provided however, that the Issuing Authority shall provide Licensee with notice within thirty (30) days of such issuance or renewal and Licensee shall have ninety (90) days to adjust its percentage of PEG Access Support. The Issuing Authority shall place Licensee's PEG Access Support payments in a restricted account for cable-related purposes in the nature of a grant account and not into the general fund, which account will be under the Issuing Authority's control.

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. Licensee shall be allowed to submit or 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 year 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.

5.5. *PEG Operations:* The Issuing Authority and/or its PEG Access Designee require all local producers and users of any of the PEG facilities or Channels to agree in writing to authorize Licensee to transmit programming consistent with this License and to assume individual responsibility for any program-based liability including but not limited to liability for copyright infringement or defamation, and to hold the Town and the Licensee harmless for same, subject to applicable Title VI 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.

5.6. *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 and any other costs arising from the provision of PEG services, including interconnection, 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.

5.7. *Late Payments:* In the event that the PEG Access Support fee or the License Fee is not paid on or before the due dates set forth in this License for such payments, then interest shall accrue from the due date until the date paid at the rate equal to two percent (2%) above the Prime Rate.

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 its 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. *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.

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. *Re-computation and Audit:*

6.5.1. Tender or acceptance of any payment made pursuant to Articles 5 or 6 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 XX above.

6.5.2. If the Issuing Authority has reason to believe that any such payment is incorrect, it may notify the Licensee thereof in writing within one hundred eighty (180) days after receiving such payment. 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 for any two (2) year period of this License or such shorter period of time that may remain after the expiration of the initial two (2) year period of this License, which audit shall be subject to 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 undisputed amounts within thirty (30) business days after completion of such review, together with any applicable late charges calculated pursuant to Section 5.7 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; provided, however, that Licensee may satisfy the requirements of 47 C.F.R. § 76.309(c)(1)(v) through its website. 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 30 seconds of call waiting.

7.2. *Denial of Service:* 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, or 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 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 reasonable written notice to the Licensee and with no less than thirty (30) business days written notice to the Licensee, the Issuing Authority shall have the right to inspect Licensee's books and records pertaining to Licensee's provision of Cable Service in the Town during Licensee's regular business hours at an office of Licensee and on a non-disruptive basis, as are 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. 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, 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. The Issuing Authority shall treat any information disclosed by Licensee as confidential and shall only disclose it to employees, representatives, and agents thereof that have a need to know, or in order to enforce the provisions hereof unless required to do so by law. 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:* Licensee shall at all times maintain:

8.2.1. Records of all written complaints for a period of three (3) years after receipt by Licensee. The term "complaint" as used herein refers to complaints about any aspect of the Cable System or Licensee's cable operations, including, without limitation, complaints about employee courtesy. Complaints recorded will not be limited to complaints requiring an employee service call;

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 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.

9. INSURANCE AND INDEMNIFICATION

9.1. *Insurance:*

9.1.1. 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. 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 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 the statutory requirements of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and 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.

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

9.1.1.5. Upon receipt of notice from its insurer(s), Licensee shall provide the Town with thirty (30) days' prior notice of cancellation of any required coverage.

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

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

9.2. *Indemnification:*

9.2.1. Licensee shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Town at all times during the term of this License from any and all claims and actions for injury and damage to persons or property, both real and personal, caused by the installation, operation, or maintenance of any structure, equipment, wire or cable authorized to be installed pursuant to this License, provided that the Town shall give Licensee written notice of its request for indemnification within a period of time from receipt of a claim sufficient to enable Licensee to avoid entry of a default judgment and which does not prejudice the Licensee's ability to defend the claim or action. Notwithstanding the foregoing, 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 Licensee's indemnity obligations set forth in Section 9.2.1, Licensee shall, at its own expense, provide the defense of any claims brought against the Town by selecting counsel of 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, Licensee shall have the right to defend, settle or compromise any claim or action arising hereunder, and 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 proposed settlement, 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.

9.2.3. The Town shall hold harmless and defend Licensee from and against, and shall be responsible for, damages, liability or claims resulting from or arising out of the willful misconduct or negligence of the Town.

9.2.4. The Town shall be responsible for its own acts of willful misconduct or negligence, or breach of obligation, subject to any and all defenses and limitations of liability provided by law. The Licensee shall not be required to indemnify the Town for acts of the Town which constitute willful misconduct or negligence, on the part of the Town, its officers, employees, agents, attorneys, consultants, independent contractors or third parties.

9.3. *Performance Bond.* 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 Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) securing the performance of Licensee's obligations under this License. In the event that a performance bond provided pursuant to this License is not renewed or is cancelled, Licensee shall provide new security 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 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.

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 consistent with M.G.L. c. 166A, Section 7, and the Cable Division's transfer regulations (207 CMR 4.00, et. seq.). 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 otherwise for transactions otherwise excluded under Section 1.40.2 above, except to the extent that any of the foregoing are determined to be a transfer of

control pursuant to M.G.L. c. 166A, Section 7, and 207 CMR 4.01, in which case such transaction shall be subject to the Cable Division's transfer regulations.

