

**RESOLUTION TO  
APPROVE A FINANCIAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN TDS AND THE  
CITY OF WATERTOWN FOR FIBER OPTIC INFRASTRUCTURE  
EXPANSION**

**SPONSOR: ALDERPERSON ARNETT  
FROM: PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Watertown has engaged in discussions since 2022 with TDS regarding a proposed city-wide fiber optic expansion project within the public right-of-way; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed project includes installation of fiber optic infrastructure within approximately 121 miles of City-owned right-of-way between 2025 and 2027; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has negotiated a Financial Agreement, attached hereto, with TDS to clearly define roles, responsibilities, and cost recovery measures associated with the project; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the Financial Agreement is to ensure that the City of Watertown is not financially burdened by the additional workload associated with permitting, review, construction coordination, and inspection of the fiber expansion project; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the scale and complexity of the project and existing staff capacity constraints, the City has retained Short Elliott Hendrickson (SEH) to assist with permit review and construction verification services; and

**WHEREAS**, TDS has agreed to reimburse the City for all consultant and professional service costs incurred beyond standard permit review, ensuring full cost recovery; and

**WHEREAS**, the Financial Agreement establishes a fixed fee per Digital Fiber Network permit and requires TDS to provide an initial deposit, with provisions for replenishment, to fund project-related services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Public Works Commission has reviewed the proposed Financial Agreement and recommends approval.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Common Council of the City of Watertown that the Financial Agreement between TDS and the City of Watertown for the fiber optic infrastructure expansion project is hereby approved; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and City Clerk are authorized and directed to execute the agreement on behalf of the City; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that City staff are authorized to administer the agreement in accordance with its terms to ensure full cost recovery and protection of public infrastructure.

	YES	NO
DAVIS		
LAMPE		
BERG		
NITECKI		
BLANKE		
SMITH		
ARNETT		
HAASE		
MOLDENHAUER		
MAYOR STOCKS		
TOTAL		

ADOPTED April 21, 2026

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CITY CLERK

APPROVED April 21, 2026

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MAYOR