

**CABLE TELEVISION  
RENEWAL LICENSE**

**GRANTED TO  
VERIZON NEW ENGLAND INC.**

**FEBRUARY 12, 2024**

**SELECT BOARD OF TOWN OF IPSWICH,  
MASSACHUSETTS**

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SIGNATURE PAGE

EXHIBIT

EXHIBIT A – PUBLIC (MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL BUILDINGS) TO BE PROVIDED  
CABLE SERVICE UPON WRITTEN REQUEST OF THE ISSUING  
AUTHORITY (SUBJECT TO SECTION 3.4)

THIS CABLE RENEWAL LICENSE AGREEMENT (this “License” or “Agreement”) is entered into by and between the Select Board of the Town of Ipswich, as Issuing Authority for the grant of cable television license(s) pursuant to the Massachusetts Cable Law (M.G.L. c. 166A), 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 January 3, 2017, a nonexclusive first renewal License to install, maintain, extend, and operate a Cable System in the Town for a term of seven (7) years (the “2017 Renewal License”);

WHEREAS, the Licensee has operated a Cable System in accordance with the 2017 Renewal 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 2017 Renewal License and the terms of 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 2017 Renewal 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 2017 Renewal 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 License. For the purpose of this License, the following words, terms, phrases and their derivations shall have the meanings

given herein, unless the context clearly requires a different meaning in which case such other meaning shall apply. When not inconsistent with the context, the masculine pronoun includes the feminine pronoun, words used in the present tense include the future tense, words in the plural number include the singular number and words in the singular number include the plural number. The word shall is always mandatory and not merely directory. In addition, the following definitions shall apply:

1.1. *Access Channel*: A video Channel which Licensee shall make available to the Town and/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 or the PEG Access Designee and in accordance with the terms of this License.

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 Access Channels required by this License.

1.4. *Cable Division*: The Cable Television Division of the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Cable or its successor.

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(7) of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. § 522(7).

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 (47 U.S.C. § 101 et seq.), which includes the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, as amended (including as amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992 and 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 corporate affairs.

1.11. *Converter*: A device capable of unscrambling coded video signals distributed over the Cable System.

1.12. *Educational Access Channel*: An Access Channel provided to the Town pursuant to the terms and conditions of this License and available for the non-commercial use of the local public schools in the Town and/or of the PEG Access Designee.

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

1.14. *Force Majeure*: An event or events reasonably beyond the ability of Licensee or the Issuing Authority to anticipate and control. With respect to the Licensee, Force Majeure 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, epidemics, 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.

1.15. *Franchise Fee*: Shall have the meaning as set forth in Section 622(g) of the Communications Act (47 U.S.C. §542(g)).

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

1.17. *Government Access Channel*: An Access Channel made available by the Licensee to the Town pursuant to the terms and conditions of this License for the use of the Issuing Authority and/or the PEG Access Designee to present non-commercial governmental programming.

1.18. *Gross Revenue*: All revenue, determined in accordance with United States Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP"), 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, charges and payments collected from Subscribers for Cable Services; installation, reconnection, change-in-service (upgrades, downgrades, etc.) 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; fees from third parties for leased access programming; 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 all fees imposed on the Licensee by this License and applicable law that are passed through and paid by Subscribers (including the License Fee, the PEG Access Support, and the PEG Grant) as long as the Issuing Authority provides evidence that the PEG Grant of the other cable provider(s) in the Town is included in their respective gross revenue). 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. Gross Revenue shall include revenue of an Affiliate only to the extent that such Affiliate revenue relates to the provision of Cable Services over the Cable System in the Town, and not the revenues of any such Affiliate that are not related thereto. In no event shall revenue of an Affiliate be Gross Revenue to the Licensee if such revenue is otherwise subject to Franchise Fees and paid to the Issuing Authority. If Cable Services are provided to Subscribers in conjunction with Non-Cable Services, nothing herein shall prevent

the Licensee from allocating a greater amount of the combined revenue to Cable Services than is otherwise provided pursuant to GAAP.

Provided, however, that Gross Revenue shall not include:

1.18.1. Revenues received by any Affiliate or any other Person 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;

1.18.4. Any revenues classified as Non-Cable Services revenue under federal or State law including, without limitation, revenue received from Telecommunications Services; or revenue 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 revenue of Licensee or any other Person which is received directly from the sale of merchandise through any Cable Service distributed over the Cable System, notwithstanding 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 Revenue;

1.18.6. Revenues from the sale of Cable Services on the Cable System to a reseller, when the reseller is required by law to pay (and does pay) Franchise Fees and other cable license fees to the Town on the resale of the Cable Services. Nothing under this Section is intended to limit the rights of the Town pursuant to Section 622(h) of the Communications Act (47 U.S.C. § 542(h));

1.18.7. Any tax 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, sales/use taxes);

1.18.8. Any revenue foregone as a result of the Licensee's provision of free or reduced cost Cable Services as required by this License to any Person, including without limitation, employees of Licensee and public institutions or other institutions as required or permitted herein and to other customers which are exempt, as required or allowed by the Town; 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 Revenue;

1.18.9. Revenues from the sales of capital assets or sales of surplus equipment;

1.18.10. Program launch fees; and

1.18.11. 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 Ipswich, Massachusetts.

