

**Resolution**  
**RES-2013-243**

Adopted  
*[Dec 17, 2013 5:30 PM](#)*

**Authorizing the Appropriation of Funds from the Contingency Fund for the Purpose of Assisting the Expansion of Access to Broadband Internet Service**

**Department: County Administration**

**Sponsors:**

**Category:**

Budget

**Functions: Broadband, Contingent Fund**

WHEREAS, Tompkins County has recognized the public benefits of extending broadband internet coverage to all parts of the County, and

WHEREAS, on August 26, 2010, the Tompkins County Legislature formed a Broadband Committee to assess broadband infrastructure investment, deployment, and adoption opportunities countywide and to make recommendations for improved broadband access to underserved and un-served areas of the County, and

WHEREAS, as a result of the Committee's efforts, a cost-effective approach was identified to extend broadband to virtually all un-served and underserved areas of the County, and

WHEREAS, the broadband solution proposed by the Committee was recognized by New York State in the form of a Connect NY Broadband grant allocation that ranked third in New York State and that provided a level of funding adequate to address most, but not all, of the un-served and underserved areas of the County, and

WHEREAS, the remaining gaps in broadband coverage are concentrated in the Town of Caroline, and

WHEREAS, the cost to extend broadband access to 90% to 95% of Town residents in these difficult-to-reach areas is estimated at \$218,000, and

WHEREAS, in order to achieve such an expansion of access without placing a unique burden on Town taxpayers, the Town of Caroline has undertaken efforts to raise public, private, and philanthropic funding to fill these gaps in broadband coverage and has secured commitments of \$156,000 to date, and

WHEREAS, while recognizing the sizable in-kind contribution the County has made to the project, the Town of Caroline is requesting a modest financial contribution from the County, and

WHEREAS, when pooled with other funds being raised by the Town of Caroline, the County's contribution will bring the County closer to its goal of universal access to broadband

internet by extending access to some of the most rural and difficult-to-reach areas of the County, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Budget, Capital, and Personnel Committee, That the County Administrator be authorized to enter into a contract with the Town of Caroline to provide up to \$15,000 in financial support to the Town's efforts to extend broadband access to the Town of Caroline, provided that such contract require an accounting of the sources and uses of funds raised and appropriated by the Town for the broadband project,

RESOLVED, further, That the Director of Finance be authorized to make the following budget appropriation:

FROM:	A1990.54400	Contingent Fund	\$15,000
TO:	A1230-54400	Program Expense	\$15,000

**SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20**