

VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS, OHIO

RESOLUTION 2021-45

**AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO APPLY TO BROADBAND OHIO
FOR A GRANT TO FACILITATE MUNICIPAL BROADBAND**

WHEREAS, it is a priority of the DeWine-Husted Administration to connect Ohio households to essential broadband services, especially high-speed internet. There are many areas in this state where families do not have access to reliable high-speed internet; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 2 of the 134th General Assembly, which creates the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program (the Program), was signed into law by Governor DeWine on May 17, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the program will award grants to internet service providers to fund the construction of broadband projects in unserved and underserved areas of the state. The program is administered by BroadbandOhio, a division of the Ohio Department of Development.; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Yellow Springs has passed a resolution (Res 2020-47), committing to the provision of municipal broadband as a means of facilitating access for businesses, residents and visitors in the village of Yellow Springs; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Yellow Springs recognizes the importance of positioning gigabit-level Internet to ensure equity, inclusion & access, attract new businesses & create jobs, improve health care & education and connect residents to new opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Village has partnered with residents, political subdivisions and organizations, such as Springs-Net, MVECA, YS Schools, and YS Community Foundation, known as the Partnership, to improve the infrastructure needed to provide third party access to broadband services, including fiber for the downtown business district; and

WHEREAS, the Village has already installed and implemented a fixed wireless network initiative with various stakeholders – schools, businesses, government – that provides high speed free WIFI to downtown Yellow Springs, providing equitable access to the Internet, promoting economic development and enhancing quality of life. Creating a platform and backbone for a more extensive municipal fiber infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Partnership has already secured \$300K in grants from Broadband Ohio to fund the installation of fiber and internet services to 300 homes in the pilot area.

**NOW, THEREFORE, COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS, OHIO
HEREBY RESOLVES THAT:**

