

2021 Vinalhaven Broadband Survey Report

Conducted by the Fox Islands Broadband Task Force, April 2021

INTRODUCTION

The Fox Islands Task Force (FIBTF) was appointed by the Select Board in 2016 to help provide recommendations for an affordable and equitable broadband solution for Vinalhaven. Since that time, the Task Force has done considerable research to understand the best options for community-wide broadband and last December they launched the 2020 Broadband Campaign, sponsored by a grant from the Maine Community Foundation.

The goal of the campaign was to learn more about the various ways other towns have brought broadband to their communities. Using the information learned throughout the Campaign, in February 2021 the Task proposed the Select Board explore the community's willingness to support the construction and operation of a municipally-owned fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) broadband network with capital costs to be paid through taxation based on assessed property value and grants, and operating costs to be paid for by subscriber fees.

2021 VINALHAVEN BROADBAND SURVEY

To gauge community support for municipal broadband, FIBTF collaborated with Vetro FiberMap to design a community survey. The survey consisted of five questions:

1. Are you registered to vote on Vinalhaven?
2. Do you own property on Vinalhaven?
3. At Town Meeting or a Special Town Meeting, would you vote in favor of the Town borrowing up to \$5,000,000 in order to build a municipally-owned and operated FTTH broadband network?
4. Would you support the Town seeking grant funding to help offset the cost of the proposed project?
5. If you answered "No" to Question 3, which, if any, of the following is true for you? Check all that apply.
 - The Town should not own and operate a broadband network for the community
 - Building a broadband network should not be paid for through taxation
 - I would support this proposal if it cost up to \$4,000,000
 - I would support this proposal if it cost up to \$3,000,000

The survey was published online at the beginning of April 2021 and 1355 physical copies of the survey were sent to all Vinalhaven taxpayers and all Vinalhaven addresses. Responses were accepted through April 30, 2021.

Of the 1355 solicited respondents, **555** surveys were returned for a survey response rate of **41%**. (The average broadband survey response rate is around 25%.)

2021 VINALHAVEN BROADBAND SURVEY RESULTS

Respondent Demographics

Question 1: **Are you registered to vote on Vinalhaven?**

Question 2: **Do you own property on Vinalhaven?**

270 (**49%**) are **property owners** who **are registered to vote** on Vinalhaven

246 (**44%**) are **property owners** who **are not registered to vote** on Vinalhaven

30 (**5%**) are **non-property owners** who **are registered to vote** on Vinalhaven

9 (**2%**) are **non-property owners** who **are not registered to vote** on Vinalhaven

Primary Question

Question 3: **At Town Meeting or a Special Town Meeting, would you vote in favor of the Town borrowing up to \$5,000,000 in order to build a municipally-owned and operated FTTH broadband network?**

379 (**68%**) answered **YES**

176 (**32%**) answered **NO**

Question 3 response by Respondent Demographic							
Voting Taxpayer		Non-voting Taxpayer		Voting Non-taxpayer		Non-voting Non-taxpayer	
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
165	105	191	55	21	9	2	7
61%	39%	78%	22%	70%	30%	22%	78%

Grant Funding

Question 4: **Would you support the Town seeking grant funding to help offset the cost of the proposed project?**

464 (**84%**) answered **YES**

91 (**16%**) answered **NO**

Reasons for No Answers and Alternatives

Question 5: **If you answered “No” to Question 3, which, if any, of the following is true for you? Check all that apply.**

- Building a broadband network should not be paid for through taxation.

118 (**67%**) checked this option

- The Town should not own and operate a broadband network for the community.

80 (**45%**) checked this option

- I would support this proposal if it cost up to \$4,000,000.

6 (**3%**) checked this option

- I would support this proposal if it cost up to \$3,000,000.

