Hi all,

I believe that mandating hybrid meetings to be a bad idea. The implementation is too cost prohibitive and meetings are difficult to run. I have first hand experience with hybrid meetings that result in chaos due to too many people trying to talk, IT problems that result in echos, and even complete missed communications. By mandating this if there are IT problems, you therefore must postpone the meeting as those joining remotely would be unfairly cut out. We are all volunteers and by doing so will result in less involvement on these boards and committees due to becoming overly time consuming.

I'd like to thank the members of the committee for trying to find a compromise solution. You have specifically created exemptions to the hybrid meeting requirement, allowing for fully remote meetings during "local incidents" such as weather events and for advisory committees that do not have legislative, quasi-judicial, or budgetary functions. In addition, you have recognized that the hybrid meeting requirement will have a financial impact on many communities and have therefore proposed a grant program to help municipalities buy technology to facilitate hybrid meetings. But in the end please do not mandate it.

Thank you

Bartholomew Howes
Readsboro Planning Commission Chair