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## TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION COMMUNICATION

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**AGENDA DATE:** February 12, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Broadband Planning

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Broadband Presentation
2. Broadband Final Report

**PRESENTED BY:** Matt LeCerf, Town Manager

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### **WORK SESSION ITEM DESCRIPTION:**

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> presentation on fiber broadband provided by Ditesco as part of their study to evaluate alternatives for the Town to consider regarding broadband deployment in the Town limits. Below, as previously presented in November, is a short synopsis of our endeavors over the past few years related to fiber broadband exploration in our community.

In May 2021, the Towns of Johnstown, Berthoud, Mead, and Milliken embarked on a joint broadband financial feasibility and needs assessment study. The focus was to evaluate current service providers and the ability to create a municipal broadband system or recruit other providers to enter into our service territories to provide internet and other fiber-based services that adequately met the needs of our respective communities.

In October 2021, the Towns along with our consultants met to present the findings to the elected bodies of the four Towns. The recommendations included exploring and interviewing three (3) entities who could provide the fiber-based services our community deserves.

As part of the presentation, Staff was directed to interview final entities to determine who would be the best partner and in February 2022, the political bodies of the four (4) Towns authorized the development of an MOU with Allo Communications to partner on fiber deployment to the homes for the communities. As part of these negotiations, Allo ultimately committed to serve only a portion of our respective communities and would not commit to a ubiquitous network that

would ensure all residents and businesses had access if desired to the fiber service. This model mimicked the franchise agreements we have with other cable providers and we did not want a model that chose winners and losers for who would and would not receive access of high speed fiber to the home. Consequently, the negotiations broke down and we were unable to deliver an agreement to the Council that met the desired objectives.

In an effort to explore other meaningful alternatives to make high speed internet and fiber services a reality in our community, the Town engaged with Ditesco to provide a high-level design and plan that will provide access to high-speed broadband for all its residents. This planning effort will allow Johnstown to understand costs, delivery alternatives, and potential strategies to best serve the Town based on multiple options.

The presentation this evening will summarize the findings of this broadband planning effort and the final report.

***Reviewed and Approved for Presentation,***



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Town Manager