1.23. *License Fee*: The payments to be made by the Licensee to the Town, which shall have the meaning as set forth in Section 9 of the Massachusetts Cable Law.

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.

1.26. *Non-Cable Service*: Any service that does not constitute Cable Service, including, but not limited to, Information Service and Telecommunications Service.

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

1.28. *PEG Access Channel*: An Access Channel that the Licensee provides to the Town for non-commercial use pursuant to the terms and conditions of this License, and managed by the Issuing Authority and/or the PEG Access Designee.

1.29. *PEG Access Designee*: Any entity designated in writing 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, including, but not limited to, any 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, other business entity, or governmental entity.

1.32. *Public Access Channel*: An Access Channel made available to the Town pursuant to the terms and conditions of this License and available for the use by the residents in the Town and managed by the Issuing Authority and/or the PEG Access Designee.

1.33. *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.

1.34. *Service Area*: The entire existing territorial limits of the Town. For the avoidance of doubt, the Service Area does not include any islands or areas occupied by bodies of water.

1.35. *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.

1.36. *State*: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

1.37. *Subscriber*: A Person who lawfully receives Cable Service in the Town.

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

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

1.40. *Title II*: Title II of the Communications Act, Common Carriers.

1.41. *Title VI*: Title VI of the Communications Act, Cable Communications.

1.42. *Town*: The Town of Ipswich.

1.43. *Transfer*: Any transaction in which:

1.43.1. an ownership or other interest in Licensee is transferred or assigned, 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

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

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

1.45. *Video Service Provider or VSP*: Any entity using the Public Rights-of-Way to provide Video Programming services to multiple subscribers within the territorial boundaries of the Town, regardless of the transmission method, facilities or technologies used.

## **2. GRANT OF AUTHORITY; LIMITS AND RESERVATIONS**

2.1. *Grant of Authority:* Subject to the terms and conditions of this License and the Massachusetts Cable Law, the Issuing Authority hereby grants the Licensee the right to operate and maintain a Cable System along the Public Rights-of-Way within the Town, for the purpose of providing Cable Service. Reference herein to "Public Rights-of-Way" shall not be construed to be a representation or guarantee by the Town that its property rights are sufficient to permit its use for any purpose, or that the Licensee shall gain or be permitted to exercise any rights to use property in the Town greater than those already possessed by the Town or which is inconsistent with the purposes for which it was taken, purchased and/or dedicated. This License grants no authority for the Licensee to use the Public Rights-of-Way within the Town for any other purpose unless otherwise provided herein. 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 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, which the Licensee has upgraded under its Title II authority, is subject to M.G.L. c. 166 and as such is subject to regulation by the Town consistent with that law, including all applicable Town bylaws and lawful 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. Nothing in this Section 2.1 shall be deemed to prohibit the right of the Licensee to challenge the legality of such a Town bylaw or regulation. No privilege or power of eminent domain is bestowed by this grant; nor is such a privilege or power bestowed by this License.

2.2. *Issuing Authority Does Not Regulate Telecommunications:* The parties recognize that the Licensee's FTTP Network is constructed, operated and maintained as an upgrade to and/or an extension of Licensee's existing Telecommunications Facilities for the 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 assert jurisdiction over the Licensee's FTTP Network in contravention of those limitations. Therefore, the Issuing Authority's regulatory authority under Title VI is not applicable to the construction, installation, maintenance or operation of the FTTP Network to the extent the FTTP Network is constructed, installed, maintained and operated for the purpose of upgrading and/or extending Verizon's existing Telecommunications Facilities for the provision of Non-Cable Services.

2.3. *Term:* This License shall become effective on February 12, 2024 (the "Effective Date"). The term of this License shall be five (5) years from the Effective Date unless this License is earlier revoked or terminated as provided herein.

2.4. *Termination Generally:* Notwithstanding any provision herein to the contrary, Licensee may terminate this License upon two hundred seventy (270) days' written notice to the Issuing Authority. Licensee shall not provide the notice of termination sooner than the beginning of the 28<sup>th</sup> month following the Effective Date.

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 the License pursuant to the terms of this Section shall not trigger the requirements of 207 CMR 3.07. The PEG Access Support, as provided in Section 5.4, will not be subject to modification under this Section 2.5.1 or 2.5.2.

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 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:

a. 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;

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

c. 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

d. if agreed to by both parties, submitting the matter to mediation by a mutually-acceptable mediator.

2.5.4. Modification of the PEG Access Support under this License shall, as applicable, be in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in Section 5.4 hereunder. As stated above, PEG Access Support is not subject to modification under Section 2.5.1.

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/Preemption:* This License is subject to and shall be governed by all applicable provisions of federal and State law and regulations as they may be amended, including but not limited to the Communications Act and the Massachusetts Cable Law. In the event that federal or State law, rules, or regulations preempt a

provision or limit the enforceability of a provision of this License, 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 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 parties hereto.

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, bylaw or lawful regulation 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 by the Issuing Authority.

