TOWN OF ESSEX SELECTBOARD
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Online
Essex Junction, VT 05452
Tuesday, February 16, 2021
6:30 PM

E-mail: manager@essex.org *www.essexvt.org* *Phone: (802) 878-1341*

*Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, **this meeting will be held remotely**. Available options to watch or join the meeting:*

- **WATCH:** the meeting will be live-streamed on Town Meeting TV.
- **JOIN ONLINE**: Join Microsoft Teams Meeting. Depending on your browser, you may need to call in for audio (below).
- **JOIN CALLING:** Join via conference call (*audio only*): (802) 377-3784 | Conference ID: 817 591 504#
- **PROVIDE FULL NAME:** For minutes, please provide your full name whenever prompted.
- **CHAT DURING MEETING: Please use "Chat" to request to speak, only. Please do not use for comments.**
- **RAISE YOUR HAND:** Click on the hand in Teams to speak or use the "Chat" feature to request to speak.
- **MUTE YOUR MIC:** When not speaking, please mute your microphone on your computer/phone.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** [6:30 PM]
2. **INVOCATION OF CIVILITY**
3. **AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES**
4. **APPROVE AGENDA**
5. **PUBLIC TO BE HEARD**
   a. Comments from Public on Items Not on Agenda
6. **PUBLIC HEARING**
   a. Second of two public hearings to consider the Plan of Merger of the Town of Essex and the Village of Essex Junction dated January 11, 2021 and the proposed Charter for the merged communities. *(Residents will be given 2 minutes each to speak.)* [6:35 PM]
7. **BUSINESS ITEMS**
   a. **Consider approval of first-class and second-class liquor license Silver Hospitality LLC dba Salt & Bubbles Wine Bar and Market
   b. Consider request from Andy Watts to post merger information to all Front Porch Forum neighborhoods
   *****Selectboard will be acting as Board of Liquor Control Commissioners during this agenda item***
8. **CONSENT ITEMS**
   a. Consider approval of Questions and Answers: Proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Budget
   b. Consider approval of Form PVR-4155 – Certificate – No Appeals or Suit Pending to Grand List
   c. Consider approval of Town Highway Certification and reclassification approval for portion of West Sleepy Hollow Road
   d. Approve minutes: January 25, 2021 – Joint; January 28, 2021
   e. Check warrant: #17823 – 2/5/21; #17826 – 2/12/21
9. **READING FILE**
   a. Board member comments
   b. Email from Brad Luck re: Questions from Resident regarding merger booklet
   c. Email from Elaine Haney re: Town concerns re: H.124, Vermont Employment Growth Incentive
   d. Email from Matt and Margaret Gilbert re: Brief statement in support of merger
   e. Email from Madeline Orsini re: Senior Center
   f. Email from James Jutras re: Legislative priorities
   g. Email from Peter Gustafson re: Planting trees this spring
   h. Memo from Dennis Lutz re: Status of Winter Operations through 24 January 2021 (INFORMATION)
   i. Upcoming meeting schedule
10. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
    a. An executive session is not anticipated
11. **ADJOURN**

Members of the public are encouraged to speak during the Public to Be Heard agenda item, during a Public Hearing, or, when recognized by the Chair, during consideration of a specific agenda item. The public will not be permitted to participate when a motion is being discussed except when specifically requested by the Chair. This agenda is available in alternative formats upon request. Meetings of the Selectboard, like all programs and activities of the Town of Essex, are accessible to people with disabilities. For information on accessibility or this agenda, call the Town Manager's office at 878-1341.

Certification: ______________ 2/12/2021

Invocation on Civility

(from *All Those in Favor* by Susan Clark, 2005)

"We are gathered together in civil assembly. We gather as a community, in the oldest sense of the word. We gather to come together and try to make decisions; about what is right, about what is wrong. Let us advocate for our positions, but not at the expense of others. Let us remember that there is an immense gap between saying "I am right" and saying "I believe I am right." And that our neighbors with whom we might disagree are good people "with hopes and dreams as true and high as ours." And let us always remember that, in the end, caring for each other, in this community, is of far greater importance than any difference we may have. Thank you for being here this evening."

TOWN OF ESSEX
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
PROPOSED PLAN OF MERGER OF
TOWN OF ESSEX AND VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION AND PROPOSED CHARTER
February 1, 2021, 6:45 PM
February 16, 2021, 6:30 PM

The Selectboard of the Town of Essex, Vermont hereby give notice that public hearings shall be held at the following times online via Microsoft Teams:

- **Monday, February 1, 2021, 6:45 PM**, participate online or by telephone (dial (802) 377-3784 and enter meeting ID: 817 591 504#

- **Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 6:30 PM**, participate online or by telephone (dial (802) 377-3784 and enter meeting ID: 195 190 840#

to consider the Plan of Merger of the Town of Essex, Vermont and Village of Essex Junction, Vermont dated January 11, 2021 and the proposed Charter for the merged communities. These hearings will be conducted pursuant to Chapter 49 of Title 24, Vermont Statutes Annotated and Section 2645 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

THE PROPOSED MERGER PLAN AND PROPOSED CHARTER FOR THE CONSOLIDATED COMMUNITY ARE ON FILE AT THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE AT 81 MAIN STREET, ESSEX JUNCTION. Copies are available upon request by contacting clerk@essex.org or calling 879-0413. Copies will be mailed to households and posted to www.essexvt.org, www.essexjunction.org, and www.greateressex2020.org.

Complete details and information to connect to the meetings can be found at www.essexvt.org or by contacting Tammy Getchell at tgetchell@essex.org or 878-6951.

Dated at Essex, Vermont, this 19th day of January 2021 by the Essex Town Selectboard.

By: Elaine Haney
Elaine Haney, Chair

Patrick Murray
Patrick Murray, Vice Chair

Vince Franco
Vince Franco, Clerk

Andrew J. Watts

Dawn Hill-Fleury
Dawn Hill-Fleury

Received for record this _19th_ day of January, 2021 in the records of the Town of Essex.

Susan McNamara-Hill
Susan McNamara-Hill, Town Clerk

Plan of Merger

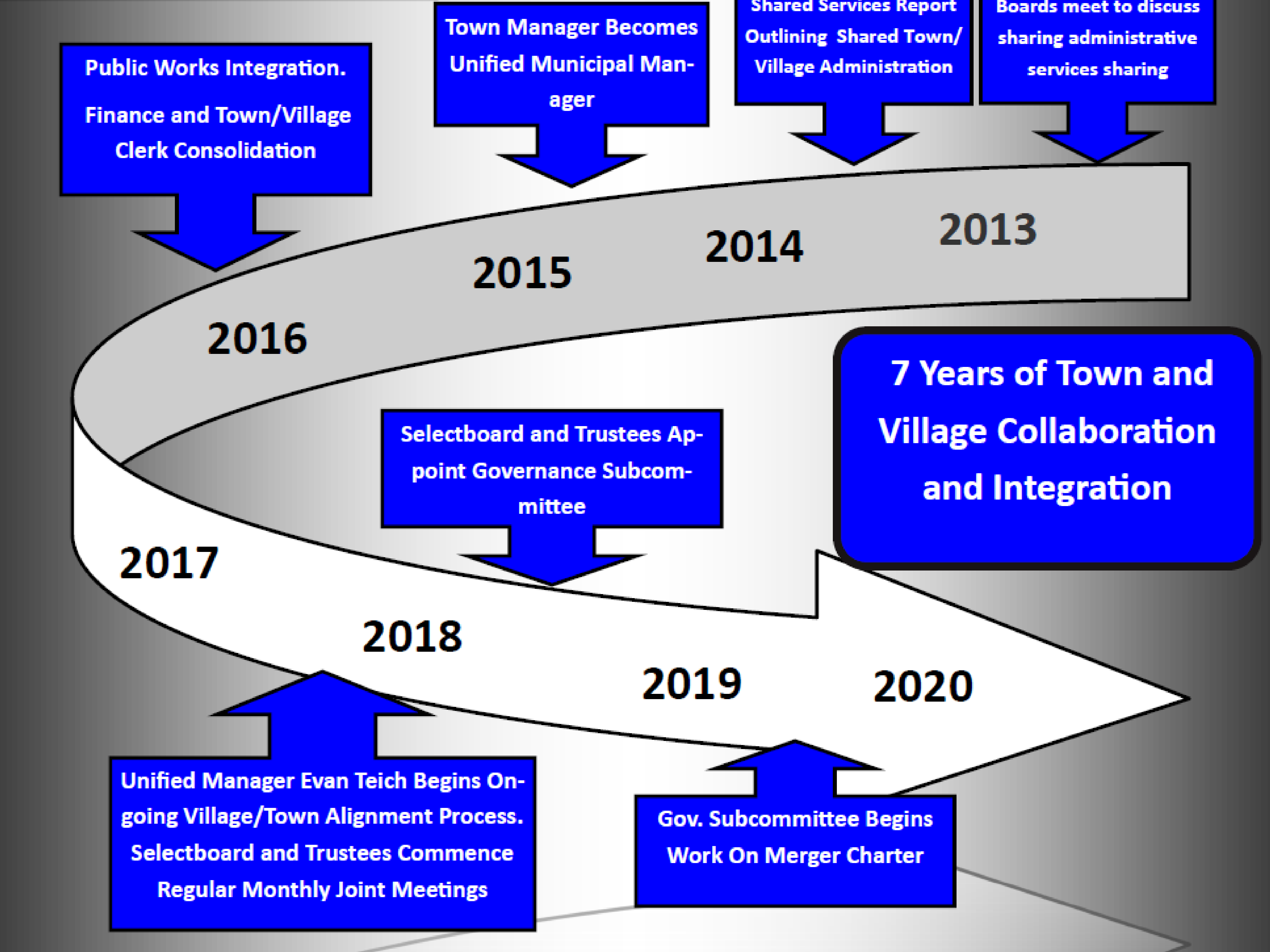
for the

Town of Essex

and the

Village of Essex Junction

2021


7 Years of Town and Village Collaboration and Integration
Boards meet to discuss sharing administrative services sharing
2013
Shared Services Report Outlining Shared Town/ Village Administration
2014
Town Manager Becomes Unified Municipal Manager
2015
Public Works Integration.
Finance and Town/Village Clerk Consolidation
2016
Selectboard and Trustees Appoint Governance Subcommittee
2017
2018
Unified Manager Evan Teich Begins Ongoing Village/Town Alignment Process. Selectboard and Trustees Commence Regular Monthly Joint Meetings
2019
Gov. Subcommittee Begins Work On Merger Charter
2020

A Stronger Future Together

Why are we considering merger?

- One government.
- More transparency.
- One set of ordinances.
- Australian ballot budget voting.
- Informational Town Meeting.
- One land development code.
- More organized, consistent planning.

A Stronger Future Together

Why are we considering merger?

- A unified community with a common vision.
- A unified community setting its course together on a host of issues:
  - Ensuring racial justice, equity, and safety
  - Becoming a welcoming and inclusive community
  - Housing that meets the needs of our entire community
  - Community and economic development
  - Preservation of open space and stewardship of the environment
  - First-class recreational facilities
  - Building resiliency and sustainability

A Stronger Future Together

Benefits for the Village:

- Lower taxes, temporarily.
- Tax equity.
- Predictable representation.
- Fewer voting days.

Benefits for the TOV:

- Predictable representation.
- Equal access.
- More say in spending.
- More input on planning and development.
- Better, less expensive childcare.

A Stronger Future Together

What's not changing?

- Our high quality of services.
- Our community identities.

Four Challenges for Merger

1. Integrate the $3.5 M Essex Junction tax levy into the $15 M Town of Essex budget AND

2. Maintain the high level of municipal services residents expect and pay for AND

3. Achieve eventual tax equity AND

4. Preserve the identities of the Town and Village.

A Gradual Timeline

- The Town of Essex levies taxes on all Town properties, including the Village. The Village levies taxes on Village properties only.
- As a result, the average Village property owner pays an additional ~$925/year in taxes.
- Merging the Town and Village budgets all at once would result in a single increase of ~$330 for Town outside the Village properties.
- An all-at-once increase could also result in a desire for significant cost cutting that would negatively affect municipal services, undermining a primary goal of merger to maintain the current quality of service.

A Gradual Timeline

- A gradual approach was adopted to keep tax increases for the Town outside the Village reasonable, affordable, and predictable.
- The 12-year time period coincides with the end of the Village's bonded debt and is the length of time preferred by most Town residents who responded to the 2019 survey on merger.

A 12-Year Transitional Period

- Starting the first merged year, the Town and Village budgets would merge into one budget, with Town and Village tax rates gradually equalized over 12 years.
- Town taxes would increase about $26/year (for average property of $280K). Village taxes would decrease about $35/year. After 12 years the rates would be equal, and the *merger-related increase/decrease* would end.
- Grand list growth and consolidation efficiencies over the 12-year period will offset tax impacts on the Town outside the Village.
- Special taxing districts included in the merger will also offset tax impacts on the Town outside the Village.
- Village taxpayers only would pay off Village’s remaining bonded debt until retired in 2035.

Annual Merger-Related Tax Changes

What is the **TOTAL** impact of taking the amount raised by the Village general tax and spreading it over the entire grand list?

Property Value	Town Outside the Village	Village
$280k	$329	($487)
$350k	$412	($609)
$500k	$588	($871)
$1M	$1,176	($1,741)

Figures based on FY2020 voter-approved revenue. All figures are approximate.

Original calculation – based on FY20 numbers

Annual Merger-Related Tax Changes

$280,000 Property Value

Town Outside the Village													
Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Ave. over 13 years
$11	$24	$24	$24	$24	$24	$24	$24	$24	$24	$24	$24	$52	$25
Village													
($20)	($35)	($34)	($34)	($34)	($34)	($34)	($35)	($34)	($35)	($35)	($34)	($73)	($36)

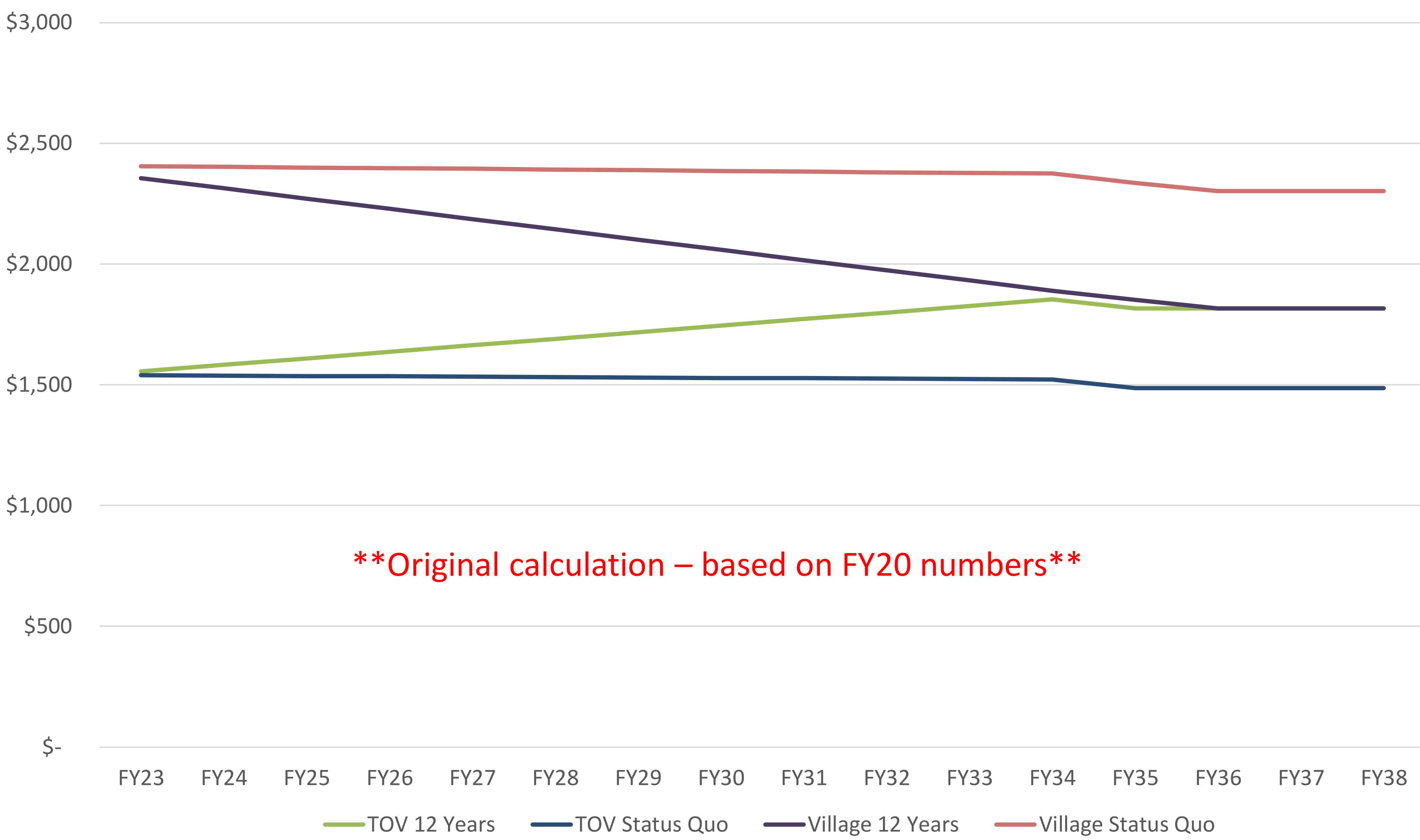
Figures based on FY2020 voter-approved revenue. All figures are approximate.

The total change is an increase of approximately $330 for Town Outside the Village and a decrease of approximately $470 for the Village.

Original calculation – based on FY20 numbers

Annual Merger-Related Tax Changes

Compared to non-merged taxation



Annual Merger-Related Tax Changes

What is the **TOTAL** impact of taking the amount raised by the Village general tax and spreading it over the entire grand list?

Property Value	Town Outside the Village	Village
$280k	$373	($568)
$350k	$466	($694)
$500k	$666	($963)
$1M	$1,333	($1,859)

Figures based on FY22 PROPOSED budget. All figures are approximate.

Assumptions: Zero Growth; Districts fold into budget in year 13

Updated 2/3/21 with figures based on FY22 budgets (yet to be voted)

Annual Merger-Related Tax Changes

$280,000 Property Value

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
Town Outside the Village													
Annual change over prior year	$ 26	$ 26	$ 26	$ 26	$ 26	$ 26	$ 26	$ 26	$ 26	$ 26	$ 26	$ 26	$ 64
Total change in annual tax bill from year 0	$ 26	$ 52	$ 77	$ 103	$ 129	$ 155	$ 180	$ 206	$ 232	$ 258	$ 283	$ 309	$ 373
Village													
Annual change over prior year	$ (41)	$ (37)	$ (36)	$ (37)	$ (37)	$ (37)	$ (37)	$ (37)	$ (37)	$ (37)	$ (37)	$ (37)	$ (124)
Total change in annual tax bill from year 0	$ (41)	$ (78)	$ (114)	$ (151)	$ (187)	$ (224)	$ (261)	$ (297)	$ (334)	$ (371)	$ (407)	$ (444)	$ (568)

	TOV	Village
Average Annual Change	$ 29	$ (44)
Total Change in Annual Tax Bill	$ 373	$ (568)

Figures based on FY22 PROPOSED budget. All figures are approximate.

Assumptions: Zero Growth; Districts fold into budget in year 13

Updated 2/3/21 with figures based on FY22 budgets (yet to be voted)

ADDED 2/3/21: Impact of assumptions other than zero-growth in grand list

$280,000 Property Value

How would assumptions other than zero-growth impact these numbers? Consider, for example, the following three scenarios. The results of which are shown in summary following.

1. The **high range** shows the cost assuming zero growth in the grand list and that the sidewalk and capital districts are moved into the Town budget in year 13 causing a final increase. The average is calculated over 13 years.

2. The **middle range** shows the cost assuming 1.25% annual growth in the Town grand list and assumes the sidewalk and capital district funding is moved into the full budget in year 13. The average is calculated over 13 years.

3. The **low range** shows the cost assuming 1.25% annual growth in the Town grand list, 0.5% growth in the Village grand list, and assumes that the sidewalk and capital district funding is eliminated in year 13. The average is calculated over 12 years for the TOV and 13 years for the Village. This is because eliminating the sidewalk and capital district funding would have one final decrease to the Village but no final increase to the TOV.