14 (**8%**) checked this option

23 (**13%**) did not check any of the options

Comments

In addition to questions, the survey invited respondents to leave feedback. Among the 176 comments, a few broad themes emerged as common responses:

- Emphasis on the importance of up-to-date infrastructure for ensuring the long-term vitality of the island community year-round
- Municipal ownership would make infrastructure access more democratic and less subject to unaccountable corporate actors
- Concern over placing greater financial burden on residents through tax increases
- Questions over the fairness of asking those who may not subscribe to the service to finance the project
- Hesitancy to commit to a position without knowing how much state and federal aid will be available to offset the capital cost
- Desire for prorated subscription costs for seasonal residents

Survey Questions	Total	Yes	No	% Yes	% No
Question 1: Are you registered to vote on Vinalhaven	555	300	255	54%	46%
Question 2: Do you own property on Vinalhaven	555	516	39	93%	7%
Question 3: Would you vote in favor of muni BB?	555	379	176	68%	32%
Question 4: Would you seeking grant funding for BB?	555	464	91	84%	16%
Question 5: Why don't you support muni BB?	176	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
I don't support because taxes	176	118	58	67%	33%
I don't support because public ownership	176	80	96	45%	55%
I don't support because \$5 million is too expensive	176	20	156	11%	89%
No reason given	176	0	176	0%	100%

Voters Total	Nonvoters Total	Voters Yes	Voters No	% Voters Yes	% Voters No	Nonvoters Yes	Nonvoters No	% Nonvoters Yes	% Nonvoters No
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
300	255	270	30	90%	10%	246	9	96%	4%
300	255	186	114	62%	38%	193	62	76%	24%
300	255	235	65	78%	22%	229	26	90%	10%
114	62	49	65	43%	57%	36	26	58%	42%
114	62	78	36	68%	32%	40	22	65%	35%
114	62	51	63	45%	55%	29	33	47%	53%
114	62	18	96	16%	84%	11	51	18%	82%
114	62	0	114	0%	100%	0	62	0%	100%

Owners Total	Nonowners Total	Owners Yes	Owners No	% Owners Yes	% Owners No	Nonowners Yes	Nonowners No	% Nonowners Yes	% Nonowners No
516	39	270	246	52%	48%	30	9	77%	23%
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
516	39	356	160	69%	31%	193	62	76%	24%
516	39	433	83	84%	16%	31	8	79%	21%
160	16	77	83	48%	52%	8	8	50%	50%
160	16	108	52	68%	33%	10	6	63%	38%
160	16	76	84	48%	53%	4	12	25%	75%
160	16	19	141	12%	88%	10	6	63%	38%
160	16	0	160	0%	100%	0	16	0%	100%

Survey Feedback

- 1) while I support the idea and the proposal, it is a lot of money to borrow, and perhaps the largest bond VH has done ever(?).
- 2) My impression is that a lot more funds are coming online from government sources for broadband, and the ground may have shifted in events past few months. I hope the committee is in touch with state and federal elected officials to better understand this landscape.
- 3) Has the committee ever discussed fundraising to help defray capital costs?
 - 1). Please consider that this technology infrastructure will be 20 years old when the town is finished paying for it. Would you be happy paying for technology infrastructure installed in 2001?
 - 2) I videoconference and share files daily through multiple outlets including cellular and fiber optic systems. We depreciate these on 5 to 7 year periods due to infrastructure deterioration and technology improvement. The cellular systems are functional for video and file sharing which should satisfy education access. This is in an information intense rural manufacturing setting.

100% in favor of municipal service. Spectrum is ok but we can do better

Can't find any info on the VH town website about local elections and registration to vote.

A good deal for the homes in Vinalhaven.

A majority of us already have adequate internet service. Those who want it should ask one of the current providers. It may cost them to get lines to their locations but I am sure if they offer to pay it would happen

Absolutely not!

All in favor of BB!

Am not dissatisfied with spectrum, except for occasional outages but happy to support/join the venture

Another boondoggle like the windmills

Another opportunity for government overreach as well as an opportunity to place liens for not paying the broadband bills. Very seldom can a government agency run an operation such as this effectively and with cost management systems in place. Result=more taxation

As a longtime summer person I support this effort to empower all members of the town year-round

As a non-resident I do not believe I should be telling you what to do. My perception is Vinalhaven does nothing for those living on the north shore of the island. You do not even maintain the roads. My feeling is you only want our tax money and donations of time and money. The cost to bring fiber to the North Shore will be too expensive. You will only spend the money to get fiber to the Town itself unless you bring it across from North Haven.