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 License, nor shall it excuse the Issuing Authority from performance, unless such right or performance has been specifically waived in writing by the Licensee.

2.9. *Construction of Agreement:*

2.9.1. The provisions of this License shall be 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.

2.9.3. Should any change to local bylaws, rules or regulations cause the Licensee's provision of Cable Services in the Town to be commercially impracticable, then the parties shall modify this License to the mutual satisfaction of both parties to ameliorate such commercial impracticability. If the parties cannot reach agreement on the above-referenced modification to this License, then, at the Licensee's option the parties shall submit the matter to binding arbitration.

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 causes the Licensee's provision of Cable Services in the Town to be commercially impracticable, then the parties shall modify this License to the mutual satisfaction of both parties to ameliorate such commercial impracticability. If the parties cannot reach an agreement on the above-referenced modification to this License, then, at the Licensee's option, the parties shall submit the matter to binding arbitration.

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 Town; (D) in developments or buildings that are subject to claimed exclusive arrangements with other cable providers; (E) in developments, buildings or other residential dwelling units that Licensee cannot obtain permission to access under reasonable terms and conditions after good faith negotiation, as determined in good faith by Licensee; and (F) in 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 or where the Licensee determines, in good faith, that providing such service is not commercially reasonable.

3.2. *Availability of Cable Service and Standard Drops:* Licensee shall make Cable Service available to all residential dwelling units within the Town 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, the Licensee shall be required to connect, at Licensee's expense other than a standard installation charge, all residential dwelling units that are within two hundred fifty (250) feet (for aerial drops) and two hundred fifty (250) feet (for underground drops) of trunk or feeder lines not otherwise already served by Licensee's FTTP Network. Where a residential Subscriber connection exceeds such lengths, the Licensee shall be allowed to recover from such Subscriber the actual cost of connection attributable to the distance in excess of the length above.

3.3. *Availability of Cable Service To Businesses:* The Licensee may make Cable Service available to businesses. The Licensee may recover the actual cost incurred to connect any business to the Cable System for the provision of Cable Service.

3.4. *Cable Service to Public Buildings:* Subject to Section 3.1 and the 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"), as such 621 Order may be in effect and/or amended during the term of this License, if requested in writing by the Issuing Authority, Licensee shall provide in a reasonable amount of time and after notifying the Issuing Authority of the process by which it shall implement the 621 Order's requirements regarding the provision of free or discounted Cable Service to public buildings under a cable license, one Cable Service drop, an outlet, and monthly Basic Service along its activated Cable System route in the Town at no cost to public buildings in the Town. The current list of public buildings is set forth in **Exhibit A**. The parties hereto agree that the exercise of any conditional obligations set forth in this Section 3.4 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 and/or have at least the following characteristics:

4.1.1. The Cable System shall be operated with a digital carrier passband of between 50 and 860 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 Massachusetts Electrical Code, the National Electrical Code, the National Electrical Safety Code, and the rules and regulations of the Cable Division and the FCC.

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

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

#### **5. PEG 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 by the Issuing Authority, capacity on its Basic Service Tier for three (3) SD PEG Access Channels. 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 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 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 SD PEG Access Channel simulcast in HD, 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 Issuing Authority expressly acknowledges that 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 Issuing Authority hereby authorizes the Licensee to transmit PEG Access Programming within the Town's jurisdictional boundaries and outside the Town's jurisdictional boundaries to other areas that are served out of the same central offices of the Licensee as those that serve the Town. The Licensee reserves the right to make or change PEG Access Channel assignments in its sole discretion. If a PEG Access Channel provided under this Article is not being utilized by the Issuing Authority and/or the PEG Access Designee, other than due to Force Majeure, the Licensee may utilize such PEG Access Channel by providing at least ninety (90) days advance written notice to the Issuing Authority, but only in the event that the Issuing Authority or the PEG Access Designee does not commence use of said PEG Access Channel within said ninety (90) day notice period. In the event that the Issuing Authority and/or the PEG Access Designee determines to use such PEG Access Channel capacity for PEG Access purposes, the Issuing Authority shall have the right to utilize such PEG Access Channel by providing at least ninety (90) days advance written notice to 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 Ipswich Community Access Media studio located at 127 High Street, Ipswich, MA (the "PEG Interconnection Site"). The Issuing Authority or, if designated by the Issuing Authority in writing to Licensee, the Town's PEG Access Designee, shall be required to pay Licensee for all direct or reasonably related 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 its 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 caused by the Town or its PEG Access Designee and initiated by the Issuing Authority or its PEG Access Designee; or (iv) installing any new connection if initiated by the Issuing Authority or its PEG Access Designee; provided, however, that Issuing Authority and/or PEG Access Designee responsibility for the foregoing costs is subject to Licensee's prior disclosure of such costs and prior express written consent to same by the Issuing Authority or its PEG Access Designee. Any upgrade or change referenced in subsections (i) and (iv) above required in order for PEG Access Channel cablecasting or PEG Access Channel programming as provided to Subscribers to meet a requirement of applicable law or regulation, including with respect to video or audio quality, shall not be deemed to be "initiated" by the Issuing Authority or its 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 PEG Access Designee's PEG access equipment shall be at the output of the Town's and/or 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 providing that 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 its 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.