Town outside Village Property	Total Cost	Average Annual Cost
1. High Range	$373	$29
2. Middle Range	$309	$24
3. Low Range	$259	$22

Village Property	Total Cost	Average Annual Cost
1. High Range	($567)	($44)
2. Middle Range	($630)	($48)
3. Low Range	($674)	($52)

Updated 2/3/21 with figures based on FY22 budgets (yet to be voted)

ADDED 2/8/21: Cumulative Merger-Related Tax Changes

$280,000 Property Value

	Year 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Total over 13 years	
TOV $280K	$1,500	$1,500	$1,500	$1,500	$1,500	$1,500	$1,500	$1,500	$1,500	$1,500	$1,500	$1,500	$1,500	$1,500	$19,500	
FY21		$25.76	$51.52	$77.28	$103.04	$128.80	$154.56	$180.32	$206.08	$231.84	$257.60	$283.36	$309.12	$373.18		
$1,511.22		$1,525.76	$1,551.52	$1,577.28	$1,603.04	$1,628.80	$1,654.56	$1,680.32	$1,706.08	$1,731.84	$1,757.60	$1,783.36	$1,809.12	$1,873.18	$21,882	
															$2,382	12%
Village $280K	$2,400	$2,400	$2,400	$2,400	$2,400	$2,400	$2,400	$2,400	$2,400	$2,400	$2,400	$2,400	$2,400	$2,400	$31,200	
FY21		$ (40.88)	$ (36.68)	$ (73.08)	$ (109.76)	$ (146.44)	$ (183.12)	$ (219.80)	$ (256.48)	$ (293.16)	$ (329.84)	$ (366.52)	$ (403.20)	$ (527.58)		
$2,433.48		$ 2,359.12	$ 2,363.32	$ 2,326.92	$ 2,290.24	$ 2,253.56	$ 2,216.88	$ 2,180.20	$ 2,143.52	$ 2,106.84	$ 2,070.16	$ 2,033.48	$ 1,996.80	$ 1,872.42	$ 28,213	
															$ (2,987)	-10%

The total amount paid by a TOV taxpayer over the course of 13 years will be approximately 12% more as a result of merger than it would be without merger, assuming zero growth in the budget or grand list.

For a Village taxpayer this will be an overall decrease of 10% looking at the sum total of all 13 years and comparing it to that same total without merging. This is not the annual impact but an impact over multiple years – if you decrease or increase the number of years in the time period you are looking at those numbers changing.

Over that same time frame, using the same assumptions, if there is no merger a TOV taxpayer would pay $19,500 in taxes while a Village taxpayer would pay $31,200.

The figures with merger would be $21,882 for TOV and $28,213 for Village.

Special Taxing Districts

The merger charter includes five special districts:

1. Debt Repayment District: This district must be established to limit the repayment of the Village's bonded debt to only Village residents. After 12 years the Village debt would be retired. This district cannot be renewed. This district does <u>not affect</u> the cost of merger.*

2. Tax Reconciliation District: This district allows the Town to assess different tax rates to the Village in order to phase in the cost of Village expenditures. After 12 years the Village budget will have been entirely phased into the Town general fund and the tax rate should be equal for all taxpayers at this point. There would be no reason to reestablish this district. This district does <u>not affect</u> the cost of merger.*

** Both of these districts are required by the state.*

Special Taxing Districts

3. Sidewalk District: This district allows the Town to raise taxes from Village residents to pay for the same level of sidewalk maintenance in the Village that Village residents are currently paying for. These services are estimated to cost $125,000 a year. This district <u>reduces</u> the cost of merger to Town outside the Village residents <u>slightly</u>.*

   At the end of the 12-year period, the additional cost and service for Village sidewalks would come to an end. The elected board and community could seek to continue the district and/or expand the district to include other areas of the Town, which would require a charter amendment and community vote.

** Only Village residents would pay these taxes during the 12-year transition period.*

Special Taxing Districts

4. Capital Improvement District: This district allows the Town to raise taxes from Village residents to enable some Village capital projects to be funded solely by Village taxpayers. After 12 years, this district would sunset and moving forward, costs of all capital projects, both Town and Village, would be paid by all taxpayers, as Town capital projects are currently paid. This district reduces the cost of merger to Town outside the Village residents slightly.*

5. Downtown Improvement District: This district allows the Village to maintain its Downtown Designation. At the end of the 12-year transitional period, this district would end. This district does not affect the cost of merger.

** Only Village residents would pay these taxes during the 12-year transition period.*

Representation Voting & Governance

- Interim Governing Board: After merger is approved by the full Legislature, the Town Selectboard and Village Board of Trustees would merge into a single body for an interim period until a new, permanent Selectboard is elected.
- Ward 1 = All of Essex outside the boundaries of the unincorporated Village
- Ward 2 = All of Essex within the boundaries of the unincorporated Village
- The new, permanent Selectboard would have 6 members, with 3 designated seats for Ward 1 and 3 seats for Ward 2. (Selectboard version)

Representation Voting & Governance

- Even number of board members honors 2020 Town-wide voter approval of 3+3 charter change.
- Three seats for each ward assures both newly created wards will be fairly and predictably represented.
- Ward boundary lines can be adjusted in the future to account for variations in population growth.
- Village voters in November approved a merger charter including an odd numbered board.

Other Important Features

- The name of the new community would be the Town of Essex. The incorporated Village of Essex Junction would become the *un*incorporated Village of Essex Junction.

- Voter-approved (in Nov. 2020) Australian Ballot for voting on the Town municipal budget with one informational Annual Meeting in March.

- Reorganize Town and Village departments to reduce duplicative services, building codes, municipal plans, ordinances, policies, etc.

- Current Town and Village water/sewer rates are not affected by merger. Water/sewer costs, including repairs, are paid by water/sewer bills, not property taxes. The 'new' Town of Essex will 'own' the Essex Junction wastewater treatment facility as well as all assets currently owned separately by the Town and Village.

Challenges of Merger

What are the challenges of merger for the TOV?

- Higher merger-related taxes over 12 years.
- Shared responsibility for all capital projects.

What are the challenges of merger for the Village?

- Dissolving their government.
- Giving up priority for certain services.
- Less autonomy.

What is a challenge for everybody?

- Potentially longer wait times for infrastructure projects.

Voting & Next Steps

- Public hearings on Monday, February 1st and Tuesday, February 16th.
- Ballots in Essex mailboxes starting February 15th.
- Town Meeting will be an Informational Meeting on Monday, March 1st both online and in person.
- Voting on the budget and the merger plan will also be via Australian Ballot on March 2nd.
- If merger passes, the charter and the charter the Village passed in November will go to the Legislature for consideration of reconciliation and approval.

Learn More

- www.EssexVT.org
- www.EssexJunction.org
- www.GreaterEssex2020.org

Reach out to the Selectboard:

- Elaine Haney, Chair
- ehaney@essex.org

- Pat Murray, Vice-Chair
- pmurray@essex.org

- Andy Watts
- awatts@essex.org

- Vince Franco
- vfranco@essex.org

- Dawn Hill-Fleury
- dhillfleury@essex.org

Memorandum

To: Selectboard, Evan Teich, Unified Town Manager
CC: Greg Duggan, Deputy Manager & Ron Hoague, Police Chief
From: Jenny Willingham, Assistant Clerk
Re: New Liquor License
Date: February 10, 2021

Issue

The issue is whether the Selectboard will approve a new First & Second Class Liquor License for Silver Hospitality LLC DBA: Salt & Bubbles Wine Bar and Market located at 19 Essex Way Suite 412.

Discussion

The February 16th Selectboard packet includes an application for A First & Second Class Liquor License for Silver Hospitality LLC DBA: Salt & Bubbles Wine Bar and Market.

This application was reviewed by the Police Department and recommended for approval.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Selectboard

- Approve the First/Second Liquor License for Silver Hospitality LLC DBA: Salt & Bubbles Wine Bar and Market.

JP's Diner and Deli Ltd.	DBA:	JP's Diner and Deli 39 River Road Essex Junction, VT 05452
JES Impresa Corporation	DBA:	Jules on the Green 1 Commonwealth Avenue Essex, VT 05452
Out-Bev Inc	DBA:	The Mad Taco 21 Essex Way, Suite 213 Essex, VT 05452
Spano, Inc.	DBA:	Mimmo's Pizzeria & Restaurant 4 Carmichael St, Ste 102, 103 Essex Junction, VT 05452
T.O.B., Inc.	DBA:	Murray's Tavern 4 Lincoln Place Essex Junction, VT 05452
Kanz Corporation	DBA:	On Tap Bar and Grill 4 Park Street Essex, Junction, VT 05452
SE & NP, Inc	DBA:	Park Place Tavern 38 Park Street Essex, VT 05452
Dependes, Inc.	DBA:	Pearl Street Pub 137 Pearl Street Essex Junction, VT 05452
Silver Hospitality LLC	DBA:	Salt & Bubbles Wine Bar and Market 19 Essex Way, Suite 412 Essex, VT 05452
The Sausage Shack LLC	DBA:	The Sausage Shack 105 Pearl Street Essex Junction, VT 05452
Whitcomb House, The, LLC	DBA:	The Whitcomb House 199 Jericho Road Essex Junction, VT 05452
Sour Hall Foods, LLC	DBA:	Wicked Wings 1 Market Place, Suite 13 Essex Junction, VT 05452

DEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

Date: February 10, 2021

To: Evan Teich
Unified Manager

From: Ron Hoague
Chief of Police

Subject: Liquor License Applications

The police department conducted records review of the following first class liquor license applicants. There was nothing of concern found:

Black Flannel Brewing Company, LLC	DBA: Black Flannel Brewing 21 Essex Way, Suite 201 Essex, VT 05452
T-Rex Productions, LLC	DBA: Double E 21 Essex Way, Suite 119 Essex Junction, VT 05452
Tree Enterprises, Inc.	DBA: El Gato Cantina 4 Park Street Essex Junction, VT 05452
Eurowest Inns, Inc.	DBA: The Essex 70 Essex Way Essex, VT 05452
Essex Country Club LLC	DBA: Essex Country Club LLC 332 Old Stage Road Essex Junction, VT 05452
Mark BBQ, LLC	DBA: Heart N Soul 34 Park Street Essex Jct, VT 05452
Stephenson, Inc.	DBA: Hoagies Pizza & Pasta 112 Center Road Essex, VT 05452

VERMONT
DEPARTMENT OF LIQUOR AND LOTTERY
DIVISION OF LIQUOR CONTROL

802 Spirits

FIRST/SECOND/THIRD CLASS LIQUOR LICENSE AND TOBACCO APPLICATION

(License year is May 1ST through April 30TH of the following year)

Silver Hospitality LLC
Print Name of Person, Partnership, Corp., Club or LLC

Salt & Bubbles Wine Bar and Market
Doing Business as – Trade Name

19 Essex Way Suite 412
Street

Essex Junction, VT 05452
Town or City & Zip Code

(718) 594 - 0415
Telephone Number

10 Alder Lane Essex Junction, VT 05452
Mailing Address (if different from above)

Email address: kaylarsilver@gmail.com

APPLICATION FEES:

FIRST CLASS LICENSE - $115.00 to DLC **and** $115.00 to Town/City

SECOND CLASS LICENSE- $70.00 to DLC **and** $70.00 to Town/City

SECOND CLASS RETAIL DELIVERY PERMIT - $100.00 to DLC

THIRD CLASS LICENSE - $1,095 for a full year to DLC
$550 for 6 or fewer months to DLC

TOBACCO LICENSE- **(there is no application fee for tobacco if applying for second class)**

TOBACCO ENDORSEMENT PERMIT - $50.00 to DLC

**If applying for Tobacco only license, please use the Tobacco Only form.*

Please check appropriate categories

- [x] FIRST CLASS
- [x] SECOND CLASS
- [ ] THIRD CLASS
- [ ] TOBACCO
- [x] Retail Delivery Permit
- [ ] Tobacco Endorsement
- [x] Restaurant
- [ ] Hotel
- [ ] Club
- [ ] Commercial Kitchen (a Liquor Control Commercial Caterer's License is needed with this license)

TO THE CONTROL COMMISSIONERS OF THE TOWN/CITY OF Essex, VT

Application is hereby made for a license to sell malt and vinous beverages under and in accordance with Title 7, Vermont Statutes Annotated, as amended, and certify that all statements, information and answers to questions herein contained are true; and in consideration of such license being granted do promise and agree to comply with all local and state laws; and to comply with all regulations made and promulgated by the Board of Liquor and Lottery. Upon hearing, the Board of Liquor and Lottery may, in its discretion, suspend or revoke such license whenever it may determine that the law or any regulations of the Board of Liquor and Lottery have been violated, or that any statement, information or answers herein contained are false.

ALL APPLICANTS

HAVE ANY OF THE APPLICANTS EVER BEEN CONVICTED OR PLED GUILTY TO **ANY** CRIMINAL OR MOTOR VEHICLE OFFENSE IN ANY COURT OF LAW (INCLUDING TRAFFIC TICKETS) AT ANY TIME? ☐ YES ☑ NO

If yes, please complete the following information: (attached sheet if necessary)

Name	Court/Traffic Bureau	Offense	Date

Do any of the applicants hold any elective or appointive state, county, city, village/town office in Vermont? (See VSA, T.7, Ch. 9, §223) If yes, please complete the followinginformation:

Name	Office	Jurisdiction
n/a		

Please give name, title and date attended of manager, director, partner or individual who has attended a Liquor Control Licensee Education Seminar, as required by Education Regulation No. 3:

Name: Kayla Silver

Title: Owner/Manager

Date: ______

If you have not attended an Education Seminar prior to making application, please visit www.liquorcontrol.vermont.gov and click on Seminar Schedule for a list of Seminars in your area.

FOR ALL APPLICANTS: DESCRIPTION / LOCATION OF PREMISES (Section 4)

Description of the premises to be licensed: Located in the Essex Experience campus. Wine Bar sectioned off from the retail shop. Please see "rough" layout of the space attached in this application.

Does applicant own the premises described? YES ○ NO ◉ If not owned, does applicant lease the premises? YES ◉ NO ○

If leased, name and address of lessor who holds title to property: Peter Edelmann (EB Development)
21 Essex Way Suite 107, Essex Junction, VT 05452

Are you making this application for the benefit of any other party? YES ○ NO ◉

FIRST CLASS APPLICANTS ONLY: No first-class license may be issued without the following information.

HEALTH LICENSE #: Food pending Lodging (if licensed as a Hotel) n/a

VERMONT TAX DEPARTMENT: Meals & Rooms Certificate/Business Account# pending

Business is devoted primarily to (*please check one*):

☑ **FOOD (restaurant)** ☐ **HOTEL** ☐ **CLUB** ☐ **COMMERCIAL CATERING**

If you are considering Outside Consumption service on decks, porches, cabanas, etc. you must complete an Outside Consumption Permit. This form can be found on our website at www.liquorcontrol.vermont.gov and then click on licensing and then forms.

TOWN/CITY APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL

Upon being satisfied that the conditions precedent to the granting of this license as provided in Title 7 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated, as amended, have been fully met by the applicant, the commissioners will endorse their recommendation on the back of the applications and transmit both copies to the Board of Liquor and Lottery for suitable action thereon, before any license may be granted. For the information of the Board of Liquor and Lottery, all applications shall carry the signature of each individual commissioner registering either approval or disapproval. Lease or title must be recorded in town or city before issuance of license.

______________, Vermont, ______________
Town/City Date

APPROVED DISAPPROVED

______________________ ______________________

______________________ ______________________

______________________ ______________________

______________________ ______________________

______________________ ______________________

Please check one: __ Approved __ Disapproved

by the Board of Control Commissioners of the City or Town of ______________________

Total Membership ______________ Members present ______________

Attest, ______________________________
City or Town Clerk

TOWN OR CITY CLERK SHALL MAIL ONE APPLICATION DIRECTLY TO THE DIVISION OF LIQUOR CONTROL, 13 Green Mountain Drive, Montpelier, VT 05602. If application is disapproved, local control commissioners shall notify the applicant by letter.

No formal action taken by any agency or authority of any town board of selectmen or city board of aldermen on a first or second-class application shall be considered binding except as taken or made at an open public meeting. VSA Title 1 §312.

SECTION 5111 AND 5121 OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1954 REQUIRE EVERY RETAIL DEALER IN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES TO FILE A FORM ANNUALLY AND PAY A SPECIAL TAX IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH SALES ACTIVITY. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO & FIREARMS (TTB)
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
550 MAIN STREET, CINCINNATI, OH 45202
(513) 684-2979

NOTICE: All new applications are investigated by the Enforcement and Licensing Division prior to approval/disapproval of the license by the Board of Liquor and Lottery. Please note that this process can take anywhere from 2 weeks to 6 weeks to complete once Liquor Control receives the application.

VERMONT

DEPARTMENT OF LIQUOR AND LOTTERY
DIVISION OF LIQUOR CONTROL

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

AWARDED TO

Kayla Silver

FOR COMPLETING

1st Class Server Training Program 2021
(Final Exam)

COMPLETION DATE	SCORE
February 5, 2021	85%

VERMONT

DEPARTMENT OF LIQUOR AND LOTTERY
DIVISION OF LIQUOR CONTROL

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

AWARDED TO

Kayla Silver

FOR COMPLETING

2nd Class Seller Training Program 2021
(Final Exam)

COMPLETION DATE
February 5, 2021

SCORE
90%

VERMONT SECRETARY OF STATE
Corporations Division
MAILING ADDRESS: Vermont Secretary of State, 128 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05633-1104
DELIVERY ADDRESS: Vermont Secretary of State, 128 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05633-1104
PHONE: 802-828-2386 WEBSITE: sos.vermont.gov

ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION

ELECTRONICALLY FILED
FILING NUMBER: 0002700072
FILING DATE: 9/28/2020
EFFECTIVE DATE: 9/28/2020

BUSINESS INFORMATION	
BUSINESS ID	0378010
BUSINESS NAME	SILVER HOSPITALITY, LLC
BUSINESS TYPE	Domestic Limited Liability Company
BUSINESS DESCRIPTION	Any Legal Purpose
BUSINESS EMAIL	kaylarsilver@gmail.com

DESIGNATED OFFICE PHYSICAL ADDRESS			
STREET ADDRESS	10 Alder Lane ,	CITY	Essex Junction
STATE	Vermont	ZIP CODE	05452
COUNTRY	United States		

DESIGNATED OFFICE MAILING ADDRESS			
ADDRESS	10 Alder Lane ,	CITY	Essex Junction
STATE	Vermont	ZIP CODE	05452
COUNTRY	United States		

FISCAL YEAR END MONTH	
FISCAL YEAR END MONTH	December

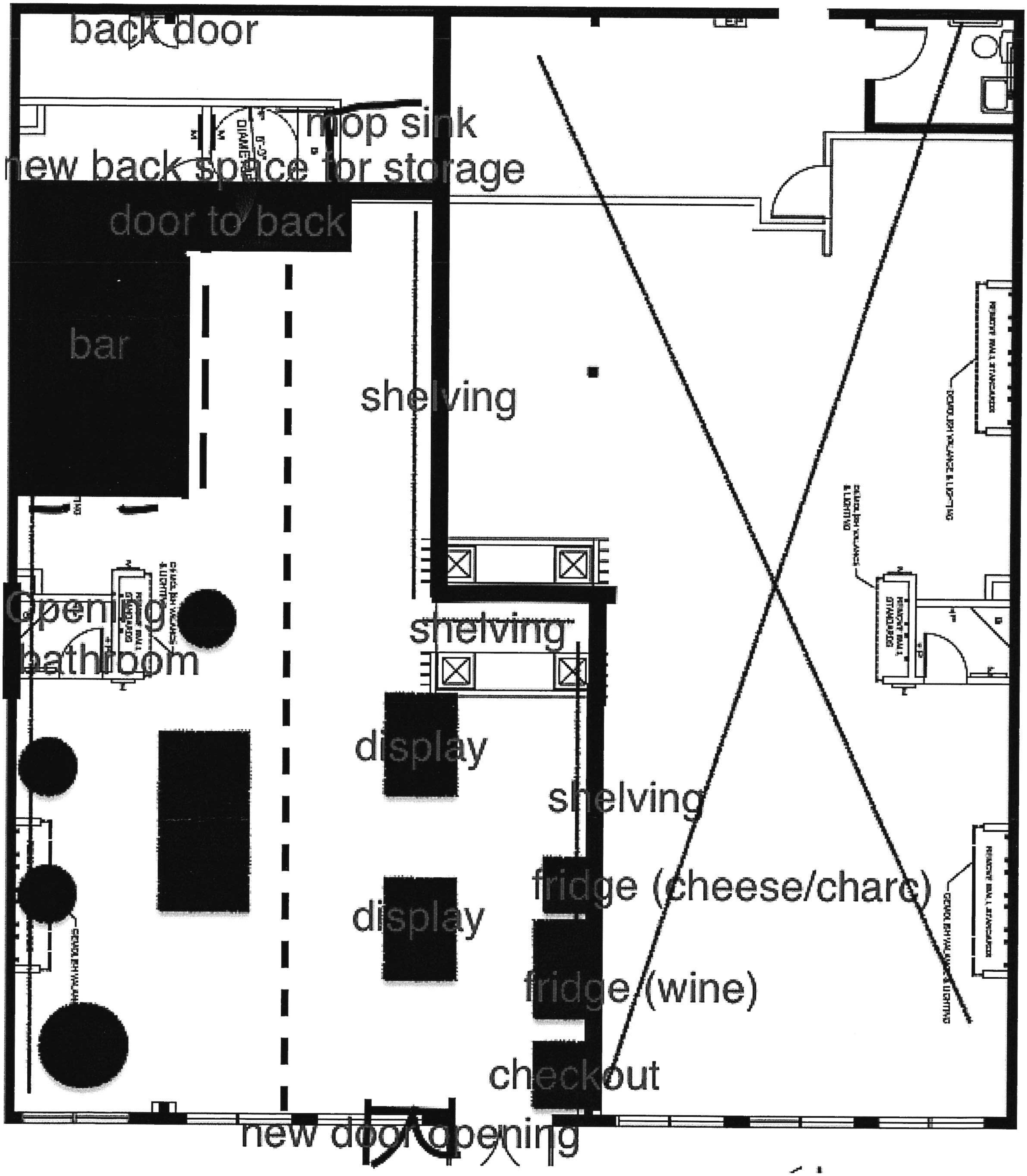
AGENT INFORMATION		
NAME	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS
The Moulton Law Group, PLLC	3 Main Street, STE 214, Burlington, VT, 05401, USA	PO Box 700, Burlington, VT, 05402, USA

MANAGEMENT STYLE
Manager-Managed

MEMBERS INFORMATION	
Does the LLC have members at the time of filing?	No

MANAGER/MEMBER INFORMATION			
NAME	TITLE	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS
Kayla Silver	Manager	10 Alder Lane, Essex Junction, VT, 05452, USA	10 Alder Lane, Essex Junction, VT, 05452, USA

AUTHORIZER INFORMATION	
AUTHORIZER SIGNATURE	/s/ Timothy J. Prevo, Esq.
AUTHORIZER TITLE	Organizer


back door
mop sink
new back space for storage
door to back
bar
shelving
Opening
bathroom
shelving
display
shelving
fridge (cheese/charc)
display
fridge (wine)
checkout
new door opening

IRS.gov

EIN Assistant

Your Progress: 1. Identity 2. Authenticate 3. Addresses 4. Details **5. EIN Confirmation**

Congratulations! The EIN has been successfully assigned.