This is likely to end up like the Wind Turbine project. It will probably not work and the taxpayers will be stuck with the ongoing bills. Good Luck!

As a seasonal resident, I would not wish to pay \$46.55 a month for 12 months for something I would get little use from. Similarly another \$120 a year for debt service is excessive. I can get internet service by making my ATT phone a hot spot and pay nothing extra

As long as the ball doesn't get dropped on the grant funding. Cost should not just be from 'taxpayers' who own property.

As long as you are sure about the numbers and they won't be much higher - yes we are for this. Thank you all for your hard work!!

Big tech too much pure evil

Bravo to the FIBTF!

Broadband is an essential utility that is needed for the future development and sustainability of the year round community

Broadband should be like the water district and all cost should be applied to those that opt in.

Can't decide b/t \$3 and \$4 million

Contributing because my family owns my old property now!

Essential to the island's future. If there isn't broadband I will have to sell my VH house for lack of reliable phone, internet.

Fantastic idea - even tho we will pay a lot in property taxes for it

faster, more reliable internet would be very beneficial for everyone. I own a winterized house that I only use in the summer but I would be able to stay on the island longer and work remotely with better internet

First get state and federal aid

Good broadband is like good roads. It will help everyone of every generation on VH

GREAT EFFORT! We wholly support it. One point: in the flyer the challenges for public model listed taxation for funding, but I hope VH can figure out how to avoid adding taxes and can look to other examples of municipally-owned utilities that have funded their projects through grants, municipal bonds and bank loans. DownEast Broadband went with bank loans. Tennessee has several successful examples. Right now there is so much money up for grabs in the state of Maine for Broadband - from ConnectME community-driven grants, ARP funds like Block Grants to each town (that are set for Broadband, Sewer or internet - and perhaps 100% of this can go to internet project), VH portion of \$7.1M block grants.

Great idea and appreciate all the thought and work that has gone into it

Great to see this! Very supportive, great results on Islesboro! Will covid \$ help?

Have or would any of these costs be offset by any of the proposed or passed federal infrastructure bills. The pandemic has revealed the National need for broadband to every house in this country exceeds those that drove the signing of the federal communications act of 1934 that made a telephone available in every house.

Have you investigated 5G services as an alternative? Major breakthrough in speed potentials

I am a Symmer resident. We work remotely during the Summer, so faster internet is highly desirable. We would certainly use the service. However, I regret I cannot vote at a Vinalhaven town meeting, because I am a resident of a different Maine town.

I am all in favor of bringing hi speed internet to VH but feel that users should pay for it rather than taxpayers. I also think it's a bit ridiculous to have the municipality through taxes pay for a service that can easily be addressed by the service provider by adjusting its monthly charges.

I am concerned your calculations do not include operation, maintenance and repair costs and that would make our subscriptions costs much higher

I am marking yes but concern as to who is going to oversee it and repair it. A CO-OP like FIEC shows efficiency, but the costs go up for salaries. I worry that taxes keep going up on VH but the services don't always seem to make the increase. Thanks Janann for your hard work!

I am not a voter in Vinalhaven but would make a donation to hi speed internet.

I am not interested in a town broadband proposal. I am a Spectrum subscriber.

I appreciate the clear, thoughtful and comprehensive work the task force and Gabe McPhail have undertaken to inform the community about this project. The benefits of municipal ownership and control warrant the cost.

I assume all households on the island would be served. We live just beyond the Spectrum cable on Granite Island. Our service is as bad as the North Part of the Island, but it sounds as though we would not be included in the grant application. Also the pin on the map is wrong. Strawson Road is also ridiculously out of place.

I believe we have sufficient internet and cable and phone services. I think public housing should be addressed. As out of town buyers are buying up property that is unaffordable to islanders.