5.2.3. The Licensee shall provide, install, maintain, repair and replace all equipment necessary to receive and transmit all such PEG programming and all PEG Access Channels as described in Section 5.2.1 above to Subscribers, including any amplification, optical conversion, receiving, cable system headend, processing, and transmitting equipment needed.

5.2.4. The Licensee shall monitor the PEG Access Channels for technical quality consistent with applicable FCC technical standards, as such standards may be amended from time to time, 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.

5.3. *PEG Grant:* Licensee shall pay to the Issuing Authority, or to its PEG Access Designee if requested in writing by the Issuing Authority, a PEG grant in the total amount of One Hundred Five Thousand Dollars (\$105,000.00) to be used for PEG Access Channel capital funding purposes (the "PEG Grant"), as follows:

5.3.1. Within forty-five days of the Effective Date, Licensee shall pay to the Issuing Authority the sum of Thirty-five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000.00). Licensee shall make two (2) additional payments to the Issuing Authority in the amount of Thirty-five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000.00) each on the first and second anniversaries of the Effective Date, respectively. 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. The Licensee shall have no obligation to maintain, repair, replace or insure any equipment or facilities purchased with the PEG Grant.

5.3.2. Licensee shall be allowed to submit or correct any payments that were incorrectly omitted, and shall be refunded any payments that were incorrectly submitted, in connection with the PEG Grant remittances within ninety (90) days following the PEG Grant

payment date for which such payments were applicable. Any such refund shall be requested in writing by Licensee and shall include an itemized account of the basis of the refund requested. The PEG Grant shall not be counted against either the PEG Access Support payment required by Section 5.4, or any License Fee required by Section 6.1.

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 (4.0%) of annual Gross Revenue as defined above, subject to the limitation in Section 6.2. If the Town issues or renews any cable license after the Effective Date that provides for a lower or higher percentage of PEG Access Support, then the Licensee’s percentage of PEG Access Support payments shall be reduced or increased to match such lower or higher percentage over that same time period, with any increase subject to the limitation in Section 6.2. 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. Each such quarterly payment shall be accompanied by a Gross Revenue report documenting, in reasonable detail, the Gross Revenue as defined above. 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.

5.4.3. In no case shall said four percent (4.0%) payments include: (i) the PEG Grant; (ii) costs of PEG Access channel, interconnection and cablecasting obligations required by Sections 5.1 and 5.2 above; or (iii) any other fees or payments required by applicable law, except as provided in Section 6.2, below; provided however, that said four percent (4.0%) payments shall be a Franchise Fee, and subject to the five percent (5%) cap on Franchise Fees pursuant to Section 622(h) of the Communications Act (47 U.S.C. §542(b)).

5.5. *PEG Operational Rules:* The Issuing Authority and/or the PEG Access Designee shall require all local producers and users of the PEG facilities or PEG Access Channels to agree in writing to authorize the Licensee to transmit programming consistent with this License. The Issuing Authority or its 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).

5.6. *Recovery of Costs:* To the extent permitted by federal law and regulations, the Licensee shall be allowed to recover from Subscribers the costs of the PEG Grant, costs of PEG interconnection, the PEG Access Support payments, and any other costs arising from the provision of PEG services and related payments required by this License, and to accurately reflect such costs as separately billed line items on each Subscriber’s bill.

5.7. *Late Payments:* In the event that the PEG, the PEG Access Support or the License Fee is not paid on or before the due date set forth in this License for such payment, then interest shall accrue from the due date until the date paid at the rate equal to the lesser of (i) two percent (2%) per annum above the Prime Rate, or (ii) eighteen percent (18%) per annum, in either case compounded annually.

5.8. *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 with the Issuing Authority or its 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 and the provision thereof by the Licensee; however, the Licensee shall not be required by this Section to list the Town's PEG Access Channel program content titles on its electronic program guide.

5.9. *PEG Access 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 with the Issuing Authority, the technical feasibility and commercial reasonability of providing, and the provision of, PEG Access Channel programming VOD in the Town; however, the Licensee shall not be required by this Section to provide PEG Access Channel programming VOD in the Town.

5.10. *Censorship:* Subject to Section 611(e) of the Communications Act (47 U.S.C. §531(e)), the Licensee shall comply with applicable federal laws restricting censorship or control of the content of PEG Access Programming over the Cable System.

5.11. *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.

5.12. *Leased Access:* The Licensee shall comply with Section 612 of the Communications Act (47 U.S.C. §532) with respect to designating channel capacity for commercial use.

5.13. *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. FRANCHISE AND LICENSE FEES**

6.1. *License Fee:* Pursuant to Massachusetts Cable Law, (M.G.L. c. 166A, Section 9), 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"), or such other amount as

may in the future be designated by applicable State law.

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 (as defined above).

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 License shall be three (3) years from the date on which payment by Licensee is due.

6.5. *Method of Payment:* The PEG Grant, the PEG Access Support and the License Fee shall be made payable to the Town and provided to the Issuing Authority, unless the Licensee is otherwise notified in writing by the Issuing Authority.