EIN Assigned: **85-3431323**

Legal Name: **SILVER HOSPITALITY LLC**

The confirmation letter will be mailed to the applicant. This letter will be the applicant's official IRS notice and will contain important information regarding the EIN. Allow up to 4 weeks for the letter to arrive by mail.

We strongly recommend you print this page for your records.

Click "Continue" to get additional information about using the new EIN. Continue >>

Help Topics

Can the EIN be used before the confirmation letter is received?

Memorandum

To: Selectboard; Evan Teich, Unified Manager

From: Greg Duggan, Deputy Manager

Re: Request from Andy Watts to post merger information to all Front Porch Forum neighborhoods

Date: February 11, 2021

Issue

The issue is for the Selectboard to consider a request from board member Andy Watts to post merger information to all Essex neighborhoods on Front Porch Forum.

Discussion

Mr. Watts wrote,

> "I have been posting merger information as an individual in my home Front Porch Forum Neighborhood with caveats that my posts should not be considered to be official. Several residents have asked if I could post across all Essex neighborhoods and I have responded that the Selectboard Communications Policy does not allow me to do that without approval of the Selectboard and content review by Town Staff. A couple of residents reached out to Elaine to ask if my posts could be shared more broadly. So, with Elaine's blessing, I am asking if you could please include the attached email[s] in the consent agenda for our next Selectboard meeting with a request that the Selectboard authorize me to publish the materials to all nine Front Porch Forum neighborhoods after they are reviewed by Town Staff for accuracy.
>
> "This chain started and has continued based on specific questions asked by residents. If I am allowed to post in other Forums, I would modify some of the language as appropriate to add context since other neighborhoods would not have seen the questions which prompted my responses. I am fine with approving this in Consent to avoid further open meeting discussion on this topic unless other board members want to discuss it."

The emails referenced by Mr. Watts is attached, as is the Selectboard's Communications Policy.

An important note is that staff may not have sufficient time to review the materials for accuracy in a timely manner as there are ten (10) elected officials from two (2) boards that staff supports. Additionally, review of all materials for accuracy could be subjective, argued, and ultimately not agreed upon and thus not timely, including that some potential responses to issues are open to interpretation, and staff wishes to not be involved in what some would/could consider political activity.

If Mr. Watts hopes to post his information in the near future, staff recommends that he use the following language (bolded) or something similar, taken from Section I of the Communications Policy:

> Selectboard members may also choose to speak as individual members. In speaking as an individual member rather than on behalf of the entire Board, the member should endeavor to clearly make the distinction. For example, Board members should consider utilizing the following phrase or a similar one: **"The Selectboard has taken position ____. My position is ____."**

The Communications Policy also notes, "Board members uncertain of the accuracy of technical or factual information are encouraged to work with staff, through the Manager's office, to obtain factual and complete information." If Mr. Watts wants to post his information prior to staff review, staff recommends including a note to the effect that “Staff has not reviewed the accuracy of this information.”

Cost
n/a

Recommendation
If the Selectboard wishes to approve Mr. Watts’ request, knowing that staff will not have time to review the materials in a timely manner, the following motion is recommended:

> “I move that the Selectboard authorize Mr. Watts to publish the attached merger materials and any subsequent materials to all nine Front Porch Forum neighborhoods after they are reviewed by Town Staff for accuracy.”

If the Selectboard wishes to approve Mr. Watts ability to post information prior to staff review, staff recommends the following motion:

> “I move that the Selectboard authorize Mr. Watts to publish the attached merger materials and any subsequent materials to all nine Front Porch Forum neighborhoods with notes that **“The Selectboard has taken position ____. My position is ____.** Staff has not reviewed the accuracy of this information.”

From: Andy Watts
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 12:08 PM
To: Andy Watts
Subject: FPF

Jan 27

I will try to provide some insight into the question about the $280,000 average home assessment that is used for demonstration purposes for how much taxes will go up or down due to the proposed Essex/Essex Junction merger. The only source of data that I have that separates Village and TOV home assessments is the 2019 Housing Needs Assessment published by the Essex Community Development Department with assistance from VHFA and the Regional Planning Commission. The report says that the median home assessment in all of Essex (Village and TOV) is $260,400 and the average is $274,960. The median is lower than the average. I downloaded the 2020 Grand List from the Essex Town website and I get a very similar answer. If I use the information in the Housing report and separate the Village and TOV, it shows that the average home in the Village is assessed at $257,447 and the average in TOV is $288,258. The difference in averages is around $30,000. Using $280,000 for the entire Town slightly understates the TOV tax increase due to merger while overstating the tax decrease in the Village. But, if you scale the numbers to your specific assessment, you will get a better answer specific to your situation. I don't have a way to separate out the median data by Village and TOV, so I can't offer an answer there.

Regarding selling prices, I believe that will impact Education taxes but will not have an immediate impact to Town or Village Municipal taxes. It is likely that Essex will go through a reassessment in the coming years but not within the next few. I hope this sheds some light on the question. Let me know if you have any additional questions about this or about the merger proposal.

Jan 28

I was given the decoder ring so that I can parse the Essex Town Grand List by Village and Town Outside the Village (TOV). Please note that all of the home values in the Grand List are based on the most recent reassessment done by the Town which was in 2007. The assessments are not at all related to current selling prices. Also note that I am not posting as a member of the Essex Selectboard and my comments here should not be considered official in any way. My comments are based on my understanding of information provided by Essex Town Staff.

From the 2020 Town Grand List:
Essex Town home assessment average $273,340, median assessment $258,900.
Village home assessment average $254,435, median assessment $247,700.
TOV home assessment average $288,867, median assessment $270,400.

Essex Town Staff has presented a model that can be used to calculate the impact of merger to your specific tax bill. There is a range of likely change depending on how development proceeds and how the proposed special tax districts are resolved at the end of 12 years. Your home's assessment can be found on your tax bill or from the Town website. For TOV homes, divide your home value by 1000 and multiply by 0.93 for the low end and 1.33 for the high end to get your expected expected range of increase due to merger. Please note that this is on top of regular tax increases and that a lot can happen in 13 years to change the actual numbers. The number of years is 13 since an additional year is needed to resolve the Village special tax districts.

My home is assessed at $359,500 (this is public knowledge). Divide by 1000 = 359.5. Multiply by 0.93 and 1.33. The range of increase I can expect to see is $334 - $478. This is divided over 13 years so my increase would be $26 - $37 each year plus the regular annual Town and School increases.

Again, there are a lot of assumptions behind this and who knows what will happen in 13 years but this is based on the model proposed by Essex Town Staff. There is a similar formula for Village homes that can be used to calculate a Village home's tax reduction. If there is interest, I can share that as well. I can also look up your home and provide you will the numbers specific to your assessment.

By the way, this affects businesses as well. The average TOV business will see a $810 - $1159 increase.

Jan 30

This is in response to Mr. Jesse's question about why taxes will increase as a result of merger and if his understanding of my prior post is correct. I will answer the latter first. Yes, the increase is cumulative adding up to a couple thousand dollars over 13 years and, yes, this is effectively a permanent increase unless future Selectboards make significant changes, budgets are voted down or other sources of revenue are found.

Regarding why taxes will increase, the Village of Essex Junction has a proposed budget for fiscal year 2022 of $5,629,978. To pay for this budget, the Village Trustees will need to levy a tax on Village properties in the amount of $3,737,566. It is this amount that, if merger is approved, will be spread across all Town properties. While municipal taxes outside the Village go up over 13 years, municipal taxes in the Village will go down until the Village and TOV tax rates meet somewhere in the middle. The Town model says that a Village home assessed at $280,000 will see a tax decrease in the range of $567 - $674 or $44 - $52 per year each year. Please note that this may or may not be offset by other tax increases. Using the actual average Village assessment of $254,435, the range of tax reduction in the Village is $515 - $612 or $40 - $47 per year each year.

It should be noted that the rest of the Village budget comes from other revenues of $346,532 which comes from fees and such and a direct transfer from the Town budget of $1,545,880 which is part of the current Town tax rate. To be very clear, these numbers come from the current proposed FY22 Village budget which has not yet been approved by Village residents.

Again, this should not be viewed as an official response from the Town. It represents my best understanding of the materials that have been provided by Town Staff.

Feb 1

Aye, drunken sailors might our elected officials be, but no Essex Town budget was ever implemented without the consent of the governed. In the past, this has entailed a couple hundred voters (if we were lucky) stating "Aye" or "Nay" at our Annual Meeting in the Essex High School auditorium. This past November, Town voters resoundingly approved moving the budget question to the ballot meaning that budgets will no longer be approved by a floor vote of a small representative group at Annual Meeting. The question of approval of the budget will be in your ballot, this year right above the merger question and the slate of candidates running for Selectboard seats.

Even better, this year, because of COVID, ballots will be mailed to all active voters, so the turnout is expected to be very high. I am not sure of the timing of getting ballots mailed out to voters but it will be within a couple of weeks. Voted ballots can be mailed back to the Town Clerk, dropped off at the Town Offices at 81 Main or brought to the polls on March 2 between 7am and 7pm (Essex High School for Village voters and Essex Middle School for TOV voters).

Feb 1

Regarding any savings associated with merger, that has not been a primary focus. The focus has been to maintain high quality of service to all residents which many involved in developing the merger plan have interpreted to mean maintaining the same high level of service. There are no plans to eliminate any personnel upon merger. The plan is to take everything that is being done by the Village government and adding it to the Town government. Will there be any efficiencies gained? Yes, most likely, but without eliminating jobs, they will likely not result in significant savings. This is why elected officials are not claiming any savings and all of the discussion centers on the explanation of how taxes will change for the Village and the TOV. My comments here should not be viewed as an official position of the Town or the Village. They are my best understanding of the topic in question.

Feb 3

A 48-page "Greater Essex" merger booklet was sent to all Essex addresses. It was thrown together in a hurry and I believe some of its contents need additional comment and/or clarification. Please note that all of my comments here are my own best interpretation of the materials and should not be assumed to be the official position of either the Town or Village Boards or Staff. On page 5, there is a comment that the Village will have lower taxes, temporarily. I asked for clarification of this and did not get an answer. What I think it means is that Village tax rate increases will be lower, temporarily. As the Village tax rate is reduced each year over 12 years, Village taxes may go down (depending on many, many other factors) but will still be higher than TOV taxes. So, it is confusing to say that Village taxes will be lower. Likewise, on page 6, but in the other direction, where it says TOV taxes will be higher, temporarily. For the 12 year transition period TOV taxes will be lower than the Village taxes but will be increasing at a faster rate than Village taxes. Also, I am confused by the fact that they are described as temporary. The tax increases will be permanent (or as permanent as anything ever is in government).

Also, on page 5, there is a comment that says, "Village residents would no longer pay taxes to the Town for services they do not receive." They will continue to pay for the exact same Town services they have always paid for. I have asked that we explicitly list which services Village residents feel they are not receiving but none has been provided. I will post more on this in a future discussion of the Essex Town budget.

Pages 5 and 6 also references "predictable representation." This is 3+3 which was already approved by voters and it not related to merger. Page 6 also talks about equal access and childcare. TOV residents already have equal access to most Junction Rec programs. Swimming lessons, camps and childcare are specifically listed because these are a few of the remaining programs that TOV residents do not have equal access to. It needs to be noted that having equal access means more competition for those programs. Expanding the programs to reduce waiting lists is not part of the merger plan. Also, regarding after school programs, the Town has already gone away from the YMCA, so that change is not related to merger.

Page 7 claims Australian ballot for the budget and Informational Town Meeting are advantages of merger. This was already approved by the voters and is not related to merger.

At the bottom of page 12, it mentions a taxing authority associated with the Downtown Improvement District. This taxing authority was removed from the charter proposal and is incorrect in the merger booklet. There is no tax associated with this district. I will comment about the sidewalk district in another post since I have a lot to say about it.

On page 13, there are some assumptions listed relative to the tax rate table and the tax increases/decreases on the next page. Assumption 2 says that merger will eliminate the TOV Highway tax. This is already proposed in the budget that will be voted on the same day as the merger question, so this change is not related to merger. There is also a confusing bit in assumption 4 and its associated footnote. The assumption says that the Village General Tax will be frozen for 12 years but then the footnote says that it is only frozen for demonstration purposes. I've asked for an explanation of this but no one has provided one. So, I have no idea what this means.

On page 19, in the discussion of separation, there is a sentence that says the Town "would not be able to maintain its current level of services." This is true but the Town would also not need to maintain its current level of services. Yes, there were be some dramatic changes in revenues, but there would also be dramatic changes in costs. Also, yes, it would not be an easy transition.

On page 20, there is a comment in "Status Quo" that "the Village would still have to pay extra taxes to the Town." Village residents pay the same Town taxes that the TOV pays (with the exception of the TOV Highway tax which is slated to go away this coming year). I think this sentence should say that Village residents will continue to pay taxes to both the Village and the Town.

The last sentence on page 26 says, "The Legislature is expected to reconcile the differences into a final merger charter." This is there because the Village passed a different charter proposal in November. My expectation is that the Legislature will be focused on COVID this year and will punt any review of our charter proposals (including 3+3) to 2022 and then they will boot it back to us to reconcile ourselves.

I've run out of space. More to come in my next installment.

Best regards,
Andy Watts

From: Andy Watts
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2021 8:25 AM
To: Andy Watts
Subject:

Feb 5

A couple questions have come up that I will answer to the best of my ability. These are my own personal responses and should not be taken as official in any way. The mailed merger document was paid for by Town tax dollars. The estimated cost that was provided to the Selectboard is $6508 (printing and postage) plus Staff time which I do not know how to put a price on.

Some have said that they have not received a copy. Mine says "Postal Customer Residential Only." I have asked for clarification of who this means. I don't believe anyone with a non-Essex Junction mailing address will get one. That is, if you live in Essex but have a Jericho mailing address, for example, you will likely not get one. I am not sure about PO Boxes (05451 zip code). I will post another clarification when I get that answer.

I've also been asked why I do not post to all Essex Front Porch Forum Neighborhoods. One of the super-powers you get as a Selectboard member is the ability to post to all nine Essex FPF Neighborhoods. A number of years ago, due to what went on during the Recreation Governance effort, the Selectboard added restrictions to its Communications Policy that does not allow individual members to post to all neighborhoods without permission from the entire Selectboard and without vetting by Town Staff to ensure that any content is factual to the best of their knowledge. I am working to get all of my postings included in the next Selectboard meeting agenda so they can be reviewed. Most of my concerns have been previously shared with the Selectboard Chair and Staff but I wasn't given the opportunity to bring them up in open meeting before the document was "finalized." We'll see how this after-the-fact effort goes.

Feb 6

A couple of updates. I have confirmation from the Town that the merger booklet was mailed to all 05451, 05452, and 05453 addresses. If you have a non-Essex mailing address or did not receive one, it can be obtained from the Town website https//:essexvt.org/View/6160/Voter-Informational-Booklet-on-Merger-PDF

The cost to print and mail the booklet was $7174 which is a bit more than the estimate previously provided.

Also, I had said that I could not share my posts across all Essex FPF Forums without the permission of the Selectboard. I should amend that to say that based on my interpretation of the Selectboard's Communication Policy, I will not share my posts without permission. I was on the Selectboard during the Rec Governance discussions a number of years ago and it was due to things that went on then that the Selectboard Communications Policy was updated and I believe my interpretation falls in line with the intent of that policy. Some Selectboard Members are saying that I do not need permission to post. Also, if any resident wanted to post something on all Forums related to an upcoming election, they would have to take out a paid advertisement. The cost of such an advertisement (with a limit of 1000 characters) is 3 cents per in-box. For all nine Essex neighborhoods, this would add up to something around $500 or more. Using my Selectboard super-power to post my personal opinion would bypass FPF's business model and would be, in my view, an abuse of power. This is why I am asking for the Selectboard's approval to post in other Forums.

Feb 7

Back to the merger booklet contents. On page 22, there is a justification for the Sidewalk District. It says "The sidewalks needed to be plowed throughout the Village so that all the kids could walk to school. That practice continues to this day because it is the level of service Village residents expect and pay for and many Village children still walk to school."

I have highlighted a couple of concerns with this District in public meetings. The justification says that Village children need to be able to safely walk to school. Due to a bus driver shortage, the Essex Westford School District has designated the neighborhoods near Essex Elementary and Founders/Essex Middle School as walking neighborhoods. So, there are also children outside of the Village who don't have bus service and walk to school. Due to the fact that the proposed charter specifically only includes Village sidewalks, the two neighborhoods outside the Village that are walking neighborhoods cannot be included and since a tax would be charged to the Village for their sidewalk plowing, it would be illegal to provide the same level of service to the walking neighborhoods outside the Village without also taxing them.

To be clear, the walking neighborhoods outside of the Village do get their sidewalks plowed but it is when Town Public Works can get to it. Lately, it has been around 11am, well after school has started and, depending on how much snow, sometimes it doesn't happen at all. Full disclosure here, I live in one of those neighborhoods and I have 205 feet of sidewalk. During this year's budgeting process, I asked a number of times for an assessment of what it would cost to add the TOV walking neighborhoods to the budget so that both TOV and Village children would have the same benefit of safely walking to school. I was told that it was too expensive to calculate. Given this assessment, I struggle with the statement that we can plow the entire Village for $125,000 a year but it is prohibitively expensive to plow the TOV walking neighborhood sidewalks.

The way this District is set up, it effectively eliminates the possibility of intentionally also plowing any TOV sidewalks with the same urgency as the Village gets for 12 years. So, we are prioritizing the safety of Village children over TOV children.

The merger booklet also says that the Village pays for their sidewalk plowing. Six years ago, an agreement was signed by the Village Trustees and the Town Selectboard to consolidate public works services into the Town. This agreement was also approved by voters when the relevant budgets were approved. So, for the past six years, Town taxes have paid for Village sidewalk plowing. The statement in the merger booklet that says that the Village pays for their sidewalk plowing is incorrect. OK, yes, they do pay for it through their Town taxes but so do we all.

The other thing this district does is establish a precedent for charging a higher tax for residents who live in areas where services are more expensive. It is much more expensive to maintain gravel roads compared to paved roads. This sidewalk district establishes the possibility of charging anyone who lives on a gravel road a higher tax.

I believe that all Town expenses should be borne by all residents equally and sidewalk plowing should be established by policy rather than by privilege. It has also been said that the sidewalk district has been proposed as a sacrifice for Village residents who will, for 12 years, pay an extra tax so that TOV taxes will be lower by the amount it costs to plow the Village sidewalks. If you do the math, the annual savings for the average $280,000 TOV home is on the order of $2.

So, for a savings of $2 a year, the TOV is prevented from addressing the safety of their children walking to school in the winter while it is guaranteed in the Village for 12 years.

Feb 8

Ah, the list of clarifications goes on. In the merger booklet, at the bottom of page 21, it says that the Selectboard can only enact ordinances outside of the Village. This is totally incorrect. The Selectboard has jurisdiction over the entire Town, including the Village. Any ordinance the Selectboard ordains applies the to entire Town unless the Trustees enact their own ordinance that covers only the Village. In the firearms discharge example cited in the booklet, if the Village ordinance didn't exist, you still couldn't discharge a firearm within the Village since the Village is included in the no discharge zone of the Town ordinance. The Village ordinance does, however, apply additional restrictions that the Town ordinance does not. The Village ordinance also limits bow and arrow and air guns which are not prohibited by Town ordinance. In another example, the Selectboard is the Liquor Control Board for the entire Town, including the Village. There are some Town liquor license ordinances that apply to the entire Town including the Village. The Village Trustees have no jurisdiction over liquor licenses issued by the Town Selectboard. So, the statement that the Selectboard can only enact ordinances outside of the Village is incorrect.