I do not support forcing all taxpayers to fund a project that would not necessarily be used by the entire community. If broadband internet is a viable business on Vinalhaven then a provider will come forward and create the infrastructure necessary to provide the service and those who use the service will justifiably incur the costs associated with building the infrastructure as the provider will price their services accordingly.

I do not think that I should be taxed for something I can not use

I do not wish for taxes to pay for rich summer people broadband internet

if they can afford two or more houses they can afford satellite high speed.

I don't feel we should all pay to benefit a few

I don't think all taxpayers should be forced to pay for a service they may not need or use.

I don't think this is necessary. Living on an island, one should expect that it may be difficult to connect with the mainland. Broadband would not help to preserve the island, which has the charms of not being as connected as the mainland. The internet on the island works sufficiently, even out of town. Finally, the project is very costly, and may cost more than it is worth.

I feel that this project would be very good for the community and is a necessary step to take to ensure the continued vitality of the island.

Thank you for your efforts in trying to make this happen.

I hope the majority of folks understand that value of brining all on VH into the new technology era and positives it can bring to all.

Think healthcare, medical consults, educational programming/courses and tying the outside world to knowledge about the island life + challenges. Think long term solutions to fishing problems, regulations, information + access to more markets for island goods and services.

I know that a contract for FTTH has been signed, however as a former technical lead in IT network design and installation, to supplement the FTTH effort, I also recommend looking at some the high-speed wireless options on the horizon from such vendors as T-Mobile (see: <https://www.pcmag.com/news/t-mobile-standalone-5g-boosts-rural-coverage-at-the-cost-of-speed>) and high-speed satellite options (<https://www.pcmag.com/how-to/what-is-starlink-spacex-satellite-internet-service-explained>). While neither solution offers speeds near 1 GB (Both would likely be initially available at 50 - 10 Mbps), it might be possible to avoid the high cost of installing fiber to the most remote parts of Vinalhaven and the nearby islands.

I might be ready to vote by june

I pay over 250.00 a month for satellite internet. Plus I pay for dsl with fairpoint. The satellite hits its maximum downloads after about 3 days making it useless. In effect giving me just a VERY SLOW dsl service. It makes working from home nearly impossible. The island really needs to care for all its residents. Not just those downtown. I contribute a lot in taxes and I'd hope this was something that the town could just move forward with out of fairness.

I think broadband as a public utility is essential to the future of our community.

Map location for my address is incorrect

I think that implementing island-wide broadband service will help to "future-proof" Vinalhaven in terms of communication, commerce, and of course, education. In fact, I believe this is vital to island life and livelihoods.

I think the network should be funded entirely by user fees not general taxation

I think there will be a funding both from Maine Senator King's initiatives and from the proposed Biden infrastructure that will come available to offset costs further. .

I think hi speed is necessary in Maine for work at home, for education, and this is lower cost than I currently pay

I think you should look at this from an 'income' as opposed to real estate value. House prices are going up because of scarcity and this will leave many in a difficult situation. Thanks for your good work. I am bragging about your transparency and thoroughness on VH!

I would be nice to see this happen, and include people outside of the central part of the island! All power to the terrific team working on this.

I would consider supporting this but as it reads, people who already pay more in real estate taxes will be expected to pay more for broadband in taxation. This seems unfair since the service wouldn't be any different. It seems discriminatory to me.

I would like everyone to have internet - but not borrow \$5 million or have town involved!

I would support this project with or without making the connection to the property tax. Like cable tv and other options, user fees could cover the costs where residents choose to opt out.

I'd like to see the FIBTF explore the possibility of a summer rate, if it's not possible I understand

I'd support the proposal & would subscribe if it's possible to do this on a month by month basis (since we would need it for Summer/Fall months when we are on the island).

If all else fails, then 5 mil would be ok. We should, however, be using a model similar to that used for the wind project: Short term investor ownership to take advantage of tax benefits, then a then a [unreadable] of the infrastructure after 5 years.

Please explore the 'Rural Broadband Investment Tax Credit' and the 'Financing Flexibility' acts, proposed by the senate. Also new universe with Biden's new infrastructure plan. Not a good time to be making this decision. Wait and see

If the FTTH network is 1g/1g we are in favor. If it is only 100mb/25mb we oppose.