6.6. *Other Payment Obligations and Exclusions:*

6.7.1. Unless otherwise required by applicable law, the License Fee and Franchise Fee payments shall be in addition to and shall not constitute an offset or credit against any and all taxes or other fees or charges of general applicability which Licensee or any Affiliate shall be required to pay to the Town, or to any State or federal agency or authority, as required herein or by law; the payment of said taxes, fees or charges shall not constitute a credit or offset against the License Fee or Franchise Fee payments all of which shall be separate and distinct obligations of the Licensee and each Affiliate.

6.7.2. In accordance with Section 622(h) of the Communications Act (47 U.S.C. §542(h)), nothing in the Communications Act or this License shall be construed to limit any authority of the Issuing Authority to impose a tax, fee or other assessment of any kind on any Person (other than the Licensee) with respect to Cable Service or other communications service provided by such Person over the Cable System for which charges are assessed to Subscribers but not received by the Licensee. For any twelve (12) month period, the fees paid by any such Person with respect to any such Cable Service or other communications service shall not exceed five percent (5%) of such Person's gross revenues derived in such period from the provision of such service over the Cable System.

6.7. *Affiliates Use of System:* Use of the Cable System and the provision of Cable Services within the Town by Affiliates shall be in compliance with applicable federal and State laws and regulations and this License.

1.2. *Recomputation:* Tender or acceptance of any payment made pursuant to Article 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.

## **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 thirty (30) seconds of call waiting.

7.2. *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.

7.3. *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.

## **8. REPORTS AND RECORDS AND PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS**

8.1. *Open Books and Records:* Upon no less than thirty (30) business days written notice to the Licensee, the Issuing Authority or its designated authorized representative(s) shall have the right to inspect Licensee's books and records, including all documents in whatever form maintained, including electronic media, pertaining to the Cable System or the Licensee's provision of Cable Service in the Town during Licensee's regular corporate business hours and on a nondisruptive basis at an office of Licensee, as are reasonably necessary to ensure compliance with the terms of this License. Such notice shall specifically reference the purpose of the review, so that Licensee may organize the necessary books and records for appropriate access by the Issuing Authority or its representative(s). Licensee shall not be required to maintain any books and records for License compliance purposes longer than three (3) years, except if required by applicable law or regulation.

8.2. *Proprietary Books and Records:* If Licensee believes that the requested information is confidential and proprietary, the Licensee must provide the following documentation to the Town: (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 within the State for inspection by the Town. The Town shall take reasonable steps to protect the proprietary and confidential nature of any books, records, Service Area maps, plans, or other Town-requested documents, consistent with applicable law, 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.

8.3. *Privacy:* The Licensee shall take all reasonable steps required to ensure that it is able to provide the Town with all information that must be provided or may be requested under this License or applicable law, including the issuance of appropriate Subscriber privacy notices. The Licensee shall be responsible for redacting any data that applicable law prevents it from providing to the Town. Nothing in this Article 8 shall be read to require a Licensee to violate federal or State law protecting Subscriber privacy.

8.4. *Copying of Books and Records:* The Town shall have the right to copy any such books and records, at the Town's expense, except to the extent that the Town's review as the Issuing Authority is prohibited pursuant to applicable law.

8.5. *Complete and Accurate Records:* The Licensee shall keep complete and accurate books of account and records of its business and operations under and in connection with the License. Unless otherwise provided in this License or by applicable law, all such materials and information shall be maintained for a period of three (3) years. Said records shall include, but not be limited to the following:

8.5.1. 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;

8.5.2. 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;

8.5.3. 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; and

8.5.4. 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.

8.6. *Additional Reports:* The Licensee shall, upon written request by the Issuing Authority, provide the Issuing Authority with 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.

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

8.8. *Performance Evaluation:* The Issuing Authority or its designee 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 the Licensee's compliance with the terms and conditions of this License. The Issuing Authority shall provide the Licensee with thirty (30)

business days advance written notice of such evaluation session, which the Licensee shall attend. The Issuing Authority shall provide the Licensee with a written report with respect to the Licensee's compliance within sixty (60) days after the conclusion of such evaluation session.

## **9. INSURANCE AND INDEMNIFICATION**

### *9.1. Insurance:*

9.1.1. Licensee shall maintain in full force and effect, at its own cost and expense (including all deductibles) 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, maintenance and removal of the Cable System, and the conduct of Licensee's Cable Service operations and business in the Town.

9.1.1.2. Commercial 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 each accident for bodily injury and property damage coverage.

9.1.1.3. Workers' Compensation Insurance in compliance with the statutory requirements of the state(s) of operation and Employers' Liability Insurance in the following amounts: (A) \$100,000 Bodily Injury by Accident; (B) \$100,000 Bodily Injury by Disease-each employee; and \$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), Licensee shall provide the Town 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-:VII or better.

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

9.1.6. All insurance shall be primary with respect to any insurance maintained by the Town and shall not call on the Town's insurance for contribution.

9.1.7. The Licensee shall require that every one of its contractors and their subcontractors carry in full force and effect, substantially the same insurance with substantially the same amounts as required of Licensee herein.