I've already mentioned the Sidewalk District but I also have concerns with the Capital District. The Village has a 5-year capital plan but the district is slated to last 12-years. I have asked several times that a list of projects be shared so that the scope of the district could be understood. I have yet to see the list but I was told that paving the Brownell Library parking lot was one of the items on the list.

Now, we were told many times by our legal counsel who was hired to help with putting together our merger plan that, if a district is established with the intend to charge an additional tax, you have to be able to show that only those paying the tax benefit from it. If the Brownell Library parking lot is paved, how will we be able to convince a judge that it only benefits Village residents? I believe this district is setting the Town up for a law suit claiming that the district is unconstitutional.

Another concern I have is if all those taxes are collected for 12 years and some are left over or if projects on the list, that I haven't seen yet, don't get completed, or if the projects are completed before 12 years. I think it is too undefined and that it is likely unconstitutional. This district, again, saves the average TOV house a couple of dollars a year. I think that both the sidewalk and capital districts are not worth the complexity of administering them and the risks and shortfalls associated with them are not worth the $3-5 per year savings.

Feb 9

Back to the question of what Village residents get for their Town tax dollars. On page 5 of the merger booklet, it says "Village residents would not longer pay taxes to the Town for services they do not receive." I had asked that the Selectboard and Trustees document clearly which services Village residents feel they do not receive from the Town or that they should not pay for. I did not get a response, so let's look at the Town budget. Please note that the numbers I am using are the originally proposed FY22 budget numbers since I don't yet have a copy of the final budget numbers that will be voted on Town Meeting Day but the numbers will be pretty close and the point I am trying to make will be the same.

The original FY22 Town budget request was $16,094,707 (it is now something less than $16M). If we look at the spending categories, the Unified Manager, Selectboard, Clerk, Finance, IT, Assessing, Health and Human Services, County/Regional, Police, Animal Control, Public Works which includes Highways and Stormwater and Debt are all shared services. All of these services are provided to both the Village and TOV. This adds up to $13,571,859 or 84.3% of the Town budget supporting these shared services.

The categories above, I believe, are non-controversial. It is clear that all of these support both the Village and TOV. The less certain ones are Community Development, Economic Development, Fire, Parks and Rec, and the Library.

I'm going to start with the Library. If you look at the history, the first Library in Essex was in the Village but if you look more closely, you will find that it was a Town Library physically located in the Village. In the 1890's, there was a State program that providing funding to Towns to establish library collections. Villages were not eligible so the first library, though it was located in the Village was established as a Town library. Ten years or so later, the collection became too large for the library space and a 2nd Town library was established outside of the Village. Both of these libraries, the Essex Junction Free Library and the Essex Free Library were funded equally from the Town budget. It wasn't until 1926 that the first Village library was established. So, this is a case where the Town provided a service first so one could argue that the Essex Free Library should not be considered as a service added by the Town after it already existed in the Village. Remember, though the first library was physically in the Village, it was paid for by the Town.

For Parks and Rec, the Town and Village are already coordinating programs so I would argue that Town Rec Admin is already a shared service. Parks are available to everyone and so should also be considered as shared. The Village Trustees provide the space for the Senior Center in the Village but the operating budget is provided by the Town.

Community and Economic Development might be debatable. Then again, if I live in the Village, what service do the Village counterparts of these departments provide me? They support development and business expansion in the Village which, in turn, increases the Grand List which mitigates Village tax increases. Well, the Town departments do the same thing except in the Town to mitigate Town tax increases. Yes, Village Grand List increases benefit Village residents more because they mitigate both Village and Town tax increases (since the Village Grand List is a subset of the Town Grand List) but TOV Grand List increases also benefit the Village due to the mitigating effect on their Town taxes. Village residents benefit from both Village and TOV Grand List growth (albeit more from Village growth) but, I would argue that Town Community and Economic Development do provide service that benefits Village residents.

This leaves the Sand Hill Pool and the Essex Fire Department which truly are available to all but some might argue are redundant. Even if I leave these out, they together comprise 4.6% of the Town budget. So, as I look at it, somewhere between 84 and 95% of the Town budget supports both the Village and TOV but I think that number could be argued higher.

Yes, Village residents pay more taxes. I do not deny that. My point is that saying that Village residents pay for services they do not receive should be quantified so that it is understood what exact services they believe they are not getting so we can work on a solution. Rather than making broad statements about unfairness, let us please discuss details and negotiate an equitable solution.

Again, this is addressing the statement in the merger booklet that Village residents do not get services from the Town that they pay for. I am not arguing that the Village should be happy about paying higher taxes but I do think the broad statement about services should be made more clear by providing details.

Feb 10

This may be my final installment though I will follow up next week after the Selectboard meeting where, hopefully, they discuss whether to allow me to post on the other eight FPF neighborhoods.

In spite of the statement in the merger booklet on page 4, where it says you will have your ballot by February 5, ballot envelops are being stuffed today and tomorrow. If you do not have your ballot by early next week, you can reach out to the Town Clerk at 879-0413 to register or request a ballot or you can vote in person on March 2. Ballots are being mailed to all active registered voters. So, if you have not voted recently, you may not get one in the mail.

So, today's topic is on page 24 of the merger booklet. There is a question about IBM leaving the Village. I questioned the question. IBM sold to GlobalFoundries in 2015 and the answer to the question in the booklet talks about changes in tax policy driven by the State. It seems to me that the question should be something like "Did changes to the education tax driven by the State of Vermont have anything to do with the desire to merge?" Instead we get a very vague discussion of where IBM's tax dollars went. This should all be known information and should not be written in an informational document in vague terms as if it was a conspiracy theory.

A couple of years ago, I found on the Town website a page that is titled "Essex Community Tax Rate History." It includes Town, Village and School tax rates back to 1951. IBM came to Essex in 1957. History shows that even before IBM opened its doors in Essex, the net tax rate in the Village was lower than outside the Village if you include municipal and school taxes. This was because the Village school tax was so much lower than the TOV school tax. In 1951, the Village school tax was 2.4000 and in the TOV it was 4.5000. So, even though Village residents paid taxes to both the Village (1.9000) and the Town (1.0000), their out of pocket tax rate was 5.3000 while the TOV out of pocket tax rate was 6.0000 (general fund 1.0000, TOV highway 0.5000, school 4.5000).

It remained the case that Village net taxes were lower with the exception of 4 individual years until 1999 when the State of Vermont changed how education taxes are levied. Ever since 1999, taxes have been higher in the Village due to a change in how the education tax is levied, not because the Town added new services already provided by the Village.

The Village school tax went from 1.3210 in 1998 to 1.7863, a 35% increase in a single year and to add insult to injury, because Essex Junction Recreation and Parks, which was operated by the Essex Junction School District at the time, was not central to the education mission of the school district, EJRP's budget had to be separated from the school tax and so a separate Recreation tax was created which had an initial tax rate of 0.0258 (which within 2 years was 0.0877).

So, I again assert that the relevant issue is a change in Vermont Education Tax policy. Now, I have brought this up in a Selectboard meeting and I got a lot of pushback. I was told that we have no control over school taxes, so they should not be part of the discussion. Also, a Selectboard member said that things that did not happen during their adult lifetime weren't relevant. It is correct that the Selectboard has no control over education taxes but, like the weather and pandemics, we are certainly affected by them.

Back when door to door campaigning was allowed, I knocked on a lot of doors during my campaigns for Selectboard. By far, the number one issue brought up on front porches across both the Village and TOV, was school taxes. It is the size of the check written and the obviousness that the education tax is by far the largest component of it that makes school taxes a relevant concern for the Selectboard.

High education taxes limit how much the Selectboard is willing to increase the Town budget. There is a report in front of the Legislature to move education taxes from the property tax to the income tax. If that happens, can you imagine how the Selectboard will be salivating over the headspace that gives for municipal tax increases? If the education property tax goes away, my property tax bill will drop by 75%. You don't think that the Town will want a keep a piece of that and add a sharp increase that year?

There is also a proposal to spread the Vermont sales tax to include services which will allow the rate to drop from 6% to 3.6%. This means you'll pay sales tax on haircuts and more grocery items. Guess who will step in an want to keep some of that by adding a local option tax.

So, to say other taxes are irrelevant to merger is an oversimplification. Yes, it is true that since 1999, taxes are higher in the Village but let's not point to changes in IBM's taxes and instead say that the change was driven by the State of Vermont education tax policy.

<table>
<tr><th colspan="2">Town of Essex Communications Policy</th></tr>
<tr><td>Revision Number:
2.0</td><td rowspan="2">Town of Essex Selectboard
Adopted on: 5/18/2015</td></tr>
<tr><td>Revision Date:
5/6/2019</td></tr>
<tr><td>Effective Date:
5/6/2019</td><td></td></tr>
</table>

The Town of Essex Communication Policy applies to all elected and appointed board, committee, and commission members. The goal of the policy is to ensure that Essex residents receive accurate and timely information.

Any communication – be it email, telephone, in person, on social media, or otherwise – should be considered public unless subject to a statutorily listed and invoked exemption to the public records law.

I. Public Communication

Selectboard: The Selectboard may choose to speak as a unified group on official matters. Selectboard members may also choose to speak as individual members. In speaking as an individual member rather than on behalf of the entire Board, the member should endeavor to clearly make the distinction. For example, Board members should consider utilizing the following phrase or a similar one: "The Selectboard has taken position ____. My position is ____." In instances where no vote has been taken, no member of the Board should express an opinion as if it were the position of the entire Board.

Board members uncertain of the accuracy of technical or factual information are encouraged to work with staff, through the Manager's office, to obtain factual and complete information.

Formal positions of the Selectboard, or calls or questions seeking the official opinion of the Selectboard, should be referred to the Chair unless another Board member has been designated by the body. When responding to an email comment or question Selectboard members are encouraged to copy the Chair or other Board member designated by the body.

Elected and appointed board, committee, and commission members must be mindful to prevent email conversations from inadvertently violating Open Meeting Law. At no time should a quorum of members have a discussion regarding Town business, with the following exceptions, as set forth by 1 VSA § 312 (g):

- Communications to schedule a meeting, organize an agenda, or distribute materials to discuss at a meeting;
- Clerical work;
- Staff work assignments;
- Routine day-to-day administrative matters, if no action is required and no money appropriated or spent;
- Site inspections; or
- Quasi-judicial deliberations.

All members of an appointed board, committee, or commission are responsible for ensuring that any information conveyed by an individual member is accurate and complete. Members are encouraged to work with the relevant staff to obtain factual and complete information. Official communication related to a board, committee, or commission should be through the Chair or other member designated by the body. Chairs of appointed boards, committees, or commissions are encouraged to notify the Selectboard Chair and Manager of any response to media inquiries.

II. Responses to Public Comments

The U.S. Supreme Court has consistently held that in accordance with the First Amendment citizens have a right to criticize government regardless of the quality or accuracy of the criticism. When a citizen chooses to run for local elected office, inherent in that decision is acknowledgment that in the course of discharging governmental responsibilities one's words and actions may be publicly criticized or condemned, and that the criticism or condemnation may be unfair, inaccurate, or politically motivated. The elected official does not have recourse to the same legal protections from defamation that a private person may as long as the criticism pertains to government-related issues.

This policy is not intended to discourage any elected or appointed official from exercising that individual's First Amendment rights. However, board, committee, and commission members must always keep in mind that, due to the public nature of their roles, their personal online communications can be perceived as also official communications or positions of the Selectboard and Town. Therefore members must practice discretion when communicating online.

The Town of Essex supports and promotes an open exchange of views on community and government issues taking place in a broad array of physical and digital forums. Elected and appointed officials are encouraged to participate in these exchanges when such participation is valuable to the overall dialogue. Any response should be in accordance with the following protocol:

> **Selectboard:** As the elected officials representing all residents of Essex, Board members may participate in the above referenced exchanges or dialogues as individuals. To the extent practicable, such participation shall conform to this policy regardless of forum. If an individual Board member does participate, that member should inform the other Board members of this participation. When responding to inaccurate or deliberately misleading information, Board members are encouraged to work with the Manager to ensure that any information provided by the Board member is accurate.
>
> **Appointed officials (members of other boards, committees, and commissions):** Appointed officials may participate in the above referenced exchanges or dialogues as individuals. Representation of official Town policy or proposals, unless otherwise determined, should be left to members of the Selectboard (via the Chair) or Manager. To the extent practicable, such participation shall conform to this policy regardless of forum.

Approved by the Essex Selectboard on May 18, 2015. Amended May 6, 2019.

Town of Essex Selectboard

Elaine Haney

Elaine Haney, Chair

Patrick Murray

Patrick Murray, Clerk

A J. Watts

Andrew J. Watts

Dated May 6, 2019.

Max G. Levy

Max G. Levy, Vice Chair

Annie Cooper

Memorandum

To: Selectboard; Evan Teich, Unified Manager
Cc: Tammy Getchell, Assistant to the Manager
From: Greg Duggan, Deputy Manager
Re: Q&A for proposed fiscal year 2022 budget
Date: February 10, 2021

Issue

The issue is whether the Selectboard will approve a Question & Answer document about the proposed fiscal year 2022 budget for public distribution.

Discussion

The February 1, 2021 Selectboard packet included a document called, "QUESTIONS and ANSWERS: Proposed FY 2022 Budget," featured as part of the materials for Town Meeting. Staff has incorporated changes to the document based on feedback. The changes are attached.

If the Selectboard is comfortable with the document and approves it, with or without changes, staff can make the Q&A available for Town Meeting informational materials.

Cost

n/a

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Selectboard approve "QUESTIONS and ANSWERS: Proposed FY 2022 Budget," dated February 16, 2021.

TOWN MEETING 2021

QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

Proposed FY 2022 Budget

Town of Essex

February 16, 2021

1. **How much is the proposed budget for fiscal year (FY) 2022 and how does it compare to the current fiscal year's budget?**
   The proposed FY 2022 general fund budget, as currently warned, is $15,926,128, an increase of $593,993 or 3.9 percent, over FY 2021.

   More details about the budget are available on the Town of Essex website, www.essexvt.org/2021. You may also call the Clerk's Office at 879-0413, option "6" to request a copy. The proposed budget will be published in the Town Annual Report, which is expected to arrive in mailboxes by February 19th.

2. **If this budget is approved by voters at Town Meeting, what impact will it have on the municipal tax rate and the amount an average property owner pays?**
   The proposed FY 2022 budget eliminates the highway tax which was previously charged only on properties in the Town outside the Village. The result of this is that the change in the tax rate will be different depending on if you live inside or outside of the Village.

   For property in the Town outside the Village the municipal tax rate which was 0.5177 in FY21 (the general tax rate of 0.5067 + highway tax rate of 0.0110) would increase by 0.0087 or 1.7% to 0.5264. The increase will result in $8.70 increase for every $100,000 of assessed value. Assessed value can be found by looking at your current tax bill. Assessed value is not the same as market value. For an average property assessed at $280,000 the increase would be approximately $24.

   For property in the Town inside the Village the municipal tax rate, which was 0.5067 in FY21 (because the highway tax was only charged outside the Village) would increase by 3.9% or 0.0197 to 0.5264. The elimination of the highway tax was coupled with moving the Village rolling stock contribution into the Village highway budget which is paid for through the Town budget. This action, while resulting in a larger increase in the Town tax rate for Town inside the Village taxpayers, will be coupled with a lesser increase in the Village tax rate charged to these properties through the Village budget. For an average property assessed at $280,000 inside the Village the increase would be approximately $55 or $19.70 for every $100,000 of assessed value.

These projections are based on a 1.25 percent growth in the grand list. Should grand list growth exceed this projection, the tax rate set in the summer would be adjusted downward accordingly.

3. **What are the reasons for the proposed increase?**
New initiatives in the FY22 budget make up $265,506 or 45% of the total increase. This is the inclusion of the Village rolling stock contribution in the Highway budget ($140,100); the expansion of the part-time Project Manager in the Manager's office to a full time Assistant Manager ($77,706); Selectboard initiatives to continue work on racial equity and to offer stipends to all volunteer board members ($32,250); and a part time Economic Development Coordinator ($15,450).

   The most significant items driving the balance of the increase are $151,881 in existing position salary and benefit increases; $40,000 in additional paving and stormwater construction projects; $40,000 for repair and maintenance project identified for the Town's buildings; $26,000 in planned increases to the capital fund for Highway, Fire, and Police equipment.

4. **Are there any new positions are proposed in the FY 2021 budget?**
The FY22 budget takes the part-time Project Manager position that was included in the FY21 budget and expands it to a full time Assistant Manager position. The FY22 budget also includes a part-time Economic Development Coordinator which would start halfway through the year.

5. **What types of new consolidation and alignment initiatives between the Town of Essex and Village of Essex Junction are reflected in the budget?**
Existing shared costs remain from previous years. In FY22 the Village highway specific transfer to capital has been included in the amount that is funded by the Town budget, and the Town highway tax would be eliminated. The net impact this dual action has on the tax rate is very small.

6. **Are residents voting at Town Meeting on a merger of the Town of Essex and Village of Essex Junction?**
Yes, on January 11, 2021, the Town Selectboard approved a proposed Plan of Merger of the Town and the Village and a proposed Charter for the merged municipalities and it will now go before the voters on March 2. The proposed Plan is available by request by contacting the Clerk at clerk@essex.org or calling 879-0413. Copies will be mailed to households and posted to www.essexvt.org/merger, www.greateressex2020.org and www.essexjunction.org.

7. **What Capital Budget items are being proposed in FY 2021?**

The proposed FY 2022 capital plan calls for capital tax additions of $538,580, spending of $1,479,856, and an ending balance of $3,067,352. Capital projects proposed for FY 2022 include the following: buildings improvements; police equipment; various road improvements; highway vehicles, fire vehicles, and other heavy equipment; replacement of park assets; sidewalk planning work; ADA compliance upgrades on sidewalks; stormwater projects; and water and sewer improvements.

The operating budget includes transfers to the Capital budget in the amount of $437,000. More details about specific projects and the transfers are available on the Town's website, www.essexvt.org/2021.

8. **How much is fund balance and is there any available for reducing taxes?**
The Town's policy is to maintain an unassigned fund balance of 15 percent of the operating budget, which equates to approximately eight weeks of operating expenses. The Government Finance Officers Association recommends keeping at least two months of operating expenses in unassigned fund balance so that municipalities can operate during a natural disaster, an emergency, or some other type of unexpected event.

The Town has an unassigned fund balance of $2,299,895 or 15 percent of the current operating budget. The Selectboard has approved the use of $409,500 in fund balance in the FY22 budget. The Selectboard has another $291,221 of fund balance assigned for future tax reduction.

9. **How much debt does the Town have and when will it be paid off?**
As of June 30, 2020, the Town General Fund had $4.83 million of debt. The debt is for the bond on the new Police facility and renovations to the Town Offices at 81 Main St. Voters had approved a 20-year, $6.9 million bond in November 2012 for the purchase of land and the construction of a new Police facility. The facility was completed and occupied by the Essex Police in November 2014. The project came in under budget and, after using other available capital funds, there remained approximately $800,000 of unused bond funds. In 2015, voters approved the repurposing of the unused bond funds for renovations at the Town Offices. The bond will be paid off in 2033.

10. **Are there any special articles that voters are being asked to consider at Town Meeting?**
Yes. In addition to the budget, Town Meeting will have an article asking voters if the Town shall adopt the proposed Plan of Merger for the Town of Essex and the Village of Essex Junction and the proposed Charter as approved on January 11, 2021. There is also an article to elect a moderator for next Town Meeting, and a vote on two Selectboard seats.

In November 2020, Essex residents voted to move to Australian ballot to vote on the budget each year. In response to the concerns posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Vermont passed temporary legislation to allow municipalities several options to hold annual meetings this year. The Selectboard voted to use Australian ballot for all other public questions during the 2021 Town Meeting. **This means that voting will not take place from the floor in 2021**. No in-person meetings will be scheduled and voting on the budget and all public questions will take place by Australian ballot only.

The process for using the Australian ballot system requires a public informational hearing as a precursor to the vote. The purpose of the informational hearing is to afford the electorate an opportunity to discuss the article(s) on which they will be voting. The hearing serves as the debate component that would otherwise accompany voting when conducted from the floor and it has not been waived. **There will be no option to modify the budget during this meeting.**

The Informational Hearing will take place remotely on March 1, 2021 at 7:30 PM. The elections and the Plan of Merger vote will take place by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 2, when polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

11. When and where do residents vote on the budget?

The 2021 Town Meeting will be held by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 2. Ballots will be mailed out and may also be requested online at https://mvp.vermont.gov/ or by email clerk@essex.org.

March 2 Australian ballot voting will take place 7 AM to 7 PM.

- Residents of the Village of Essex Junction vote at Essex High School, 2 Educational Dr.
- Residents of the Town outside the Village of Essex Junction vote at Essex Middle School, 58 Founders Dr.