11. RENEWAL OF LICENSE

The Town and 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 and applicable provisions of the Massachusetts Cable Law, as each may be amended from time to time. The Town shall notify Licensee of all of its assessments regarding the identity of future cable-related community needs and interests, as well as the past performance of Licensee under the terms of this License, and such assessments shall be provided to Licensee by the Town.

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 Licensee. If these discussions do not lead to resolution of the problem in a reasonable time, the Issuing Authority shall then notify 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:* Licensee shall have thirty (30) days from receipt of the Noncompliance Notice to: (i) respond 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. 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 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, if the Town 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 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, Licensee shall be provided a fair opportunity for full participation, including the rights to be represented by legal counsel, to introduce relevant evidence, to require the production of evidence, and to require the production of testimony and evidence consistent with law. A complete verbatim record and transcript shall be made of such hearing.

12.5.2. Following the second public hearing, 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. Licensee may appeal such written determination of the Issuing Authority to the Cable Division or to an appropriate court, which shall have the power to review the decision of the Issuing Authority *de novo*. Licensee shall be entitled to such relief as the court finds appropriate. Such appeal must be taken within sixty (60) days of 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 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 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, and the promises and obligations herein shall survive the expiration date hereof.

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:* Licensee 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. 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, or where strict performance would result in practical difficulties and hardship being placed upon Licensee that outweigh the benefit to be derived by the Town and/or Subscribers.

13.5. *Performance Evaluations.* If, during the term of this License, the Town conducts an evaluation of Licensee's performance under this License or otherwise related to Licensee's provision of Cable Service in the Town, then the Town shall provide Licensee with a written report with respect to Licensee's compliance within ten (10) days after the conclusion of such evaluation.

13.6. *Delivery of Payments:* Licensee may use electronic funds transfer to make any payments to the Town required under this Agreement.

13.7. *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 Licensee shall be mailed to:

Verizon New England Inc.
6 Bowdoin Square
Flr-10
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:

Town of Groton
Town Hall, 173 Main St.
Groton, MA 01450
Attention: Select Board

13.8. *Entire Agreement:* This License and the Exhibit hereto constitute the entire agreement between Licensee and the Town, and supersede all prior or contemporaneous agreements, representations or understandings (written or oral) of the parties regarding the subject matter hereof.

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

13.10. *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.

13.11. *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.

13.12. *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.

13.13. *FTTP Network Transfer Prohibition:* Under no circumstance including, without limitation, upon expiration, revocation, surrender, termination, denial of renewal of this License or any other action to forbid or disallow Licensee from providing Cable Services, shall Licensee or its assignees be required to sell any right, title, interest, use or control of any portion of 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. 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, surrender, termination, denial of renewal or any other action to forbid or disallow 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.

13.14. *Interpretation:* The Town and 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.

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

13.16. *Counterparts*: This Agreement 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 Agreement 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 Agreement.

SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS

AGREED TO THIS 10th DAY OF JUNE, 2024.

TOWN OF GROTON

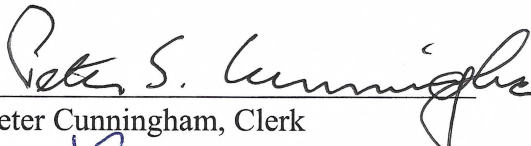
By its Select Board:




Alison Manugian, Chair



Rebecca Pine, Vice Chair



Peter Cunningham, Clerk



Matthew Pisani



John Reilly

VERIZON NEW ENGLAND INC.

By: _____
Paul Sullivan,
Region President – Consumer and Mass
Business Market

Approved as to Form:


Verizon Law Department

AGREED TO THIS 10th DAY OF JUNE, 2024.

TOWN OF GROTON
By its Select Board:

VERIZON NEW ENGLAND INC.

Alison Manugian, Chair

By: 
Paul Sullivan,
Region President – Consumer and Mass
Business Market

Rebecca Pine, Vice Chair

Peter Cunningham, Clerk

Matthew Pisani

John Reilly

Approved as to Form:


Verizon Law Department
5/28/24

EXHIBIT

EXHIBIT A – MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS TO BE PROVIDED CABLE SERVICE
(SUBJECT TO SECTION 3.3)

EXHIBIT A

MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS TO BE PROVIDED CABLE SERVICE (SUBJECT TO SECTION 3.3)

Groton Police Station- 99 Pleasant Street
Main Fire Station- 20 Station Ave
W. Groton Fire Station- 44 West main
Lost Lake Fire Station- Lost Lake Drive
Town Hall- 173 Main Street
Library- 99 Main Street
Legion Hall- 75 Hollis Street
Prescott School- 145 Main Street
Florence Roche- 342 Main Street
Boutwell School- 78 Hollis Street
Tarbell School- 73 Pepperell Road
Groton Middle School- 344 Main Street
The Groton-Dunstable High School- 703 Chicopee Row
Electric Department- 23 Station Ave
Senior Center- 163 West Main Street
DPW Building- 500 Cow Pond Road
DPW No. 2- 217 West Main Street
Transfer Staton-600 Cow Pond
Squannacook Hall- 33 West Main Street