9.1.8. Neither this Section 9.1, nor the provision of insurance or insurance proceeds pursuant to this Section 9.1, shall limit the liability of the Licensee or its obligation to indemnify the Town pursuant to this License.

9.1. *Indemnification:*

9.2.1. The Licensee shall, at its sole cost and expense, defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Issuing Authority, the Town, including its officials, boards, commissions, committees, agents and/or employees, against all claims for damage, suits, causes of action, proceedings and judgments, including for damage to Persons or property, real and personal, due to the actions of the Licensee, its employees, officers or agents arising out of the installation, maintenance and/or operation of the Cable System or provision of Cable Service under this License. Indemnified expenses shall include all reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred by the Town up to such time that the Licensee assumes defense of any action hereunder. The Town shall give the Licensee timely written notice of its obligation to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Town, provided that in any event the Town shall provide the Licensee with such written notice within a period of time that allows the Licensee to take action to avoid entry of a default judgment and does not prejudice the Licensee's ability to defend the claim or action.

9.2.2. With respect to the Licensee's indemnification obligations set forth in Section 9.2.1, the Licensee shall, at its own expense, provide the defense of any claims, suits, causes of action or proceedings brought against the Town by selecting counsel of Licensee's choice to defend the claim, subject to applicable professional ethics and responsibility laws and standards and the consent of the Town, which consent shall not unreasonably be withheld. The Licensee shall, subject to the consent of the Issuing Authority as described herein, 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 amount of any such settlement, so long as the settlement includes a full release of the Town with respect to the claim giving rise to Licensee's indemnification obligation. In the event that 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 settlement. Nothing herein shall be deemed to prevent the Issuing Authority from cooperating with the Licensee and participating in the defense of any litigation by its own counsel at its own cost and expense.

9.2.3. Neither the provisions of this Section 9.2, nor any damages recovered by the Town shall be construed to limit the liability of the Licensee or its subcontractors for damages under this License or to excuse the faithful performance of obligations required by this License, except to the extent that any monetary damages suffered by the Town have been satisfied by a financial recovery under this section or other provisions of this License.

**10. PERFORMANCE BOND**

10.1. 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) securing the performance of Licensee's obligations under this License. The Town may not attempt to collect under this bond unless thirty (30) days have passed since the Town provided the Licensee with written notice of its intent to collect under this bond. If within

this thirty (30) day time frame, Licensee gives written notice it disputes entitlement to payments from Licensee for which it has refused to make payment, the parties shall promptly meet to attempt to resolve the dispute in good faith amongst themselves.

10.2. Nothing shall permit the amount of the bond or any replacement bond to be less than the minimum amount required by Section 10.1 above. The Licensee shall not permit the performance bond to expire or approach less than thirty (30) days prior to expiration without securing and delivering to the Town a substitute, renewal or replacement bond in conformance with applicable law. The Licensee shall not materially change the terms of said bond without the prior written consent of the Issuing Authority. Neither this section, any bond accepted pursuant thereto, nor any damages recovered thereunder shall limit the liability of the Licensee under this License. Recourse by the Town of remedies available under this Section 10 shall not be exclusive of other lawful remedies available to the Town at law and equity.

10.3. There shall be recoverable by the Town from the principal and surety, any and all amounts due to the Town and any and all damages, losses, costs, and expenses incurred by the Town resulting from the failure of the Licensee to comply with the material provisions of this License, to comply with all orders, permits and directives of any Town agency or body having jurisdiction over its acts or defaults, to pay fees or penalties due to the Town, or to pay any claims, taxes or liens due to the Town. Such losses, costs and expenses shall include, but not be limited to, reasonable attorney's fees and other associated expenses, provided that the total of such losses, costs and expenses recovered from the bond shall not exceed the amount of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000).

## **11. TRANSFER OF LICENSE**

11.1. *Town Approval Required:* Subject to Section 617 of the Communications Act (47 U.S.C. § 537) and Sections 11.2 and 11.3 below, Licensee shall not Transfer this License, voluntarily or involuntarily, directly or indirectly, to any other Person, without the prior written consent of the Issuing Authority, which consent shall not be arbitrarily or unreasonably withheld or delayed. Such consent shall be given only upon a written application therefore on forms prescribed by the Cable Division and/or the FCC.

11.2. *No Consent Required For Transfers Securing Indebtedness:* The Licensee shall not be required to file an application or obtain the consent or approval of the Town for a Transfer in trust, by mortgage, by other hypothecation, by assignment of any rights, title, or interest of the Licensee in this License, the Licensee or Cable System in order to secure indebtedness. However, the Licensee shall notify the Town within thirty (30) business days if at any time there is a mortgage or security interest granted on substantially all of the assets of the Cable System. The submission of the Licensee's audited financial statements prepared for the Licensee's bondholders shall constitute such notice.