12. Will I receive my ballot early and how do I return it?

In accordance to temporary legislation Act 1 (H.48), the Selectboard authorized the Clerk to mail all active registered municipal voters an early voter absentee ballot to encourage absentee voting in 2021. Ballots are expected to arrive in mailboxes by February 19th. Ballots may be returned by: 1) mailing back according to the instructions included with your ballot; 2) dropping off in the secured ballot box located outside of the Town Offices at 81 Main Street (Feb. 12 to March 1); or 3) bringing the ballot in person on March 2 at the designated polling locations. ***All ballots must be RECEIVED by the close of polls on Town Meeting Day in order to be counted.***

TOWN MEETING 2021
QUESTIONS and ANSWERS
Proposed FY 2022 Budget
Town of Essex
~~January 29~~February 16, 2021

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- Residents of the Town outside the Village of Essex Junction vote at Essex Middle School, 58 Founders Dr.

12. Will I receive my ballot early and how do I return it?

In accordance to temporary legislation Act 1 (H.48), the Selectboard authorized the Clerk to mail all active registered municipal voters an early voter absentee ballot to encourage absentee voting in 2021. Ballots are expected to arrive in mailboxes by February 19th. Ballots may be returned by: 1) mailing back according to the instructions included with your ballot; 2) dropping off in the secured ballot box located outside of the Town Offices at 81 Main Street (Feb. 12 to March 1); or 3) bringing the ballot in person on March 2 at the designated polling locations. ***All ballots must be RECEIVED by the close of polls on Town Meeting Day in order to be counted.***

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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Unified Manager/Select Board

FROM: Karen K. Lemnah, Municipal Assessor

DATE: February 4, 2021

RE: Form PVR-4155 – Certificate – No Appeals or Suit Pending

==

Issue:

For the Select Board signatures for approval of Form PVR-4155 – Certificate – No Appeals or Suit Pending.

Discussion

The Form PVR-4155 – Certificate – No Appeals or Suit Pending pertains to 32 VSA 4155 - When no statutory appeal as provided by law from the appraisal of the Assessor and no suit to recover taxes paid under protest is pending on the first Tuesday of February following such lodgment, the Select Board and Assessor of a town or the mayor and assessors of a city shall endorse a certificate to that effect upon the grand list and the same shall be attested by the town or city clerk with the date of such attestation.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Select Board approve this document for inclusion with the 2020 Grand List.

APPROVED by the Select Board on ______________________, 2021.

____
Elaine Haney, Chair

Form PVR-4155

CERTIFICATE - NO APPEAL OR SUIT PENDING

I ~~We~~ hereby certify that on this date there are not any appeals pending from action of the Assessor ~~Listers~~ nor suits pending to recover taxes paid under protest relating to the April 1, 2020 grand list of Essex, Vermont.

Given under our hands at Essex in the County of Chittenden, State of Vermont, this 3nd day of February, 2021.

~~Listers~~ Assessor	Selectboard
Karen K. Lemnah	

Attested this ______ day of ________________, _________.

___________________________, Town Clerk

Attach to final grand list lodged with the town clerk.

32 V.S.A. § 4155. Certificate and attestation - No appeal or suit pending
When no statutory appeal as provided by law from the appraisal of the listers and no suit to recover taxes paid under protest is pending on the first Tuesday of February following such lodgment, the selectboard and listers of a town or the mayor and assessors of a city shall endorse a certificate to that effect upon the grand list and the same shall be attested by the town or city clerk with the date of such attestation.
32 V.S.A. § 4156. After appeal and suit determined
When any such appeal or suit is then pending, such certificate shall be made as soon as such appeal or suit has been finally determined.
32 V.S.A. § 4157. Effect of such certificate
From the date of endorsing such certificate upon the grand list as aforesaid to the effect that no such appeal or suit is pending, when offered in evidence in any court in this state, such list shall be received as a legal grand list of such town or city and its validity shall not be put in issue by any party to any action in any hearing or trial in any court.

Memorandum

To:	Evan Teich, Unified Manager and the Selectboard
From:	Dennis E. Lutz, P.E., Public Works Director D Lutz
	Aaron Martin, P.E., Utilities Director/Town Engineer AM
Subject:	20210 Acceptance of Town Highways
Date:	January 11, 2021

Issue:

The issue is whether or not the Selectboard reclassify a small section of the Class IV road, West Sleepy Hollow Road as Class III Town Highway, and sign the 2021 Certificate of Highway Mileage.

Discussion:

In the summer of 2018, the Town of Essex upgraded a 141.4 Foot segment of West Sleepy Hollow Road beginning at the VT RT 128 Right of Way, from a gravel road to a paved cross section. Attached is the plan depicting the portion of road that has been upgraded to a Class III Town Highway cross-section. Public Works certifies that the road reconstruction has been constructed in accordance with the Town's Specifications for Construction and recommends that the Selectboard accept the road upgrades along this first segment of West Sleepy Hollow Road, and reclassify the upgraded road segment from a Class IV to a Class III Town highway.

Funds for the improvement of this section of road were provided by developer impact fees with the understanding that when the section was brought up to Town standards for a Class III road, it would be accepted as such.

Staff has followed the requirements within State statute for notification of reclassifying for Town highways. All residents that have properties abutting this section of road have been notified by certified mail of this meeting, a public notice was placed in the local paper, and all other requirements in Sections 708 and 709 of State Statute under Title 19. Both have been attached for reference.

Furthermore, the Department of Public Works recommends that the reclassified Class III segment of West Sleepy Hollow Road be accepted by the Selectboard as Class 3 Town highway, and the total Town highway mileage be updated on the 2021 Highway Mileage Certificate.

West Sleepy Hollow Road (Sta. 0+00 to Sta. 1+41.4) (+) 0.027 miles

Costs:

Based on last year's State road subsidy, it is estimated that the adjusted mileage will add the following revenue.

Add	**0.027 miles of Class 3 @ \$1,574.451/mile**	**=**	**\$42.51**

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Selectboard reclassify a 141.4 Foot segment of West Sleepy Hollow Road beginning at the VT RT 128 Right of Way, from a Class IV to a Class III Town Highway, and sign the updated 2021 Certificate of Highway Mileage.

District 5
Certcode 0406-0

CERTIFICATE OF HIGHWAY MILEAGE
YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 10, 2021

Fill out form, make and file a copy with the Town Clerk, and submit the Mileage Certificate on or before February 20, 2021 to: Vermont Agency of Transportation, Division of Policy, Planning and Intermodal Development, Mapping Section through upload to the secure FTP site or if necessary via mail to: VTrans PPAID - Mapping Section, 2178 Airport Rd, Unit B, Berlin, VT 05641.

We, the members of the legislative body of ESSEX *in* CHITTENDEN *County on an oath state that the mileage of highways, according to Vermont Statutes Annotated, Title 19, Section 305, added 1985, is as follows:*

PART I - CHANGES TOTALS - Please fill in and calculate totals.

Town Highways	Previous Mileage	Added Mileage	Subtracted Mileage	Total	Scenic Highways
Class 1	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Class 2	10.830	0.000	0.000	10.830	0.000
Class 3	66.06	0.027	0.000	66.087	0.000
State Highway	22.312	0.000	0.000	22.312	0.000
Total	**99.202**	0.027	0.000	99.229	**0.000**
* Class 1 Lane	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	
* Class 4	3.40	0.000	0.027	3.373	0.000
* Legal Trail	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	

** Mileage for Class 1 Lane, Class 4, and Legal Trail classifications are NOT included in total.*

PART II - INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES SHOWN ABOVE.

1. **NEW HIGHWAYS: Please attach Selectmen's "Certificate of Completion and Opening".**

2. **DISCONTINUED: Please attach SIGNED copy of proceedings (minutes of meeting).**

3. **RECLASSIFIED/REMEASURED: Please attach SIGNED copy of proceedings (minutes of meeting).**

West Sleepy Hollow Road (Sta. 0+00 to Sta. 1+41.4)

4. **SCENIC HIGHWAYS: Please attach a copy of order designating/discontinuing Scenic Highways.**

IF THERE ARE NO CHANGES IN MILEAGE: Place an X in the box and sign below. ☐

PART III - SIGNATURES - PLEASE SIGN.

Signatures of Selectmen/ Aldermen/ Trustees: ______________________

Signature of T/C/V Clerk: ______________________ *Date Filed:* ______________

Please sign ORIGINAL and return it for Transportation signature.

AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION APPROVAL: Signed copy will be returned to T/C/V Clerk.

APPROVED: *DATE:*

Representative, Agency of Transportation

The Vermont Statutes Online

Title 19 : Highways

Chapter 007 : Laying Out, Discontinuing, And Reclassifying Highways

Subchapter 002 : Laying Out, Altering, Reclassifying, Or Discontinuing Highways By Petition To Selectboard

(Cite as: 19 V.S.A. § 708)

§ 708. Petition

(a) Persons who are either voters or landowners, and whose number is at least five percent of the voters, in a town, desiring to have a highway laid out, altered, reclassified, or discontinued, may apply by petition in writing to the selectboard for that purpose. A person who is a landowner in a town, desiring to have an unidentified corridor which passes through or abuts his or her land discontinued or altered, may apply in writing to the selectboard for that purpose. The selectboard may also initiate these proceedings on its own motion.

(b) A class 4 highway need not be reclassified to class 3 merely because there exists within a town one or more class 3 highways with characteristics similar to the class 4 highway. In considering whether to reclassify a class 4 highway to class 3, consideration may be given as to whether the increased traffic and development potential likely to result from the reclassification is desirable or is in accordance with the town plan. (Added 1985, No. 269 (Adj. Sess.), § 1; amended 2005, No. 178 (Adj. Sess.), § 3.)

The Vermont Statutes Online

Title 19 : Highways

Chapter 007 : Laying Out, Discontinuing, And Reclassifying Highways

Subchapter 002 : Laying Out, Altering, Reclassifying, Or Discontinuing Highways By Petition To Selectboard

(Cite as: 19 V.S.A. § 709)

§ 709. Notice and hearing

The selectmen shall promptly appoint a time and date both for examining the premises and hearing the persons interested, and give 30 days' notice to the petitioners, and to persons owning or interested in lands through which the highway may pass or abut, of the time when they will inspect the site and receive testimony. They shall also give notice to any municipal planning commission in the town, post a copy of the notice in the office of the town clerk, and cause a notice to be published in a local newspaper of general circulation in the area not less than ten days before the time set for the hearing. The notice shall be given by certified mail sent to the official residence of the person(s) required to be notified. (Added 1985, No. 269 (Adj. Sess.), § 1.)

TOWN OF ESSEX
VERMONT

81 MAIN STREET, ESSEX JUNCTION, VERMONT 05452
Fax: 878-1353 ● **E-mail:** manager@essex.org ● **Website:** www.essex.org

Notice of Intent, Re-Classification
West Sleepy Hollow Road / TH60

The Town of Essex intends to re-classify a section of West Sleepy Hollow Road/TH60, from a Class 4 to a Class 3 Town Highway. A survey was performed pursuant to 19 V.S.A. § 33 – "Plat of Resurvey, Town Highway #60", dated October 1997, prepared by DuBois & King and filed in slide 329.

The length of the existing highway sought to be re-classified begins at the intersection of Browns River Road/VT RT 128 and West Sleepy Hollow Road/TH60 and extends 141.4' easterly. See plan and profile design prepared by O'Leary-Burke Civil Associates, PLC, last revised 1/29/2020.

In accordance with 19 V.S.A. §708, & §709 the Town of Essex Selectboard hereby warns the classification change to be heard on February 16, 2021. Attached is a copy of:

- Title 19 V.S.A § 708 & 709.
- Resurvey for TH 60
- Plan & Profile for West Sleepy Hollow Road

If you have any questions with respect to the highway re-classification, or would like to review the documents referenced in this notice, please feel free to contact Essex Public Works at (802) 878-1344.

Essex, Vermont, Town Clerk's Office
February 11, 1998 at
1 o'clock 20 minutes P M
Received for record and recorded in
Slide 329 of land records.
Attest: Nadine C. Frechel
Town Clerk asst.

We the Selectboard of the Town of Essex, Vermont in accordance with V.S.A. Title 19, do hereby accept this plan which is based on our order to resurvey and monument Town Highway # 60. We hereby order this record of resurvey to be recorded by the Town Clerk this 26 day of January 1998.

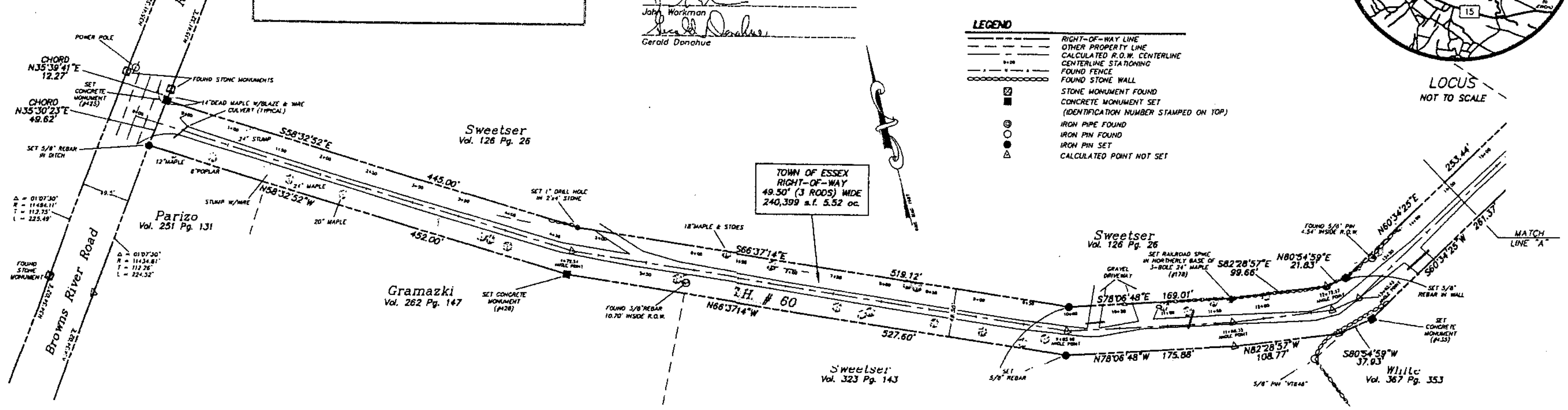
Martin J. Myers, Chair

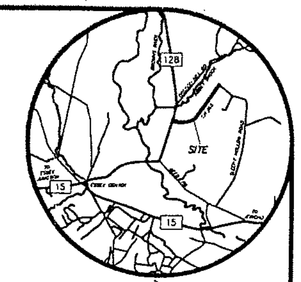
June Carmichael, Vice Chair

Alan Nye, Clerk

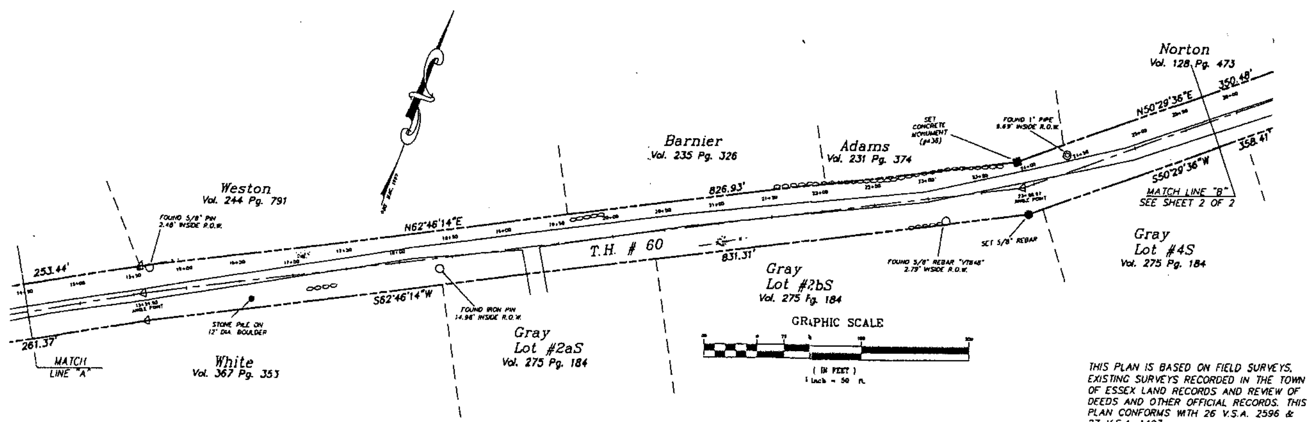
John Workman

Gerald Donohue





LOCUS
NOT TO SCALE



NOTES:

SURVEYS PERFORMED ON THE GROUND DURING SEPTEMBER 1997 USING AN ELECTRONIC THEODOLITE AND ELECTRONIC DISTANCE MEASUREMENT.

THE FOLLOWING PLANS WERE USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS PLAT:

"PLAN OF LOTS FOR RICHARD H. & CAROL W. FOWLER" BY JOHN A MARSH, DATED MARCH 1975.

"PLAT OF SURVEY FOR GHISLANE CLARKE" BY JOHN A. MARSH, DATED 6/26/1990.

"PLAT OF LOTS TO BE CONVEYED BY GHISLANE EVERS" BY JOHN A. MARSH, DATED OCT. 1975 AND REVISED JULY 9, 1976.

"PLAT OF SURVEY SHOWING PORTION OF LEE & KAREN GRAY PROPERTY 89.0 ACRES 2 LOT SUBDIVISION" BY WARREN A. ROBENSTIEN, DATED JUNE 1997 AND RECORDED IN MAP SLIDE 322.

"PROPERTY OF MARVIN K. WEED" BY EMERSON, ABBOTT, HARLOW & LEEDY, INC., DATED JULY 2, 1968.

NORTH ORIENTATION IS OBSERVED MAGNETIC 1997

THIS PLAN IS BASED ON FIELD SURVEYS, EXISTING SURVEYS RECORDED IN THE TOWN OF ESSEX LAND RECORDS AND REVIEW OF DEEDS AND OTHER OFFICIAL RECORDS. THIS PLAN CONFORMS WITH 26 V.S.A. 2596 & 27 V.S.A. 1403.