If the survey fails the popularity contest, don't give up because more and more federal funding is likely to become available. Maybe even more than the 1.5 mil projects grants

If this were to go through the taxes I fear would be way more than what I or other islanders could afford to pay . I think we are taxed enough as is

If we could find grants we would be more interested! Love the idea of fast internet but adding money to taxes is a hard subject which I believe many voters who have Mediocre incomes will not approve of.

In my opinion only people who use the broadband network should pay for it, not everyone

Internet access should be a personal expense

Is this (individual tax liability) based on only your residence's value or all property owned on VH?

It is important in the same way that other pieces of infrastructure are - vital to the well being of us all.

It should be privately funded with a tax incentive deduction but not as an investment as it is highly unlikely it will never be one as asset to investors. It everyone on island has extra money to afford this.

It should cost a lot less than 3 mil

It shouldn't be based on property value. (It's questionable whether that would hold up legally). It's a subsidy. It should be based on usage.

It costs the same per hook up regardless of the property value. It's not how it's done typically to have a sliding scale for internet. I don't support this methodology for funding the payback of the bond. There are technologies coming that will allow high speed internet through satellite with no wires. Maybe the Town doesn't need to do this in the end because Space X and others are taking care of it for rural America for around \$99/month. Yes, I want much better than DSL (which is all we can get) and believe it's coming via other channels.

But, thank you for all of this work. Sincerely, very sincerely appreciate it.

Let all property owners, non-owners and other stakeholders vote and speak at the meeting

Let the people who know what they are doing handle this, rather than creating another tax to be raised when it gets screwed up

Many elderly natives can't afford electronics, let alone higher taxes!!

Money for this should not come from taxation. It is a luxury, not a necessity!

My husband and I have owned a house on VH since the late 80's and, beginning in 2021 plan to start spending 4-6 months at there.

Prior to this, we rented out throughout the summer and fall. I work fulltime in a virtual setting and internet access is key to making this a success. I would imagine that a strong internet connection would not only be helpful to the students (both college and lower grades) on the island, but also would open up employment opportunities for residents. We are in favor of moving forward with this project and will assist wherever possible.

NO MORE TAXES

No!

Not a taxpayer issue! Should be user pays not the taxpayer. It'll be easy to vote this down. Starlink will solve the issue

Not for this at all. The town has too many irons in the fire now and can't maintain what they have

NOT IN FAVOR OF SPENDING THAT KIND OF MONEY FOR THAT SERVICE AND DO NOT WANT TO RAISE TAX MONEY!

Once approved, what is the time frame for installation?

Our house is going to be built starting this summer at [address] and we intend to live there for 3-6 months per year, assuming we can get internet and will be able to work remotely.

I am thrilled and impressed at the work the town broadband committee has done thus far, and most fervently hope that fiber-optic will become a reality on the island, to support the continued ability for year-round residents to work remotely and for summer visitors to lengthen their stays to do the same, thus contributing the island economy.

Our infrastructure is crumbling: roads, water mains, storm drains, wharfs, & sidewalks . We are not taking care of what we have in our plate but want to take on more? We should not borrow for y to his before our current infrastructure is brought up to date. Where will the qualified workers come from to run this system when we don't have enough qualified people to staff current town operations?

Besides, there are more and more options all the time for better connectivity.

Paying the town for internet would be way better than paying spectrum or some other huge corporation. This would be great for the town!

Please be aware that many seasonal residents rely on reliable and fast internet to monitor our properties (controlling HVAC, security cams, etc.)

Please do this!

Please, please, please do this!!!

Progress costs are necessary - thank you

Providing broadband to rural areas is a priority for the Federal government and Gov Mills in the state of ME. We should not have to raise a bond issue to be repaid with taxation. The total cost should be born by grants.

What are the estimated costs for the service once it is established?

I do not think any costs should be geared to property valuations. Broadband, like the telephone, is a utility and a necessary utility for all households.