11.3. *No Consent Required For Any Affiliate Transfers:* Unless required by applicable federal or State law, the Licensee shall not be required to file an application or obtain the consent or approval of the Town for: any Transfer of an ownership or other interest in Licensee, the Cable System, or the Cable System assets to the parent of Licensee or to another Affiliate of Licensee; any Transfer of an interest in the License or the rights held by the Licensee under this

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 Licensee; or any action which is the result of a merger of another Affiliate of the Licensee. However, the Licensee shall notify the Town within thirty (30) business days if at any time a Transfer covered by this Section 11.3 occurs. The transferee of any Transfer covered by this Section 11.3 shall be legally qualified to hold, and shall be bound by the terms and conditions of, this License.

11.4. *Transfer Procedures:* Subject to applicable law, the Licensee shall submit to the Issuing Authority an original and a copy of the application and FCC Form 394 requesting any such Transfer consent. Pursuant to 207 CMR 4.03, the consent of the Issuing Authority shall be given only after a public hearing to consider the written application for Transfer. The Issuing Authority shall have one hundred twenty (120) days from the filing of a completed FCC Form 394 to take final action on it unless said one hundred twenty (120) day period is extended by applicable law, including by mutual consent of the parties. After one hundred twenty (120) days, the application shall be deemed approved, unless said 120-day period is extended pursuant to applicable law, including by mutual consent of the parties.

11.5. *Non-Waiver:* The consent or approval of the Issuing Authority to any Transfer shall not constitute a waiver or release of any rights of the Town under this License, whether arising before or after the date of said Transfer.

## **12. 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 the applicable provisions of the Massachusetts Cable Law.

## **13. ENFORCEMENT AND TERMINATION OF LICENSE**

13.1. *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”).

13.2. *Licensee’s Right to Cure or Respond:* The 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 as soon as reasonably possible and notify the Issuing Authority of the steps being taken and the date by which they are projected to be completed, all of which shall be to the reasonable satisfaction of the Issuing Authority. If the Licensee believes it has cured the subject non-compliance, it shall provide written notice of such to the Issuing Authority. The Issuing Authority shall provide the Licensee with a written response as to whether such cure has been effected.

13.3. *Public Hearing*: In the event that the Licensee fails to respond to the Noncompliance Notice pursuant to the procedures required by Section 13.2 above, or in the event that the alleged noncompliance is not remedied within thirty (30) days or the date projected pursuant to Section 13.2(iii) above, and 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 the Licensee with the following minimum 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: (i) for a hearing for which the Issuing Authority states in the written notice that that revocation of the License shall not be a possible consequence – thirty (30) days written notice, and (ii) for a hearing for which the Issuing Authority does not state in the written notice that that revocation of the License shall not be a possible consequence – forty-five (45) days written notice.

13.4. *Enforcement*: Subject to applicable federal and State law, in the event the Issuing Authority, after the public hearing set forth in Section 13.3, determines that Licensee is in default of any provision of this License, the Issuing Authority may:

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

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

13.4.3. Submit a claim against an appropriate part of the performance bond pursuant to Section 10 above;

13.4.4. In the case of a substantial noncompliance of a material provision of this License, revoke this License in accordance with Section 13.5; and/or

13.4.5. Invoke any other lawful remedy available to the Town.

13.5. *Revocation Hearing*:

13.5.1. At the designated public hearing in which revocation is a possible consequence, the 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, 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. Unless otherwise agreed to, in writing, by the parties, a complete verbatim record and transcript shall be made by the Issuing Authority of such hearing with the cost shared by the parties.

13.5.2. Following the public hearing where revocation is a possible consequence, 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 by the Licensee. The Issuing Authority shall also determine whether it will revoke this License based on the

information presented, or, in the reasonable discretion of the Issuing Authority, 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. In accordance with applicable law, 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 if permitted by applicable law. Licensee shall be entitled to such relief as the Cable Division or court finds appropriate. Such appeal must be taken within sixty (60) days of Licensee's receipt of the written determination of the Issuing Authority.

13.5.3. 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.

#### **14. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

14.1. *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.

14.2. *Binding Acceptance:* This License shall bind and benefit the parties hereto and their respective receivers, trustees, successors and assigns, and the promises and obligations contained in Article 9 – Insurance and Indemnification and Article 10 – Performance Bond - herein shall survive the revocation, termination or expiration date hereof.

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

14.4. *Exhibit:* The Exhibit to this License attached hereto, and all portions thereof, are, except as otherwise specified in such Exhibit, incorporated herein by reference and expressly made a part of this License.

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

14.6. *Equal Employment Opportunity:* The Licensee shall adhere to applicable Equal Employment Opportunity regulations of the FCC and to all federal, State and local laws pertaining to discrimination, equal employment opportunity and affirmative action that are applicable to the Licensee.

14.7. *Force Majeure:* If by reason of Force Majeure, either party is unable in whole or in part to carry out its obligations hereunder, said party shall not be held in default under, or in noncompliance with, the provisions of the License, nor suffer any enforcement or penalty relating to noncompliance or default, where such noncompliance or alleged defaults were caused by a Force Majeure, provided that the party 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 party's capacity to perform, the party shall perform to the maximum extent it is able to do so in as expeditious a manner as possible under the circumstances.

14.8. *Acts or Omissions of Affiliates:* During the term of this License, the Licensee shall be liable for the acts or omissions of its Affiliates to the extent arising out of any such Affiliate's installation, maintenance or operation of the Cable System pursuant to this License.