Ronald E. Gauthier
RONALD E. GAUTHIER, VT. L.S. #574

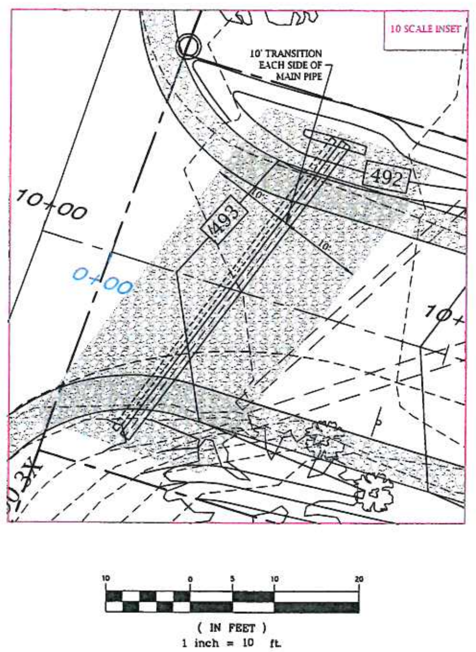
PLAT OF RESURVEY
TOWN HIGHWAY #60

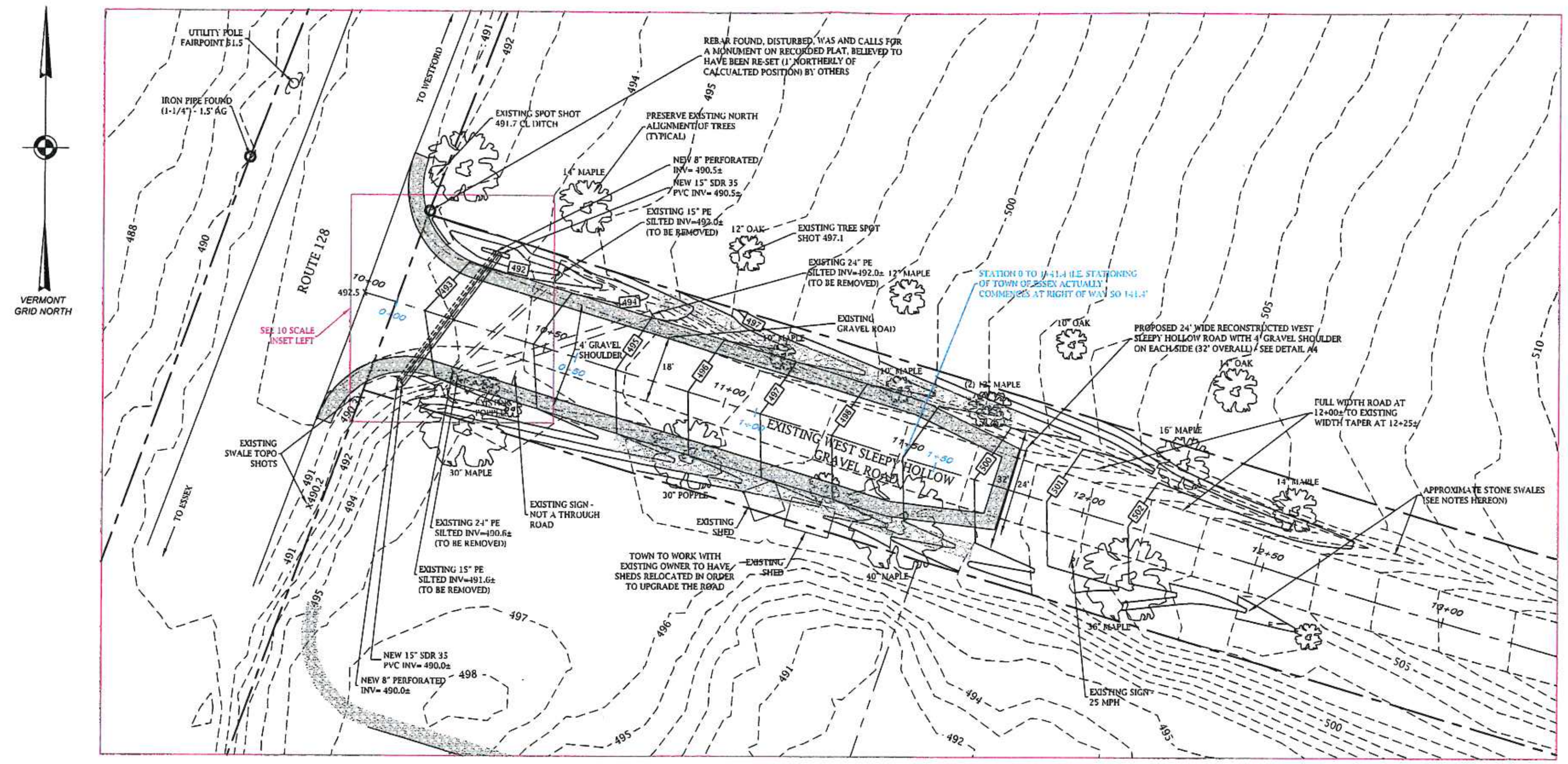
TOWN OF ESSEX SELECTBOARD

81 MAIN STREET — ESSEX JUNCTION, VERMONT

DuBois & King inc.
engineering planning management development
WILLISTON VERMONT

PROJECT NUMBER	B15370P
DATE	OCT. 1997
DRAWN BY	REG/EGP
DRAWING NUMBER	D-5479
SHEET	1 of 2





NOTES:

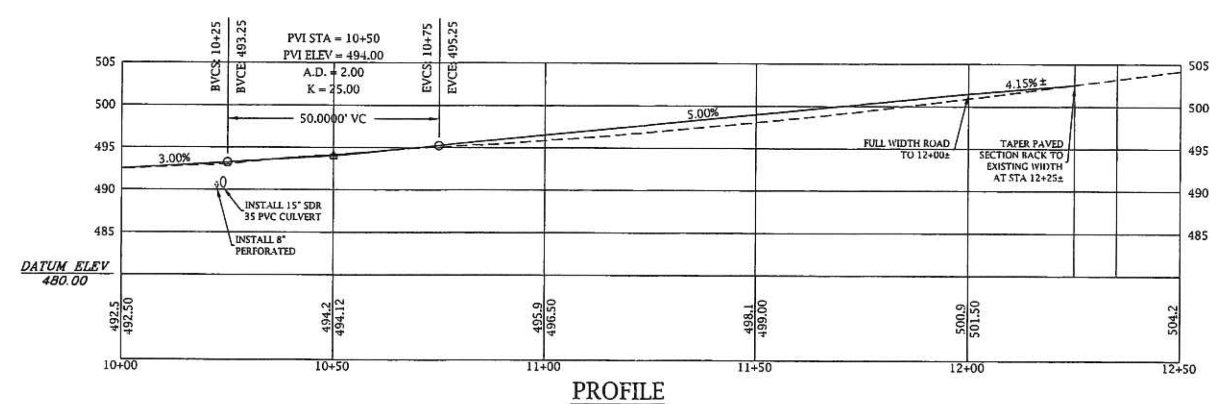
1. REMOVE EXISTING CULVERTS TO INSTALL 30" CPEPSL - CORRUGATED POLYETHYLENE SMOOTH INTERIOR (OR AS APPROVED BY THE TOWN OF ESSEX)
2. STA. 10+10± - 10+75± LEFT AND RIGHT GRASS SWALE
3. STA. 10+75± - 12+50± RIGHT STONE SWALE
4. STA. 10+75± - 14+60± LEFT STONE SWALE
5. STA. 15+00± - 17+10± LEFT STONE SWALE

LEGEND

- PROPERTY LINE / R.O.W.
- EDGE OF EXISTING GRAVEL
- EDGE OF UPGRADED ROAD
- 505 EXISTING GROUND CONTOURS
- 500 FINISH GRADE CONTOURS
- STORM LINE
- UTILITY POLE

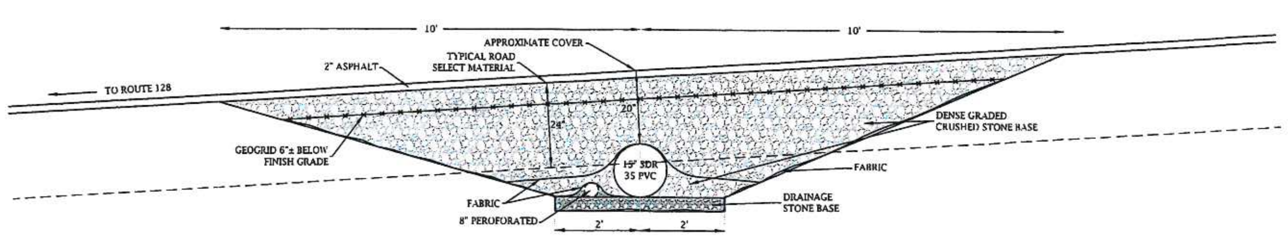
GRAPHIC SCALE

(IN FEET)
1 inch = 20 ft.



PROFILE

1"=20' HOR. / 1"=10' VERT.



CULVERT INSTALLATION IN SELECT MATERIAL

NTS

CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCE:

1. DIG OUT AREA FOR CULVERT INSTALLATION;
2. CONTINUE EXCAVATION FLAT TO 2'± ON EACH SIDE OF MAIN STORM PIPE TO DEPTH OF 3" OR AS DIRECTED BY THE TOWN OF ESSEX BELOW INVERT;
3. SHAPE TRAPEZOIDAL EXCAVATION AS SHOWN TO TIE BACK INTO ROAD SELECT GRADE 10' ON EACH SIDE OF MAIN STORM PIPE;
4. INSTALL FABRIC AS SHOWN;
5. INSTALL DRAINAGE STONE & A UNIFORM WIDTH ON EACH SIDE OF THE MAIN CARRIER PIPE (2'± ON EACH SIDE);
6. INSTALL BOTH 8" & 15" PIPE ON BED OF DRAINAGE STONE
7. COVER OVER & BED 8" PERFORATED PIPE IN DRAINAGE STONE & INSTALL FABRIC OVER THE PIPE
8. ADD DENSE GRADED CRUSHED STONE AROUND THE MAIN CARRIER STORM PIPE AND INSTALL FABRIC OVER THE CENTER OF THE PIPE A UNIFORM WIDTH OF FABRIC ON EACH SIDE;
9. CONTINUE FILLING TRAPEZOIDAL SHAPE WITH DENSE GRADED CRUSHED STONE TO GRADE OF APPROXIMATELY 6" OF FINISH SURFACE;
10. INSTALL GEOGRID AS SPECIFIED BY THE TOWN OF ESSEX;
11. ADD DENSE GRADED CRUSHED STONE OVER GEOGRID TO SUBBASE (PRE-PAVING GRADE)
12. FINE GRADE AREA TO BE PAVED AND INSTALL ASPHALT TO FINISH GRADE

THE CONTRACTOR SHALL NOTIFY "DIGSAFE" AT 1-888-DIG-SAFE PRIOR TO ANY EXCAVATION.

STATE OF VERMONT KARL MARCHESSAULT No. 8932 Civil LICENSED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER

DATE	REVISION	BY
01/29/20	MAKE CHANGES PER AS-BUILT CONDITIONS WITH DAN GREGOIRE	KGM
03/28/18	CHANGE STORM PIPE GRADING & SIZE PER REVIEW, RE-GRADE, REMOVE EASEMENTS, ADD DETAIL	KGM
02/26/18	ADD 30" CULVERT PER DISCUSSION WITH ESSEX, GRADING CHANGES, ETC.	KGM

SURVEY OBCA
DESIGN KGM
DRAWN TBC/KGM
CHECKED PJO/KGM
SCALE 1"=20'

■ RECORD DRAWING ☐ PRELIMINARY
☐ FINAL ☐ SKETCH/CONCEPT

O'LEARY-BURKE
CIVIL ASSOCIATES, PLC
13 CORPORATE DRIVE
ESSEX JCT., VT
PHONE: 878-9990 FAX: 878-9989
EMAIL: obca@olearyburke.com

TOWN OF ESSEX

WEST SLEEPY HOLLOW ROAD

PLAN & PROFILE

DATE 01/12/18
JOB# 2017-113
FILE 2017-113-S3-RD
PLAN SHEET # 2

TOWN OF ESSEX SELECTBOARD
VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION TRUSTEES
DRAFT JOINT MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 25, 2021

SELECTBOARD: Elaine Haney, Chair; Vince Franco; Dawn Hill-Fleury; Patrick Murray; Andy Watts

TRUSTEES: Andy Brown; Raj Chawla; Dan Kerin; Amber Thibeault; George Tyler

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Evan Teich, Unified Manager; Courtney Bushey, Assistant Finance Director; Tammy Getchell, Assistant to the Manager; Sarah Macy, Assistant Manager/Finance Director; Linda Mahns, Administrative Assistant; Travis Sabataso, Human Resources Director

OTHERS PRESENT: Marcus Certa; Kevin Collins; Tracey Delphia; Erin Dickinson; Betsy Dunn; Roseanne Prestipino; Ken Signorello; Margaret Smith; Sara Stultz; Mike Sullivan; Mike Thorne; David Voegele; Irene Wrenner, Sharon Zukowski; Joanne__; Toni ___

1. <u>CALL TO ORDER</u>

Ms. Haney called the Town of Essex Selectboard to order for the Joint meeting with the Village of Essex Junction Board of Trustees at 6:30 PM.

Mr. Brown called the Village of Essex Junction Board of Trustees to order for the Joint meeting with the Essex Selectboard at 6:30 PM.

2. <u>AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES</u>

Mr. Teich requested the addition of 6b to the Consent Agenda: Adopt Temporary COVID-19 Emergency Leave Policy with an effective date of January 1, 2021, along with an additional handout for this item: Memo and attachment from Travis Sabataso, Human Resources Director. The board members expressed interest in taking time to read the information provided by Mr. Teich. They suggested these items be placed on the agendas for the Tuesday 1/26/21 Meeting of the Trustees' and the Thursday 1/28/21 meeting of the Selectboard, instead of this meeting's agenda. Mr. Sabataso said the boards would be able to adopt the temporary policy retroactively.

Mr. Watts requested moving the meeting minutes of 1/11/21 from the consent agenda for discussion as a business item.

3. <u>APPROVE AGENDA</u>

GEORGE TYLER made a motion, seconded by AMBER THIBEAULT, that the Trustees amend the agenda as recommended by Selectboard member Andy Watts. The motion passed 5-0.

VINCE FRANCO made a motion, seconded by PATRICK MURRAY, that the Selectboard approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed 5-0.

4. <u>PUBLIC TO BE HEARD</u>

Mr. Signorello challenged any public official to a mediated public debate with Ms. Wrenner.

Ms. Wrenner described a fictional scenario: if Burlington expected Essex to pay for a section of Burlington's budget, to illustrate what she said was an unfair expectation of Essex Town to pay for Village services. She said the proposed merger would put Village expenses on the Town even though the Town did not previously vote for them.

Ms. Dunn said she was disappointed that the Trustees and Selectboard have not prepared Essex for Vermont's Marijuana legislation to monetize local businesses wanting to open.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

~~a. **Essex CHIPS annual update -- David Voegele**~~

Mr. Voegele experienced technology challenges which delayed his attendance for Business Item 5a. Mr. Brown suggested the boards address Business Item 5e first, then return to the Essex CHIPS update. The Trustees and Selectboard members agreed. Business Item 5a took place as the third Business item on the agenda. (see below)

e. **Approve minutes: January 11, 2021 – Selectboard only**

On lines 201-203 of the January 11, 2021 minutes, Mr. Watts requested replacing "He also was concerned with the wording of the Sidewalk District in the Charter because some plowing--like at the library-- seemed to be beyond its scope." He suggested the statement, instead, read, "He also was concerned with the wording of the Capital District in the Charter because some projects, like paving the library parking lot, would be hard to justify as benefitting only residents of the Village."

ANDY WATTS made a motion, seconded by DAWN HILL-FLEURY, that the Selectboard approve the meeting minutes of January 11, 2021 as amended. The motion passed 5-0.

Because Mr. Voegele was not yet in attendance, at this point in the meeting, Mr. Brown suggested they address item 5d next. The Selectboard members and Trustees agreed.

d. **Consider approval of mailing ballots for Town and Village annual meetings**

Mr. Teich requested the boards act on to whom to send ballots for the Town and Village annual meetings. He suggested they be sent to all active voters. Mr. Brown said this was the strategy used with the Village municipal meeting and school budget votes and that it worked out well. Mr. Tyler agreed. Ms. Hill-Fleury said, as a Selectboard member who also serves on the Board of Civil Authority, she is allowed to stuff ballots for mailing but she may not put returned ballots into the machines. She agreed with the recommendation that ballots be sent to all active, registered voters and said this could help limit the spread of COVID.

Ms. Delphia asked for clarification on the cost of mailing ballots. Mr. Teich said it would cost more to send ballots to all registered voters versus all active, registered voters. He said the cost includes mailing ballots to and from active voters which has been calculated at the new postal rate.

PATRICK MURRAY made a motion, seconded by ANDY WATTS, that the Selectboard approve mailing ballots. The motion passed 5-0.

GEORGE TYLER made a motion, seconded by RAJ CHAWLA, that the Trustees approve mailing ballots. The motion passed 5-0.

a. **Essex CHIPS annual update -- David Voegele**

Mr. Voegele provided an overview of the activities and accomplishments of Essex CHIPS in the COVID era to date. As detailed in his report, he talked about: Teen Center activities, which he said are thriving despite the COVID challenges; Substance Use Prevention; Outlet; Essex Youth Empowerment; Youth Mental Health First Aid Training; Quality Youth Development; Mentoring; and the Teen Line. He described adaptations made to programs including: moving them online, like the hula hoop competition; and bringing opportunities outside, like the scavenger hunt. He said the mentoring program is now community-based instead of school-based, and they are currently recruiting for more mentors. Mr. Voegele talked about the challenges of teens being lonely and distressed during these times, so mentoring and the Teen Line have been important. He also mentioned that Essex CHIPS implemented a new software system.

The board members talked with Mr. Voegele about Essex CHIPS. Ms. Thibeault suggested the board members and Essex CHIPS teenagers should hold a virtual hula hooping competition fundraiser. Mr. Voegele said he liked the idea and would be in touch with them. He talked about the role of an AmeriCorps member working with the Essex CHIPS to help mitigate challenges related to COVID. Mr. Teich wondered if she could also help Senior Center members make appointments to get vaccinated. Mr. Voegele said he would look into this. Ms. Haney wondered about the morale of teens. Mr. Voegele said Essex CHIPS teen mentoring relationships are strained because youth do not want to go back online after school to meet with their mentors. He said teens are struggling but Essex CHIPS is looking at creative ways to keep them engaged. The board members thanked Mr. Voegele for his work.

Commented [GD1]: The AmeriCorps member?

Mr. Signorello said the recent Speech and Forensics competition was a great event. He said debate is an allowed sport and Essex youth may be in nationals this year.

b. **Merger Cost Update (memo from Sarah)**

Ms. Macy provided an update on the cost of Merger, utilizing the Fiscal Year (FY)2022 budget, which is not yet voter approved or adopted, and the FY2021 actual Grand List. She reviewed the memo she provided for this agenda item, recapping the frameworks and assumptions she had previously used to consider tax rate implications of merger and the rate of convergence of Town and Village taxes over 12 years. She then provided an overview of annual costs to the Town outside the Village utilizing the FY2022 budget. These costs were presented in a range based on hypothetical scenarios of how much the Grand List may grow to help offset taxes. She discussed her assumptions for the high, middle, and low ranges of possible total costs and annual costs to taxpayers, along with a full worksheet of calculations to illustrate how she arrived at these costs. Ms. Macy went on to explain the tax convergence model of how the merger would arrive at "middle ground" over 12 years, between Village and Town outside the Village resident taxes, in an effort to find tax equity. By comparison, she talked about what taxes would look like if there was no merger and no change to the taxing structures over 12 years. She discussed the 12% differential on the total amount TOV taxpayers would pay when comparing the two models. She also compared these models to the implications of if TOV taxes increased all at once.

The board members discussed Ms. Macy's presentation with her. Mr. Franco asked for clarification on the range of possible tax increases presented. Ms. Macy said that, assuming no Grand List growth, utilizing the FY2022 budget and considering the impact of collapsing the "districts" in year 13, the tax increase would be $29 each year for TOV. Assuming all of this but changing the grand list growth by 1.25%, which is the average TOV grand list growth for the past 3 years, the increase would be $24 for a TOV taxpayer. She talked about what extent tax levy increases to budgets would play. Mr. Chawla asked for clarification on the impact of phasing in taxes versus an all-at-once shift. Ms. Macy discussed how different time frames for the merged tax rate could impact different levels of taxation. She said the average TOV taxpayer by the end of a 12-year phase-in, would pay about $21,000 in taxes, versus without merger: by the end of the 12 years, the average taxpayer would pay about $19,000 in taxes. She said yet unknown increases to the Grand List would help positively impact the tax rate growth over the 12 years.

Mr. Tyler requested time to explain the special taxing districts. Ms. Haney and Mr. Brown agreed that talking about the taxing districts was relevant to the 12-year phase-in discussion. Mr. Watts disagreed with the timing discussing the tax districts. Mr. Tyler said the Tax Districts were developed as strategies for preventing significant changes in levels of services and decreasing the tax impact of merger on the TOV. He also talked about how difficult it is to predict municipal tax rates into the future due to unforeseeable circumstances. Mr. Watts said he remembers amending language toward the beginning of merger discussions from “maintaining levels of service” to “maintaining quality of service.” He said the special districts would lock TOV neighborhoods out of receiving special services that could be helpful for everyone. He illustrated this with sidewalk plowing examples. He said it is also unclear what amounts would be taxed for the Sidewalk Districts. He said that because the boundaries for the sidewalk district are in the charter, it may be possible to create a second TOV district but the amounts to be taxed would still be unclear. Mr. Teich said he would clarify with Mr. Richardson if there was a way for the sidewalk district to ever be expanded. Mr. Brown discussed how the process of charter change could play a role in this. Mr. Watts expressed concern with the constitutionality of special Capital District taxes on projects that everyone can use. He said that he does not disagree with the 12-year phase-in, but he does disagree with the tax districts. Mr. Murray clarified with Ms. Macy that the entire Town could vote immediately on the entire Town budget if merger is approved. He said this is how voters can approve or not approve the services detailed in the budget.

Mr. Signorello requested Ms. Macy share the extra spreadsheet information she presented that was not in the packet. He asked her to highlight the row that shows the cumulative tax increase over 12 years if merger passes to verify the number. He said the Village budget was not voted in by the Town and he thinks if a merger passes, the first budget vote should be interesting. He thanked staff for their response to resident requests for the information Ms. Macy shared.

Ms. Cooper said she was uncomfortable with the amount of public use of the chat function in the Microsoft meeting platform, despite people being asked to not use it for commentary. She thanked the board members for staying focused and gracious nonetheless.

Ms. Dunn commented that she had previously understood that the tax districts could not change but in this meeting, board members said the districts could change through a charter change process. She said she was upset by this discrepancy.

Ms. Delphia thanked Ms. Macy for presenting a matter-of-fact, clear explanation of this topic, inclusive of multiple perspectives and scenarios. She commended her on her expertise.

Ms. Wrenner questioned why the board members would want to set up special Tax Districts in the charter if they may need to be changed down the road. She thanked Ms. Macy for her presentation and asked for the extra spreadsheets to be shared with the public. She wondered if Selectboard members had a chance to voice concerns about a memo put out by the Selectboard Chair. She said the memo stated that cumulative merger tax information was false, but Ms. Macy’s presentation included cumulative taxes that were similar to the $2,000 being discussed in the public. Ms. Haney said it was incorrect to have stated in this memo that the cumulative cost was false and apologized for the error. She described the group effort of board members to draft the memo and said she still has concerns that the way the cumulative tax increase is being presented in public discussion, it may be leading people to think their taxes will be going up by $2,000 as soon as the merger passes, which she stressed is not the case.

