

THE BEDFORD CITIZEN

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

MARCH 30, 2016

I strongly support the 17-32 capital expenditure for the fiber town communication system. I look forward to hearing on Monday about the great work the team did to evaluate options based on the 2014 study/audit. It's valid to want to see more detail on use cases. I have a decade of professional technical experience in residential and commercial broadband, and in education networks. I do not have all the facts about this particular proposal and resisted the temptation to approach a microphone last night, but I did want to make a few points:

- 1) Comparing the internet needs of our town to residential broadband is not valid. Your \$50 per month fios service gives you "up to" 150 Mbps, not a guaranteed rate that would support, for example, a whole school cranking through PARCC tests. Call up Verizon and ask them how much they would charge you for a guaranteed rate of 150 Mbps.
- 2) A 10Gbps fiber network is plenty future-proof for the 10 year timeframe we're planning on
- 3) Measures can be taken to minimize the risk of dig ups that could disrupt service, and my understanding is that the architecture is a ring with two trunks which is expressly architected to tolerate a break without disruption.
- 4) Our kids can't get ready for this world over copper, and our extraordinary public safety team needs contemporary infrastructure. And yes, in this modern world, even the sewers deserve better.
- 5) Some appreciated the need for safety and schools, but wondered about other buildings. My view? Yes, the library. Of course the library. Especially the library.

Mark Bailey