Providing internet to all island residents is a worthy goal but some residents, especially summer, are quite remote regarding a much higher installation and maintenance cost. FIE recognizes this with the monthly charges. Are their plans to do this as well with this project?

Public Private Partnership seems the best way

Put money towards roads

Read the Axiom report, good job!

Really hesitated at the plan to pay with taxation. The hope is that a grant and/or Fed \$\$ will offset the costs. Will the provider offer the service at cost? Is the provider a nonprofit?

Reliable broadband would be a great asset for the island.

Since fee is based on taxes and summer people tend to have/pay lots of taxes but are seasonal, I hope we would all have access to the highspeed internet. Would we pay year around even if we only use approx 3 months out of the year?

Stop spending my money on stupid shit!!!

Strongly support muni BB. Cannot stand monopoly from Comcast broadband in my home town.

Strongly support this initiative

Support it if much faster and cheaper than consolidated

Supporting town infrastructure through real estate taxation might be ok if the tax base was owned primarily by permanent residence but it isn't. As a result, those of us who don't live here and in some cases spend very little time here, have to pay a substantial sum for something we may not even want. In my case, I would be charged \$7,500 (over 20 years) just to pay off the initial \$5mil investment whether I use the service or not.

Taxes are high enough - please, no more debt or spending

Taxes are the only way to make it happen fast. Taxes are much higher in France and that is the best way to make improvements to local gov't as well

Taxes for summer people are already too high. Same for electricity. We can't continue to subsidize the rest of VH. Really!

Taxes too high already! Taxes to not be increased because of this. I will not be using this, so I shouldn't have to pay for it! The people that want it--let them pay for it, not everyone. If it should come to it, it must be a ballot vote!

Thank you for all your efforts to provide great internet to everyone on VH, regardless of the vote outcome!

Thank you for the endless amounts of meetings, conversation and planning. I am very appreciative of your passion and sustained energy to make this happen!

Thank you for the survey. We feel the idea of island wide broadband is good but feel that the project should be managed by private contractor. Do not think the tax base should carry the cost of the project

Thank you for working on this!

Thank you to all who keep the possibility of this moving forward, especially Janann!

The approximate monthly cost of \$77 is pretty steep given that we are only there in the summer. But we would be willing to support this project as a commitment to the island community.

The current service is adequate and less expensive. As summer residents we pay 4 months a year and power down for 8 months. And we worry that infrastructure on the island will be difficult to sustain. But if the residents want this they should get the opportunity to participate in a weighted (toward them) vote

The FIBTF should talk with Randy Pitts to see what his opinion is. He has much experience with this and I believe there are many options available right now with DSL, cable internet, cellular data options

The lack of decent connectivity keeps many people from spending more time on Vh. This would be a huge step forward!

The people of VH pay enough taxes. Enough is enough!

The questionnaire says performance will be 10/10. We can get internet here at [address] using a ceramic antenna high up on the house which can 'see' the water tower on NH; its absolute top performance is 3000 bps, which is 3000 times less than the proposed fiber optic. When atmospheric conditions are right and the competing traffic is not too great, we can stream two movies. This difference begs the question: to what end/benefit is all the promised bandwidth? Warning! Personal diatribe follows/ Clicking through 100+ channels of TV in some hotel room reveals little that has any value, even entertainment value. Ads, sipping reports of political correctness, sound-bite news that leaves out more than it reports, ginned-up reality TV, etc. And don't even go to 'educational TV' and the poor children in school who will not be able to watch a video of some carefully-constructed slice of history. In human learning, an image creates an emotion, seeing something a firm belief that you 'got' it (why prosecution lawyers dread eye-witnesses: carefully examined, their testimony is often shaky); if you want to understand, read.

I can't imagine fiber-optic line being hung on our power poles; it would have to go in the ground. Blasting and trenching. Dead trees are rife on our roads, a constant threat to electric and phone service. We were recently (took 3 calls) without phone service for about 8 days. By whom and with what technology will fiber-optic cable be spliced, such that performance is not degraded?