Ms. Stultz thanked Ms. Haney for putting out the memo on Front Porch Forum which, she said, provides an accurate representation of the merger tax structure. She wanted to clarify that an average house in the Village currently pays a municipal tax of $2,433 per year while the same valued house in the TOV pays $1,511, an almost $900 difference. She calculated that over the years, she thinks the cumulative extra cost she has paid in taxes as a resident of the Village has been over $2,000. She hoped TOV voters would consider that the cumulative TOV cost of $2,000 over the 12 years is lower than how much a Village resident would pay cumulatively without merger.

Ms. Smith asked what year IBM stopped paying taxes to the Village. Mr. Brown talked about how GlobalFoundries pays property taxes on the property they own, and that IBM paid taxes to the Town and the Village for as long as they owned that land. Mr. Kerin discussed the role a machinery and equipment tax played and how it was phased out over 12 years. Mr. Tyler explained tax fluctuations of IBM over 20 years. Ms. Smith said she thought more of IBM tax money had been going to the Village than the TOV and wondered if this was true. Mr. Tyler explained that IBM gave a higher amount of tax money to the Village school district than the TOV school district, but the municipalities received equal amounts.

Mr. Watts shared the historical Town and Village Essex tax rates inclusive of school taxes. He said that Village municipal and school tax rates (combined) have only been higher than TOV tax rates since 1999. Mr. Murray said that the focus on tax rates should be on current municipal tax inequities. Mr. Kerin talked about the challenge of trying to determine exact amounts of taxes and budgetary figures into the future, not knowing what kinds of challenges Essex may face.

c. **Discussion on public outreach for merger vote (banners, websites, mailers, Teams informational meetings, Town Meeting TV)**

Mr. Teich wondered what kind of outreach the board members would like to conduct, considering the limitations of COVID. Ms. Haney suggested virtual conversations with board members online and requested they sign up for dates. Mr. Franco suggested conducting a Dungeons and Dragons themed conversation about merger with Mr. Murray to reach new demographics. Mr. Murray agreed that a gaming/chat/hangout/virtual conversation would be a creative and good way to reach people. Mr. Watts wondered who would determine if documents and content about the merger are not biased. He also suggested they provide clarity on the question of what services Village residents are currently getting for their Town taxes because of some of the outreach on merger may have confused this point. Ms. Haney said the informational packet planned to be sent to the public is going to the printer. She said she remembered KSV's recommendation of putting forward accurate information and she believes the documents are appropriate. Mr. Tyler pointed out the short timeline for information dissemination and sending ballots.

Ms. Dunn said she had an issue with bullet point three of the suggested locations for the banners because they are all in the Village. She suggested Mac's Market, Hannaford, and Price Chopper locations also be considered. She said that at a recent school board meeting, school board members were against the idea of voting for the school budget at the same time as the municipal vote. Mr. Brown said the grocery store locations are private properties. Mr. Teich wondered if paper flyers could be posted at these locations.

Ms. Cooper said that because the Selectboard and Trustees came together to put together a charter for merger, it is not biased to present the charter for merger. She said she is glad the conversation about where to get information is happening.

Ms. Wrenner said that she did not put out misleading information. Regarding the Selectboard memo about serious misinformation, she requested a corrected memo be released. She said it should include corrections to bullet points one and four and a statement that the error was the Selectboard's, not hers. She suggested the Town Common and outside Memorial Hall be banner locations to announce the vote. She acknowledged the amount of work that went into the merger and wants people to see it transparently. She wondered what was added to the booklet that will be mailed. Ms. Haney said the new pages included were the front and back covers.

Mr. Signorello agreed that a banner location outside of Memorial Hall is a good idea. He clarified that even though the two boards each approved a plan of merger, they were not the same plan.

Mr. Certa agreed with suggestions that some banners be put up in the TOV.

Ms. Delphia said that because many informational methods being discussed are one-way messaging, the boards should consider in-person, socially-distanced opportunities for people to ask questions. Mr. Brown said in-person opportunities were not included because of COVID restrictions. Mr. Teich said school districts and the State have discouraged in-person gatherings.

Ms. Thibeault and Mr. Chawla suggested that people who do not have internet can access board members by phone. Mr. Chawla suggested email may also be a good option.

Mr. Murray clarified, based on his experience as a school board member, that the school board hopes the school budget and municipal votes will be the same day, but it is impossible this year.

Mr. Teich clarified that the banner locations were chosen based on high traffic visibility. He asked if the board would like to add more banners for TOV locations. Ms. Haney said banners could be at Fort Ethan Allen and Susie Wilson Road as well as at the locations suggested by the public.

~~d. **Consider approval of mailing ballots for Town and Village annual meetings**~~
This item took place as the second Business Item addressed on the agenda. (see above)

~~e. **Approve minutes: January 11, 2021 – Selectboard only**~~
This item took place as the first Business Item addressed on the agenda. (see above)

6. <u>CONSENT ITEMS</u>

~~a. Approve minutes: January 11, 2021 – Selectboard only~~
This agenda item was addressed as business item 5e.

7. <u>READING FILE</u>

a. Board member comments
- Mr. Teich said he is looking into whether the Senior Center can be used as a vaccination location. He said they are also considering ways to help seniors register for their vaccinations online and get to these appointments.
- Mr. Franco thanked Mr. Teich and staff for the amount of work they put in.

b. Elections Bulletin - Emergency Annual Meeting Legislation and Directive
c. Email from Rep. Marybeth Redmond
d. Chittenden County RPC January Newsletter
e. Howard Center Community Outreach FY21 Q1 Report
f. Village postcard mailer
g. Memo from Sarah Macy re: COVID Related Grant Initiative Recap
- Ms. Haney pointed out that this memo is about $400,000 in funding received by Essex. She commended staff on their work for this funding. Mr. Teich also commended staff and pointed out the library's new pavilion and features.

h. Rebuttal to Town Meeting TV program originally aired Jan. 15
i. Upcoming meeting schedule

8. <u>EXECUTIVE SESSION</u>

a. *An executive session is not anticipated
An executive session did not take place.

9. <u>ADJOURN</u>

GEORGE TYLER made a motion, seconded by DAN KERIN, for the Trustees to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 5-0 at 8:54 PM.

VINCE FRANCO made a motion, seconded by PATRICK MURRAY, for the Selectboard to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 5-0 at 8:54 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cathy Ainsworth
Recording Secretary

TOWN OF ESSEX
SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 28, 2021

SELECTBOARD: Elaine Haney, Chair; Patrick Murray, Vice Chair; Vince Franco; Dawn Hill-Fleury; Andy Watts.

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Evan Teich, Unified Manager; Tammy Getchell, Assistant to the Manager; Ron Hoague, Police Chief; Dennis Lutz, Public Works Director; Sarah Macy, Finance Director/Assistant Manager.

OTHERS PRESENT: Walter Adams, Annie Cooper, Patty Davis, Tracey Delphia, Erin Dickinson, Betsy Dunn, Dan Kerin, Christopher Kline, Edward Malina, Mary Post, Ken Signorello, Margaret Smith, Richard Smith, Ann Wadsworth, Irene Wrenner.

1. CALL TO ORDER
Elaine Haney called the meeting of the Town of Essex Selectboard to order at 6:30 PM.

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS/ CHANGES
Mr. Watts requested that the Temporary COVID-19 Emergency Leave Policy be pulled from the consent agenda and be Business Item 6c. Ms. Haney requested that the minutes of January 22nd be pulled from the consent agenda and be Business Item 6d.

3. APPROVE AGENDA
PATRICK MURRAY made a motion, seconded by DAWN HILL-FLEURY, to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed 5-0.

4. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD
Tracey Delphia stated that she is a Justice of the Peace, and a candidate on the March ballot. She asked if she would be able to help with ballot stuffing in her role as Justice of the Peace. Ms. Hill-Fleury stated that she would, however as a candidate, she would not be able to feed the ballots into the counter. Evan Teich, Unified Manager, said that a ballot box would be present in front of the Town Offices, and that it would be chained down and under video surveillance.

Ken Signorello stated that Ms. Haney had publicly accused two citizens, himself and Irene Wrenner, of spreading misinformation about merger. He feels that Ms. Haney has taken advantage of her position on the Selectboard to disparage himself and Ms. Wrenner. Mr. Signorello stated that Ms. Haney has back-tracked on her original claims but asked that she publish a retraction and apology in every publication that printed her original comments. He stated that if this cannot be done, Ms. Haney should step down as Chair. Mr. Signorello stated that he considered a libel suit against the Town of Essex, but will instead further publicize the video he and Ms. Wrenner created in response to merger. He stated that the Selectboard needs more conversation with residents and less confrontation.

Annie Cooper stated that the Selectboard and Ms. Haney are doing a great job. She feels that Ms. Haney does not owe anyone an apology and that the Selectboard is under an attack.

5. PUBLIC HEARING
a. Second Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget
Ms. Haney opened the Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget at 6:45 pm.

Walter Adams asked if the $67,000 grant from the State of Vermont for reappraisal would be considered revenue, and if it would be seen in the revenue projections. Finance Director Sarah Macy stated that it would not be. Mr. Adams said that he had submitted a budget to the Selectboard, which can be viewed in the reading file. This document is now moot since it was created using an incorrect assumption on the value of the Grand List. He stated that the main takeaways of this budget are suggested changes to the Human Services line item and the deletion of funding for some of the unfilled Police Department positions. Should the Police Department find a suitable candidate, their pay could be funded using surplus funds. Mr. Adams stated that, should salaries and benefits for current employees continue to rise by 4% a year, the municipal budget will need to be raised about 2.5% a year. He said that these increases are not sustainable. Mr. Adams said that Williston has half of Essex's tax rate while Essex is more in line with communities like South Burlington and Colchester.

Ms. Haney thanked Mr. Adams for his careful attention and work on the budget. Ms. Macy echoed Ms. Haney's comments and said that she would be open to seeing how funding for one of the Police Department positions could be eliminated.

In public comment, Irene Wrenner said that the Town of Essex has spent more than $90,000 on merger related items. This is concerning because merger activities should not be viewed as economic stimulus spending.

DAWN HILL-FLEURY made a motion, seconded by VINCE FRANCO, to close the public hearing at 7:08 pm. The motion passed 5-0.

<u>6. BUSINESS ITEMS</u>

a. Adopt Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget

Ms. Haney opened discussion to the Selectboard.

Ms. Macy said that she is interested in exploring how funding for Police Department positions can be reduced without the elimination of these unfilled positions. Mr. Franco asked if money can be put aside in the fund balance for this purpose and Ms. Macy confirmed that it could. Mr. Murray said that he would have appreciated hearing about a major change before tonight and that he would want to hear the opinion of the police chief before acting. Mr. Watts disagreed saying since there is no floor vote on the budget at Town Meeting this year, the public hearings are an important way of instituting changes from the public.

Mr. Teich said that the Police Department staffing is currently budgeted at 98%, while the actual staffing is around 94-95%. He noted the tax implications for future years if unbudgeted positions are filled and that any excess amount that is not spent will come back to the Town in the form of fund balance. He wanted confirmation that should a suitable candidate be found, that the Police Department would be able to hire them. He said that the department is in the process of filling two positions and is vetting another candidate. He said that altering the staffing percentages is an easier way to make changes than eliminating officer funding. Mr. Franco noted that reducing this number to 97% is essentially eliminating a half of an officer and can serve this purpose.

Mr. Franco suggested that this idea be incorporated into the FY2023 budget. Ms. Hill-Fleury asked if this change would impact public safety. Mr. Teich noted that if the Town is given the opportunity to fill the positions should a suitable candidate be found, there would not be an impact. The board discussed options for including language in a motion to ensure that this could still be done. Mr. Murray said that an election is coming up and that the composition of the board could change this outcome. Mr. Franco noted that motions can be overridden by a future board.

Ron Hoague, Police Chief, said that he would love to find great candidates to fill these positions tomorrow but that is not realistic. Unless we are able to find certified Police officers who can start immediately, we will not be able to fill these positions in FY22. It will not have an impact on public safety but will not allow for full-staffing.

In public to be heard, Ms. Cooper stated that she appreciates Mr. Adams demeanor during this hearing, and that it has been a pleasure to watch this process.

ANDY WATTS made a motion, seconded by DAWN HILL-FLEURY that the Selectboard adopt the FY22 general fund budget, as amended, in the amount of $15,926,128. The motion passed 4-1. Patrick Murray voted in opposition.

b. Adopt Town Annual Meeting Warning

Mr. Watts suggested eliminating the wording about accepting the reports of the officers, as there are no actual ramifications if this report is not accepted. Tammy Getchell, Assistant to the Manager, provided additional suggestions based on the change of this meeting from in-person to virtual. Mr. Watts said that he does not believe that the board is ready to warn a vote on merger, and that this should be pushed back to November of 2021. Ms. Hill-Fleury echoed this statement.

In public to be heard, Mr. Adams suggested eliminating the language that says the community dinner is canceled and further clarifying how voting would take place. Ms. Haney noted that the board would do a lot of community outreach and that the warning is an official legal document for the meeting. Ms. Cooper said that she is disappointed to hear that anyone would consider pushing off the vote on merger and that the issue needs to be put to rest. Ms. Dunn said that she believes that merger should also be pushed off so that it can be done correctly. Ms. Wrenner said that the Economic Development Commission had planned on looking into how merger would affect local businesses but that this was never done. This should be completed before merger is warned. Mary Post said that there would be a better chance for merger to pass if the public had been listened to.

Mr. Watts said that the warning is used to act as the meeting agenda and Ms. Haney said that further discussion on the agenda will happen at next week's meeting.

VINCE FRANCO made a motion, seconded by PATRICK MURRAY that the Selectboard approve and sign the warning, as amended, for the 2021 Town Meeting, to be effective January 28, 2021. The motion passed 3-2. Dawn Hill-Fleury and Andy Watts voted in opposition.

6c. Adopt Temporary COVID-19 Emergency Leave Policy

Mr. Watts said that he had requested to remove this document from the consent agenda to ensure that the effective date would be January 1, 2021, rather than TBD. Mr. Teich said that this is correct.

ANDY WATTS made a motion, seconded by DAWN HILL-FLEURY that the Selectboard adopt the proposed Temporary COVID19 Emergency Leave Policy with an effective date of January 1, 2021. The motion passed 5-0.

6d. Approve minutes: January 22, 2021

Ms. Haney requested the following addition to line 25, "Bruce Post asked the SB chair why she is not listed on the grand list. She responded that questions about her personal finances are inappropriate."

PAT MURRAY made a motion, seconded by DAWN HILL-FLEURY, that the Selectboard approve the January 22, 2021 minutes as amended. The motion passed 5-0.

7. CONSENT ITEMS

ANDY WATTS made a motion, seconded by DAWN HILL-FLEURY to approve the Consent Agenda:

a. Approve minutes: January 19, 2021
b. Check Warrant: #17819 – 1/22/21

The motion passed 5-0.

8. READING FILE

a. Board member comments
  - Mr. Franco said that the Selectboard practiced good governance tonight and that he respects the governmental budget process.
  - Ms. Hill-Fleury thanked members of the public for their input on the budget.

b. 1-28-21 Citizen Proposed Budget
c. Upcoming meeting schedule

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

a. *An executive session is not expected.

An executive session did not take place.

10. ADJOURN

DAWN HILL-FLEURY made a motion, seconded by VINCE FRANCO, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 5-0 at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Darby Mayville
Recording Secretary

Approved this __________ day of __________, 2021

(See minutes of this day for corrections, if any)

____
Vince Franco, Clerk, Selectboard

Vendor		Invoice Date	Invoice Description / Invoice Number	Account	Amount Paid	Check Number	Check Date
14400	ABOVE AND BEYOND	01/15/21	Monthly Janitorial Servic 5729	110-41943.013 Contractual Svcs - Police	1035.00	32632	02/05/21
19815	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	01/24/21	HUMIDIFIER/TAC TEAM 1R71NGHW11P7	110-42130.611 SMALL TOOLS & EQUIPMENT	91.98	32634	02/05/21
19815	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	01/24/21	HUMIDIFIER/TAC TEAM 1R71NGHW11P7	110-42130.610 GENERAL SUPPLIES	25.65	32634	02/05/21
07465	BIBENS ACE HARDWARE INC	07/02/20	Batteries 38286	110-41946.010 Gen Supplies - 81 Main St	13.99	32640	02/05/21
07465	BIBENS ACE HARDWARE INC	07/08/20	Paint brushes 38361	110-41946.010 Gen Supplies - 81 Main St	9.57	32640	02/05/21
07465	BIBENS ACE HARDWARE INC	09/21/20	Credit return 39197	110-41946.010 Gen Supplies - 81 Main St	-38.97	32640	02/05/21
07465	BIBENS ACE HARDWARE INC	10/15/20	O Rings 39424	110-41946.010 Gen Supplies - 81 Main St	1.58	32640	02/05/21
07465	BIBENS ACE HARDWARE INC	11/12/20	tool for fixing windows a 39705	110-41942.012 R&M Bldgs - Fire Station	6.99	32640	02/05/21
07465	BIBENS ACE HARDWARE INC	11/19/20	materials for dryer vent 39751	110-41942.012 R&M Bldgs - Fire Station	35.12	32640	02/05/21
07465	BIBENS ACE HARDWARE INC	11/20/20	paint brushes - misc repa 39778	110-41942.012 R&M Bldgs - Fire Station	16.10	32640	02/05/21
12125	BOW WOW WASTE	01/26/21	Mutt Mitts 388282	110-43151.570 OTHER PURCHASED SERVICE	599.88	32642	02/05/21
03000	CARGILL SALT EASTERN INC	01/29/21	winter road salt 2905975766	110-43125.610 GENERAL SUPPLIES	2265.17	32643	02/05/21
03000	CARGILL SALT EASTERN INC	02/01/21	winter road salt 2905980781	110-43125.610 GENERAL SUPPLIES	2195.37	32643	02/05/21
03000	CARGILL SALT EASTERN INC	02/03/21	winter road salt 2905988105	110-43125.610 GENERAL SUPPLIES	2213.00	32643	02/05/21
04940	COMCAST	01/19/21	Internet 2 Lincoln St 0136343 121	110-41940.900 Village Buildings Exp	153.35	32648	02/05/21
04940	COMCAST	01/26/21	EPD CABLE/INTERNET 0136954 121	110-42151.430 POLICE COMMUNICATIONS	70.42	32649	02/05/21
04940	COMCAST	01/26/21	EPD CABLE/INTERNET 0136954 121	110-42124.576 IT CARE AND MAINTENANCE	257.37	32649	02/05/21
04940	COMCAST	01/27/21	internet public works off 87735002601E	110-41943.010 Contr. Svcs - 81 Main St	151.85	32650	02/05/21
35260	EAST COAST PRINTERS INC	01/27/21	TOE face masks - Evan 01202135	110-41320.610 GENERAL SUPPLIES	480.00	32651	02/05/21
39060	ESSEX CAR WASH INC	01/31/21	JAN Monthly Car washes 3751	110-42152.430 REPAIR/MAINTENANCE SERV	209.00	32653	02/05/21
05390	FAMILY SUPPORT REGISTRY	02/05/21	Payroll Transfer PR-02/05/21	110-20240.000 JUDGEMENTS PAYABLE	69.23	2052101	02/05/21
41435	FIRETECH SPRINKLER CORP.	05/03/20	repair leaking sprinkler 45759	110-41942.015 R&M Bldgs - PW Garage	220.00	32655	02/05/21
24825	FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA	01/25/21	JAN CREDIT CARD 8151 12521	110-42130.613 K9 Supplies	200.00	32657	02/05/21
24825	FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA	01/25/21	JAN CREDIT CARD 8151 12521	110-49001.001 MISC GRANT EXPENSE	1195.00	32657	02/05/21
24825	FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA	01/25/21	JAN CREDIT CARD 8151 12521	110-42130.550 PRINTING AND BINDING	184.79	32657	02/05/21

