

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH HARRISON AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND FOR SERVICES RELATED TO A PETITION BEFORE THE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES REGARDING THE INTENDED DISCONTINUANCE OF MAINTENANCE OF COPPER LANDLINE TELECOMMUNICATIONS WIRING BY VERIZON NEW JERSEY, INC. (VERIZON NJ)

WHEREAS, the rural areas of the State of New Jersey are serviced by Verizon New Jersey, Inc. (Verizon NJ) with respect to landline telephone service; and

WHEREAS, landline telephone service and copper wiring utilized in connection therewith also transmits DSL internet service; and

WHEREAS, existing landline services are necessary and instrumental to existing telecommunications facilities; and

WHEREAS, Verizon NJ has declared its intention to meet its Opportunity New Jersey (ONJ) obligation in rural areas through DSL and not fiber optic technology; and

WHEREAS, DSL service is transmitted over copper wiring transmission lines, which is also utilized for landline telephone service; and

WHEREAS, Verizon NJ has declared that it no longer intends to maintain landline telecommunication wires and facilities in rural areas of the State of New Jersey, and has requested the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to allow Verizon NJ to discontinue maintaining copper landline transmission facilities; and

WHEREAS, the discontinuance of such maintenance would directly and significantly adversely affect the users of landline service, including, but not limited to, public entities, private companies and private enterprise, private individuals and residents in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, the discontinuance of maintenance of copper landline transmission facilities would inevitably result in the deterioration of communication facilities within the rural areas of New Jersey, resulting in loss or diminution of telephone services and internet services; and

WHEREAS, the deterioration of such facilities and communication capabilities would result in deterioration of economic opportunities and activity, all of which would have serious consequences to the economic and social well-being of residents and businesses within rural areas of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, South Harrison Township deems it to be essential to the public interest to oppose and prevent Verizon NJ from discontinuing landline transmission maintenance, which would have significant economic and social consequences to the region; and

WHEREAS, South Harrison Township is desirous of preventing discontinuance of landline transmission maintenance by Verizon NJ and has agreed to work with the consortium of municipalities and other entities to petition the BPU in an effort to prevent Verizon New Jersey from abandoning landline maintenance in rural areas of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, South Harrison Township is desirous of assisting and cooperating with other public entities as set forth in the attached Shared Services Agreement to pursue a petition before the BPU to prevent discontinuance of maintenance respecting landline transmission facilities; and

WHEREAS, the parties are authorized, pursuant to the Uniformed Shared Services Consolidation Act, N.J.S.A. 40:65-1, et seq. to enter into a shared services agreement to provide such services that either party, acting alone, could provide on its own behalf.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township committee of the Township of South Harrison, as follows:

1. That the attached Shared Services Agreement between the County of Cumberland and South Harrison Township for the reasons set forth in the preamble hereto, is hereby approved in the form on file with the Clerk of this Township Committee.
2. That this Agreement may be signed and authorization is hereby extended to file and return the Shared Services Agreement and to file same with the Clerk of this Township Committee.

TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH HARRISON

By: _____
ROBERT J DIAZ, DEPUTY MAYOR

ATTEST

CELESTE KEEN, RMC, DEPUTY CLERK

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of the Resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of South Harrison at the meeting held on the 14th day of October, 2015.

CELESTE KEEN, RMC, DEPUTY CLERK