



Charlemont has two broadband articles on the special town meeting warrant for November 14, 2020 in anticipation of serving customers before the end of the current fiscal year in June.

In the first article, the town will be asked to create an enterprise fund for the fiber network operating budget. The Broadband Committee and Finance Committee recommend this accounting structure for several reasons: It is efficient, it uses standard municipal accounting rules, and it provides transparency and oversight of the operating budget for the network. Adopting an enterprise fund has no impact on the town tax rate.

The second warrant article will adopt a proposed budget for the first partial year of operations. The draft budget will be a placeholder estimate for this first year and will be reviewed each year at Charlemont's annual town meeting.

It is important to put these accounting structures in place so that the municipal fiber network is ready to serve customers just as soon as they are connected.

Warrant Articles

Article 1. To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 53F½ establishing the Charlemont Fiber Network as an enterprise fund for the purpose of constructing and operating a telecommunications system, effective fiscal year 2021, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to operate the Charlemont Fiber Network enterprise or take any other action relative thereto.