We are all aware of the hypercritical and self-serving (and ultimately, racially driven) court fights over the Affordable Care Act, aka 'Obama Care'. Years. \$\$\$\$. How would you prevent a group from launching a class-action suit claiming unfair taxation? Lost monies would have to be covered by other subscribers. Remember the wind-tower fracas, where the Maine government changed ESTABLISHED OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES to mollify the complainants. Dare we hope for better?

Tongue-in-cheek: Maybe part of VH's charm is the ability to come here and drop off the grid? Makes a visit a good time to discover who your children are.

You use Islesboro as an example on the questionnaire; I know little about that island. What is their year-round population? How large is their tax base? Taxes per \$100,000 before broadband? After broadband?

I don't suppose that some of the unused bandwidth could be used for telephone, could it?

IMPORTANT: Keeping 5G (5th generation internet service), its myriad repeaters and its broadened electromagnetic spectrum away from The service should be paid for equally by all users

The survey does not recognize my address : [address]. It will not come up in a search. There has been no definitive answer about whether the town would connect ALL THE WAY TO MY HOUSE. The town does not recognize non-residents to vote, yet if this bond is approved, I would be subject to \$2064.00 in additional property tax per year + connection fee. That's just for the first year--my property taxes have escalated rapidly and my portion of the broadband install would go up accordingly...for 20 years or more. So I would be funding a disproportionate share of the bond for the island, as would anyone with a home assessed at over \$500K. There are far more urgent priorities on the island that go unaddressed ie the issue of emergency medical services often having no way off the island if ferry crew won't go and planes can't land. And who's paying for these services for those who cannot? Is that in the town budget? Have we researched other options for internet service? We receive service through a microwave link on our side of the island in addition to Consolidated. Service is not pas it would be in a city, but it meets our needs and will not raise my taxes. Have you researched future service through satellite that is gaining much attention in Congress? To supply the entire island with broadband service, primarily paid for by the larger home and landowners, and for many of which there is no guarantee of direct connection to their home, is a farce and will drive future landowners to other Maine properties as well as force current landowners to re-think their Vinalhaven existence. You simply cannot keep soaking the non year round residents (many of whom now live at least 6 months on island, yet still can't vote). Taxation without representation is what it's called. I'm adamantly against this proposal.

The Town is not an expert in the business of broadband

There are more pressing issues out here that need attention before we worry about faster Internet!

There is no future in which VH remains a viable thriving community for all ages but does not have high speed internet essentially everywhere. Future demand will only go up

This could make a real difference for the island's future.

This is a critical need for for WFH people, education and community support

This is a great plan! Thank you for all the work to put it together. I wholly support it.

This is a wonderful idea.

This is essential. Current BB is terrible. The current status is not acceptable. I support doing whatever it takes to get hi speed bb in the entire island

This is great for those who don't have access to alternative internet services.

This is kind of vague and sketchy. Might have a lot of people turned off by such a higher taxation. "When will it end. Probably turn into a money put?

This is note my address. I am at [address], not louds pit. The survey would not accept this.

This is redundant and unnecessary for the bulk of Vinalhaven residents. The primary purpose of this project is to increase internet services for some of the residents who live outside areas covered by other ISPs. While I feel this is unfortunate for those individuals, it is not a problem that all taxpayers should have to solve for them. Additionally, I feel that this initiate would lead to a type of gentrification and continue to erode the culture of this community. If you think this is funny and ridiculous, then you must be from away.

This is very exciting. I think it would help all the residents by having affordable high speed internet.

This project has real merit but because seasonal residents would be the major benefactors of this project there needs to be a conversation with some of these very wealthy people to pay for the bulk of this project.

This reminds me of the windmills and the first playground vote

This would enormously increase my monthly bill, as a [illegible], I would not benefit too expensive

Too expensive - no taxpayer should have their retaxes increased due to broadband! If an individual wants FTTH let them pay for it, not every taxpayer who does not!

Ultimately, the public option seems like the most satisfactory. The thing about privately owned and even public/private is that costs can rise whenever the private owners want to... and we would have to pay it....