14.9. *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.

14.10. *Warranties:* The Licensee represents and warrants to the Issuing Authority that, as of the Effective Date:

14.10.1. The Licensee is duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of its incorporation and is authorized to do business in the State;

14.10.2. The Licensee has the requisite power and authority under applicable law and its by-laws and articles of incorporation and other corporate authority to enter into and legally bind the Licensee to this License and to take all actions necessary to perform all of its obligations pursuant to this License;

14.10.3. This License is enforceable against the Licensee in accordance with the provisions herein, subject to applicable State and federal law; and

14.10.4. There is no action or proceedings pending against the Licensee that would reasonably interfere with its performance of this License.

14.11. *Notices:* Unless otherwise expressly stated herein, notices required under this License shall be forwarded in one of the following ways: (i) hand delivered (signature required); (ii) sent by express mail (signature required) or (iii) by certified mail/return receipt requested, to the addressees below. Each party may change its designee by providing written notice to the other party.

Notices to Licensee shall be delivered or 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 delivered or mailed to:

Select Board  
Town of Ipswich  
Ipswich Town Hall  
25 Green Street  
Ipswich, MA 01938

With a copy to:

Ipswich Cable Advisory Committee  
Ipswich Town Hall  
25 Green Street  
Ipswich, MA 01938

14.12. *Entire Agreement:* This License and the Exhibits 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

14.13. *Amendments:* Unless otherwise provided herein, amendments or modifications to this License shall be mutually agreed to in writing by the parties.

14.14. *Severability:* If any section, subsection, sentence, paragraph, term or provision hereof is determined to be illegal, invalid, unconstitutional 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.

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

14.16. *No Recourse Against Issuing Authority:* Pursuant to Section 635A(a) of the Communications Act (47 U.S.C. §555(a)), the Licensee shall have no recourse against the Issuing Authority, the Town and/or its officials, members, employees or agents, other than injunctive relief or declaratory relief, arising from the regulation of Cable Service or from a decision of approval or disapproval with respect to a grant, renewal, transfer, or amendment of this License.

14.17. *Town's Right of Intervention:* The Town hereby reserves the right, as authorized by applicable law and/or regulation, to intervene in any suit, action or proceeding involving this License, or any provision in this License; provided, however, that this section shall not restrict the right of the Licensee to oppose such intervention, pursuant to applicable law.

14.18. *FTTP Network Transfer Prohibition:* Under no circumstance including, without limitation, upon expiration, revocation, 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, 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 License.

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

14.20. *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 court of appropriate venue and subject matter jurisdiction located in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the parties hereby agree to be subject to the personal jurisdiction of said court for the resolution of any such dispute. This provision is not intended to limit the right of either party to remove a matter to Federal or State court in Massachusetts as permitted by law.

14.21. *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 12<sup>th</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2024.

**TOWN OF IPSWICH**  
**By its Select Board:**

**VERIZON NEW ENGLAND INC.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sarah Player

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Sullivan  
Region President - Consumer & Mass  
Business Markets

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Linda D. Alexson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carl Nysten

\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles Surpitski

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael S. Dougherty

Approved as to legal form:

Approved as to form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
William H. Solomon

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Verizon Law Department

Special Cable Counsel

**EXHIBITS**

EXHIBIT A – PUBLIC (MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL) BUILDINGS TO BE PROVIDED  
CABLE SERVICE UPON WRITTEN REQUEST OF THE ISSUING  
AUTHORITY (SUBJECT TO SECTION 3.4)

Exhibit List

**EXHIBIT A**  
**PUBLIC (MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL BUILDINGS)**  
**TO BE PROVIDED CABLE SERVICE**  
**UPON WRITTEN REQUEST OF THE ISSUING AUTHORITY**  
**(SUBJECT TO SECTION 3.4)**

Ipswich High School	136 High Street
Ipswich Middle School	130 High Street
Winthrop School	65 Central Street
Doyon School	216 Linebrook Road
Payne School	1 Lord Square
Town Hall	25 Green Street
Central Fire Station	55 Central Street
Police Station	15 Elm Street
Library	25 North Main Street
Utilities Office	272 High Street
Water Treatment Plant	272-274 High Street
Waste Water Treatment Plant	Fowlers Lane
Electric Generator Plant	276 High Street
Cemetery Office Building	29 Town Farm Road
DPW Garage	100 County Street
Performing Arts Center	135 High Street

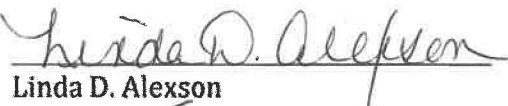
Exhibit A

AGREED TO THIS 12<sup>th</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2024.

**TOWN OF IPSWICH**

**By its Select Board:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sarah Player

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda D. Alexson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Carl Nylén


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles Surpitski

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael S. Dougherty

Approved as to legal form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
William H. Solomon  
Special Cable Counsel

**VERIZON NEW ENGLAND INC.**

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Sullivan  
Region President - Consumer & Mass  
Business Markets

Approved as to form:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Verizon Law Department  
2/12/24