Undecided voter

Undecided voter

Undecided, but would love to be able to negotiate more \$\$ for BB service

Very enthusiastic!

Very much hoping that a solution for HSB will be found!

Vinalhaven has weathered many changes in types of work that has supported people on the island - fishing, quarrying, horse nets, lobstering, etc. As continuing record lobster harvests are not a given, we need to be looking to the future of ways to sustain life on the island.

Wait for the government to give us Broadband Money. Too much money!!

We also need good phone service which we do not have and have not had for decades. It is equally important that we have better landline coverage now.

We are happy with current service

We are seasonal - questions regarding seasonal rates which we currently pay - are not addressed. Obviously you don't care what we think? Apples + oranges survey. Why send a survey to seasonal residents?

We are summer residents and am concerned with having the additional costs for the 8 months a year we are not there to use the service. As it stands now I can put our internet on a winter hold and pay \$5 a month. The calculator has me paying almost \$70 a month and that is a substantial jump for those 8 months. So as much as I'd like to support a better internet this being done through taxation is not the way it should be done. It's completely unfair to the residents who cannot be there full time.

We believe having broadband would benefit the town residents

We get very poor DSL service at our seasonal home ([address]), and Spectrum service is not available to us at this address. I wholeheartedly support the task force's proposal to build a municipally-owned FTTH network.

We have a seasonal home. We will want to suspend/reduce service in the off season. Otherwise this is more than we want to spend in the winter when it's not used; undecidedf

We have never had internet at our place on the island. Had dial up for a short period of time. Seasonal membership would be best for us, if possible. Thanks Gabe and folks for heading this up!

We need better internet! Consolidated Communication s has been a constant disappointment...

We need this! I would spend much more time on vinalhaven if the internet was more performant.

We pay enough for this now - "No More".

We rent out part of our house, would our tenant have to pay as well for broadband use?

We would like to retain our current provider for internet, Spectrum
were getting taxed out of vinalhaven now . we dont need any more

Whether commercial fishing, tourism/second home, home occupation, remote work,

While I recognize the need for fast and reliable internet service for all, it is concerning that this will be yet another burden for taxpayers, some of whom may not reap any benefits from said service. The initial cost may be offset with grants and \$5.00 per \$100,000 of property value may seem like a small number, but what about maintenance on this service? Will we get grants to cover that or will it fall upon the taxpayers? Iâ€™m thinking it is the latter.

While this would benefit my family for a very short time period each year, the benefit to the island's year round residents would be tremendous.

Who is going to fix this if there is a problem? Anyone qualified living on the island instead of outsourcing??

Will I as a part time summer resident be able to pay only for when my home is open as in May 1 - Oct 1?

Will there be a seasonal suspend option for summer residents?

With the advancements in satellite Internet Services - i.e.: Starlink a robust broadband infrastructure would no longer be necessary within a decade - however Vinalhaven residences will be paying increased taxes ongoing.

P.S. Spectrum seem to be doing just fine

With the current economic situation towns should not be spending money they don't have. State and federal funds are unpredictable as the weather. With the new bills (Bond issues), we are already paying twice for broadband.

Would like more detail on Question 3; undecided

Would Spectrum and continental stop providing service to the island if this measure passed?

Would summer people like us be able to just pay the monthly sub cost for the months we are there?

Would support if no tax dollars are used

Yes, please do this.

You should find a way politely to tell people like me (Away) that the taxes we complain about are less than our share. People who can afford the luxury of summers here can afford this service. The price of luxury for us increases the price of necessity for you. We should be contributing that increase (and many before it) so we do not make it impossible for you to live here. As some of us Always encounter difficulty affording our luxury, we see your side. Unless our free ride is tamed, there's not much more hope for us than there is for you. Hope it's possible to have a conversation about private fundraising, also a study quantifying Aways' "net profit" (value received minus community benefit conferred (net of tax increase) for "voluntary surtax" receivable by the town. If all could agree on the basic facts, ignoring them would be conspicuous. Impossible to agree to a solution without agreement there's a problem. Without a common premise, there's nothing to do but agree to disagree.