Vendor		Invoice Date	Invoice Description / Invoice Number	Account	Amount Paid	Check Number	Check Date
24825	FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA	01/25/21	JAN CREDIT CARD 8151 12521	110-42130.610 GENERAL SUPPLIES	31.84	32657	02/05/21
24825	FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA	01/25/21	JAN CREDIT CARD 8151 12521	110-42130.580 TRAVEL	76.10	32657	02/05/21
24825	FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA	01/25/21	JAN CREDIT CARD 8151 12521	110-42140.500 POLICE TRAINING	623.00	32657	02/05/21
14595	FOLEY SERVICES INC	02/02/21	CARPET RUNNERS 1351234	110-41943.013 Contractual Svcs - Police	48.40	32658	02/05/21
04340	FORD MOTOR CREDIT COMPANY	02/01/21	LEASE PAYMENT 26 1764444	110-47126.000 Police Lease Prin.	449.03	32659	02/05/21
04340	FORD MOTOR CREDIT COMPANY	02/01/21	LEASE PAYMENT 26 1764444	110-47400.000 INTEREST - SHORT TERM	29.67	32659	02/05/21
07160	GREEN MOUNTAIN LIBRARY CO	01/27/21	Language Learning Online M21-3000	110-45510.530 Technical Access	508.33	32662	02/05/21
07160	GREEN MOUNTAIN LIBRARY CO	01/27/21	Language Learning Online M21-3000	110-14301.000 PREPAID EXPENSES	711.67	32662	02/05/21
07010	GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER CORP	01/27/21	Power various 12/28-1/26/ 012721D	110-41947.024 Electricity - Tree Farm	44.62	32663	02/05/21
07010	GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER CORP	01/27/21	Power various 12/28-1/26/ 012721D	110-41947.018 Electricity - Powell Muse	172.98	32663	02/05/21
07010	GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER CORP	01/27/21	Power various 12/28-1/26/ 012721D	110-43115.622 Electricity - St/Traffic	8094.13	32663	02/05/21
07010	GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER CORP	01/27/21	Power various 12/28-1/26/ 012721D	110-41947.017 Electricity - Memorial Ha	181.14	32663	02/05/21
07010	GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER CORP	01/27/21	Power various 12/28-1/26/ 012721D	110-41947.016 Electricity - Parks Garag	81.16	32663	02/05/21
07010	GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER CORP	01/27/21	Power various 12/28-1/26/ 012721D	110-41947.014 Electricity - PW Admin	121.47	32663	02/05/21
21385	HEALTH EQUITY	02/05/21	Payroll Transfer PR-02/05/21	110-20215.000 HSA Payable HE	2949.50	2052104	02/05/21
28070	HP FAIRFIELD LLC	01/07/21	trip spring 7357656	110-43110.433 R&M SUPPLIES - VEHICLES	93.12	32665	02/05/21
09001	IBM CORPORATION (PA)	02/02/21	3 ADD DEVICE MGMT SOFTWAR 6809185339	110-42124.576 IT CARE AND MAINTENANCE	12.60	32666	02/05/21
23055	ICMA - 401 (PLAN 10904	02/05/21	Payroll Transfer PR-02/05/21	110-20208.000 RETIREMENT PAYABLE	738.85	2030131	02/05/21
09005	ICMA - 457 (PLAN 302056)	02/05/21	Payroll Transfer PR-02/05/21	110-20211.000 MISC DEDUCTIONS PAYABLE	4014.45	2030132	02/05/21
V1161	ICMA RETIREMENT TRUST-401	02/05/21	Payroll Transfer PR-02/05/21	110-20208.000 RETIREMENT PAYABLE	7530.62	2030445	02/05/21
V1160	ICMA RETIREMENT TRUST-457	02/05/21	Payroll Transfer PR-02/05/21	110-20208.000 RETIREMENT PAYABLE	1120.81	2030446	02/05/21
17425	ICMA ROTH PLAN 706287	02/05/21	Payroll Transfer PR-02/05/21	110-20208.000 RETIREMENT PAYABLE	71.83	2030448	02/05/21
14545	ICMA-RC (PLAN 705508)	02/05/21	Payroll Transfer PR-02/05/21	110-20211.000 MISC DEDUCTIONS PAYABLE	425.22	2030130	02/05/21
05485	NATIONAL BUSINESS LEASING	01/23/21	Papercut 1/15-2/14/21 71163656	110-41560.741 HARDWARE/SFTWARE/SERVICE	295.00	32670	02/05/21
27240	OTIS ELEVATOR COMPANY	01/10/21	Elevator services 81 Main 100400253559	110-41943.010 Contr. Svcs - 81 Main St	231.84	32671	02/05/21

Vendor		Invoice Date	Invoice Description / Invoice Number	Account	Amount Paid	Check Number	Check Date
V1816	POSTMASTER BURLINGTON	01/20/21	Permit First class presor	110-41946.010	245.00	32673	02/05/21
			012021 PI 67	Gen Supplies - 81 Main St			
26890	RAY ALLEN MANUFACTURING L	01/28/21	WEHMAN ALLOWANCE	110-42130.612	79.99	32677	02/05/21
			RINV168611	UNIFORMS			
28030	ROUTE 15 AUTOMOTIVE SERVI	02/02/21	M/B TIRE-DISPOSE	110-42152.430	25.50	32679	02/05/21
			131088	REPAIR/MAINTENANCE SERV			
28030	ROUTE 15 AUTOMOTIVE SERVI	02/03/21	LOF	110-42152.430	34.95	32679	02/05/21
			131089	REPAIR/MAINTENANCE SERV			
05280	S & D LANDSCAPES LLC	02/01/21	contract plowing	110-43125.570	5268.29	32680	02/05/21
			21037	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICE			
21705	S&J CREATIONS	02/02/21	PATCHES SEWN	110-42130.612	8.00	32681	02/05/21
			12376	UNIFORMS			
V10199	SAMMEL SIGN COMPANY	01/29/21	banners for voting	110-41110.320	1545.00	32682	02/05/21
			7294	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES			
02550	SANEL NAPA	12/29/20	fittings/glass cleaner	110-43110.610	65.89	32683	02/05/21
			9131110921	GENERAL SUPPLIES			
02550	SANEL NAPA	01/07/21	filters/fittings for stoc	110-43110.433	116.33	32683	02/05/21
			9131122393	R&M SUPPLIES - VEHICLES			
02550	SANEL NAPA	01/07/21	fittings/filters	110-43110.433	62.35	32683	02/05/21
			9131122400	R&M SUPPLIES - VEHICLES			
02550	SANEL NAPA	01/07/21	Nitrile gloves for shop	110-43110.610	117.85	32683	02/05/21
			9131122945	GENERAL SUPPLIES			
02550	SANEL NAPA	01/12/21	filters	110-43110.433	117.84	32683	02/05/21
			9131129083	R&M SUPPLIES - VEHICLES			
02550	SANEL NAPA	01/12/21	air filter	110-43110.433	10.04	32683	02/05/21
			9131129092	R&M SUPPLIES - VEHICLES			
02550	SANEL NAPA	01/12/21	hydraulic hose	110-43110.433	294.98	32683	02/05/21
			9131129172	R&M SUPPLIES - VEHICLES			
29615	SCHWAAB INC.	01/13/21	Stamps	110-41540.610	106.23	32684	02/05/21
			5676505	GENERAL SUPPLIES			
39690	U S POSTAL SVC	02/02/21	Replenish postage on mach	110-41946.010	20000.00	32609	02/04/21
			020221D	Gen Supplies - 81 Main St			
19720	VERIZON CONNECT NWF, INC.	02/01/21	JAN AVL SERVICE	110-45220.530	32.38	32687	02/05/21
			OSV000002349	COMMUNICATIONS			
19720	VERIZON CONNECT NWF, INC.	02/01/21	JAN AVL SERVICE	110-43110.530	291.42	32687	02/05/21
			OSV000002349	COMMUNICATIONS			
36130	VERIZON WIRELESS	01/18/21	CELL PHONE Svc 12/19-1/18	110-42170.530	333.81	32688	02/05/21
			9871530114	TELEPHONE			
36130	VERIZON WIRELESS	01/18/21	CELL PHONE Svc 12/19-1/18	110-45220.530	48.61	32688	02/05/21
			9871530114	COMMUNICATIONS			
36130	VERIZON WIRELESS	01/18/21	CELL PHONE Svc 12/19-1/18	110-42220.611	240.06	32688	02/05/21
			9871530114	SMALL TOOLS AND EQUIP			
36130	VERIZON WIRELESS	01/18/21	CELL PHONE Svc 12/19-1/18	110-42124.576	600.21	32688	02/05/21
			9871530114	IT CARE AND MAINTENANCE			
36130	VERIZON WIRELESS	01/18/21	CELL PHONE Svc 12/19-1/18	110-43110.570	163.83	32688	02/05/21
			9871530114	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICE			
36130	VERIZON WIRELESS	01/18/21	CELL PHONE Svc 12/19-1/18	110-44110.560	-1.39	32688	02/05/21
			9871530114	DUES/SUBS/MEETINGS			
36130	VERIZON WIRELESS	01/18/21	CELL PHONE Svc 12/19-1/18	110-41945.010	145.82	32688	02/05/21
			9871530114	Telephone - 81 Main St			

Vendor		Invoice Date	Invoice Description / Invoice Number	Account	Amount Paid	Check Number	Check Date
36130	VERIZON WIRELESS	01/18/21	CELL PHONE Svc 12/19-1/18 9871530114	110-43151.570 OTHER PURCHASED SERVICE	40.01	32688	02/05/21
30210	VLCT	01/25/21	workshop Greg/Evan SAP20210132	110-41540.560 DUES/SUBSCRIP/MEETINGS	40.00	32691	02/05/21
44805	VMERS DB	01/08/21	Payroll Transfer PR-01/08/21	110-20208.000 RETIREMENT PAYABLE	27887.05	32692	02/05/21
44805	VMERS DB	01/15/21	Payroll Transfer PR-01/15/21	110-20208.000 RETIREMENT PAYABLE	19350.99	32692	02/05/21
44805	VMERS DB	01/22/21	Payroll Transfer PR-01/22/21	110-20208.000 RETIREMENT PAYABLE	19041.32	32692	02/05/21
44805	VMERS DB	01/29/21	Payroll Transfer PR-01/29/21	110-20208.000 RETIREMENT PAYABLE	19720.62	32692	02/05/21
34580	VT GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFF	01/21/21	SM Membership 2002-1	110-41510.560 DUES/SUBSCRIPT/MEETINGS	30.00	32693	02/05/21
41920	VT HERITAGE DISTRIBUTORS	01/31/21	Bottled water svc 81 Main 901793 0121	110-41510.610 GENERAL SUPPLIES	14.75	32694	02/05/21
41920	VT HERITAGE DISTRIBUTORS	01/31/21	Bottled water service Jan 902211 0121	110-43110.570 OTHER PURCHASED SERVICE	42.40	32694	02/05/21
41920	VT HERITAGE DISTRIBUTORS	01/31/21	bottled water svc PWO Jan 902441 0121	110-43110.570 OTHER PURCHASED SERVICE	19.35	32694	02/05/21
27030	VT OFFICE OF CHILD SUPPOR	02/05/21	Payroll Transfer PR-02/05/21	110-20211.000 MISC DEDUCTIONS PAYABLE	311.54	32695	02/05/21
00935	VT PET FOOD & SUPPLY	02/01/21	K9 FOOD/SUPPLIES 020121D	110-42130.613 K9 Supplies	186.99	32696	02/05/21
25510	WALK MY DOG	01/29/21	JAN Impound/ Kennel Servi EPD7	110-44110.575 ANIMAL CONTROL/SHELTER	200.00	32697	02/05/21
19720	VERIZON CONNECT NWF, INC.	02/01/21	JAN AVL SERVICE OSV000002349	121-42160.810 Justice Fund Exp	249.12	32687	02/05/21
19815	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	01/25/21	CJC OFFICE SUPPLIES 1P9Q7KJH76D1	122-42160.610 General Supplies	157.74	32634	02/05/21
V0110	AUBUCHON HARDWARE	02/01/21	CJC RESTITUTION 020121D	122-20203.000 Restitution Payable	-3.42	32636	02/05/21
V0110	AUBUCHON HARDWARE	02/01/21	CJC RESTITUTION 020121D	122-34212.000 Unrestricted Revenue	3.42	32636	02/05/21
V0110	AUBUCHON HARDWARE	02/01/21	CJC RESTITUTION 020121D	122-20203.000 Restitution Payable	15.88	32636	02/05/21
24825	FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA	01/25/21	JAN CREDIT CARD 8151 12521	122-42160.500 Training, Conferences, Du	461.25	32657	02/05/21
24825	FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA	01/25/21	JAN CREDIT CARD 8151 12521	122-42160.610 General Supplies	-7.07	32657	02/05/21
24825	FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA	01/25/21	JAN CREDIT CARD 8151 12521	122-42160.600 Emergency Prep Supplies	348.74	32657	02/05/21
20640	PRICE CHOPPER ATTN: CAROL	01/27/21	CJC RESTITUTION 012721D	122-20203.000 Restitution Payable	24.45	32675	02/05/21
36130	VERIZON WIRELESS	01/18/21	CELL PHONE Svc 12/19-1/18 9871530114	122-42160.410 Utilities	-656.95	32688	02/05/21
25390	FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA	01/19/21	EJRP Credit Card Dec/Jan 4955 121	125-45115.610 General Supplies	49.88	32656	02/05/21
25390	FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA	01/19/21	EJRP Credit Card Dec/Jan 4955 121	125-45115.610 General Supplies	46.50	32656	02/05/21

Vendor		Invoice Date	Invoice Description / Invoice Number	Account	Amount Paid	Check Number	Check Date
25390	FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA	01/19/21	EJRP Credit Card Dec/Jan 4955 121	125-45115.610 General Supplies	9.94	32656	02/05/21
25390	FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA	01/19/21	EJRP Credit Card Dec/Jan 4955 121	125-45115.610 General Supplies	57.43	32656	02/05/21
36130	VERIZON WIRELESS	01/18/21	CELL PHONE Svc 12/19-1/18 9871530114	125-45110.530 COMMUNICATIONS	57.61	32688	02/05/21
23525	CLARK'S TRUCK CENTER INC	11/24/20	New truck Body 8736	130-46899.002 CAPITAL EQUIPMENT - HIGHW	56165.00	32647	02/05/21
19795	VANASSE HANGEN BRUSTIN IN	02/01/21	Stormwater Retrofit LDS C 0334598-29	130-46820.007 CA0514 LDS Church MM18(9)	1943.02	32686	02/05/21
23435	CHAMPLAIN WATER DISTRICT	01/01/21	water purchase January 2021	151-43201.411 WATER PURCHASE - CWD	61916.51	32645	02/05/21
23215	ESSEX EQUIPMENT INC	02/02/21	parts for pressure washer #...10777281	151-43200.611 SMALL TOOLS & EQUIPMENT	163.77	32654	02/05/21
07010	GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER CORP	01/27/21	Power various 12/28-1/26/ 012721D	151-43202.620 UTILITIES	981.08	32663	02/05/21
36130	VERIZON WIRELESS	01/18/21	CELL PHONE Svc 12/19-1/18 9871530114	151-43200.530 COMMUNICATIONS	40.01	32688	02/05/21
			Report Total		279180.74		

To the Treasurer of Town of Essex, We Hereby certify that there is due to the several persons whose names are listed hereon the sum against each name and that there are good and sufficient vouchers supporting the payments aggregating $ ***279,180.74
Let this be your order for the payments of these amounts.

Vendor		Invoice Date	Invoice Description / Invoice Number	Account	Amount Paid	Check Number	Check Date
37985	A T & T MOBILITY	01/23/21	JAN CELL PHONE SERVICE 878149869X02	110-45220.530 COMMUNICATIONS	28.09	32699	02/12/21
37985	A T & T MOBILITY	01/23/21	JAN CELL PHONE SERVICE 878149869X02	110-45300.530 COMMUNICATIONS	97.39	32699	02/12/21
37985	A T & T MOBILITY	01/23/21	JAN CELL PHONE SERVICE 878149869X02	110-42124.576 IT CARE AND MAINTENANCE	43.23	32699	02/12/21
37985	A T & T MOBILITY	01/23/21	JAN CELL PHONE SERVICE 878149869X02	110-45110.530 COMMUNICATIONS	28.09	32699	02/12/21
37985	A T & T MOBILITY	01/23/21	JAN CELL PHONE SERVICE 878149869X02	110-43110.570 OTHER PURCHASED SERVICE	182.54	32699	02/12/21
37985	A T & T MOBILITY	01/23/21	JAN CELL PHONE SERVICE 878149869X02	110-41510.570 OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	48.69	32699	02/12/21
37985	A T & T MOBILITY	01/23/21	JAN CELL PHONE SERVICE 878149869X02	110-41560.741 HARDWARE/SFTWARE/SERVICE	43.23	32699	02/12/21
37985	A T & T MOBILITY	01/23/21	JAN CELL PHONE SERVICE 878149869X02	110-41945.010 Telephone - 81 Main St	32.20	32699	02/12/21
02000	BAKER & TAYLOR, INC	01/12/21	Adult Books 5016676139	110-45510.610 GENERAL SUPPLIES	2.80	32705	02/12/21
02000	BAKER & TAYLOR, INC	01/12/21	Adult Books 5016676139	110-45510.640 Adult Collection	61.33	32705	02/12/21
02000	BAKER & TAYLOR, INC	01/25/21	Adult Books 5016692725	110-45510.640 Adult Collection	28.01	32705	02/12/21
02000	BAKER & TAYLOR, INC	01/25/21	Adult Books 5016692725	110-45510.610 GENERAL SUPPLIES	1.40	32705	02/12/21
07465	BIBENS ACE HARDWARE INC	02/05/21	clevis hooks and fastener 40454	110-43110.433 R&M SUPPLIES - VEHICLES	39.94	32706	02/12/21
07465	BIBENS ACE HARDWARE INC	02/08/21	keys for front door - Tow 831468	110-41942.011 R&M Bldgs - Essex Free	9.54	32706	02/12/21
24475	BOND O'REILLY AUTO-ESSEX	01/27/21	Shop Motor Oil 5677286359	110-45220.431 R&M SUPPLIES	47.88	32707	02/12/21
03000	CARGILL SALT EASTERN INC	02/04/21	winter road salt 2905991586	110-43125.610 GENERAL SUPPLIES	2299.71	32710	02/12/21
03000	CARGILL SALT EASTERN INC	02/05/21	winter road salt 2905995109	110-43125.610 GENERAL SUPPLIES	2281.38	32710	02/12/21
03000	CARGILL SALT EASTERN INC	02/08/21	winter road salt 2905999385	110-43125.610 GENERAL SUPPLIES	4542.32	32710	02/12/21
11375	CASELLA WASTE MANAGEMENT	02/01/21	trash pick up Highway Gar 3131643	110-41942.015 R&M Bldgs - PW Garage	257.03	32711	02/12/21
11375	CASELLA WASTE MANAGEMENT	02/01/21	Trash Pick up 81 Main 3131644	110-41943.010 Contr. Svcs - 81 Main St	144.52	32711	02/12/21
11375	CASELLA WASTE MANAGEMENT	02/01/21	FEB TRASH/RECYCLE 3132972	110-41943.013 Contractual Svcs - Police	145.91	32711	02/12/21
25120	CLICKTIME.COM	02/04/21	Town ClickTime January 337327	110-41510.570 OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	320.00	32716	02/12/21
25120	CLICKTIME.COM	02/04/21	Town ClickTime January 337327	110-45110.570 OTHER PURCHASED SERVICE	128.00	32716	02/12/21
04940	COMCAST	01/28/21	internet 2/8-3/07 0050825 2/21	110-41945.011 Telephone - Essex Free	5.00	32717	02/12/21
23215	ESSEX EQUIPMENT INC	02/05/21	credit for damage waiver #...10768924	110-41942.012 R&M Bldgs - Fire Station	-33.60	32728	02/12/21

Vendor		Invoice Date	Invoice Description / Invoice Number	Account	Amount Paid	Check Number	Check Date
23215	ESSEX EQUIPMENT INC	11/03/20	rental of fans for Fire D #...1076892A	110-41942.012 R&M Bldgs - Fire Station	313.60	32728	02/12/21
23215	ESSEX EQUIPMENT INC	02/04/21	Stakes 107774140001	110-45220.610 GENERAL SUPPLIES	37.05	32728	02/12/21
05390	FAMILY SUPPORT REGISTRY	02/12/21	Payroll Transfer PR-02/12/21	110-20240.000 JUDGEMENTS PAYABLE	69.23	2122101	02/12/21
21760	FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA	12/24/20	EPR Credit Card December 0492 1220	110-45220.610 GENERAL SUPPLIES	16.88	32730	02/12/21
13570	GALE/CENGAGE LEARNING	02/04/21	Large Print Adult Books 73595298	110-45510.640 Adult Collection	61.58	32732	02/12/21
21385	HEALTH EQUITY	02/12/21	Payroll Transfer PR-02/12/21	110-20215.000 HSA Payable HE	159.50	2122104	02/12/21
23055	ICMA - 401 (PLAN 10904	02/12/21	Payroll Transfer PR-02/12/21	110-20208.000 RETIREMENT PAYABLE	634.79	2110182	02/12/21
09005	ICMA - 457 (PLAN 302056)	02/12/21	Payroll Transfer PR-02/12/21	110-20211.000 MISC DEDUCTIONS PAYABLE	4077.21	2110180	02/12/21
V1161	ICMA RETIREMENT TRUST-401	02/12/21	Payroll Transfer PR-02/12/21	110-20208.000 RETIREMENT PAYABLE	7545.26	2100209	02/12/21
V1160	ICMA RETIREMENT TRUST-457	02/12/21	Payroll Transfer PR-02/12/21	110-20208.000 RETIREMENT PAYABLE	1220.81	2100210	02/12/21
17425	ICMA ROTH PLAN 706287	02/12/21	Payroll Transfer PR-02/12/21	110-20208.000 RETIREMENT PAYABLE	73.06	2100208	02/12/21
14545	ICMA-RC (PLAN 705508)	02/12/21	Payroll Transfer PR-02/12/21	110-20211.000 MISC DEDUCTIONS PAYABLE	443.07	2110181	02/12/21
33495	INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES I	01/29/21	Juvenile Books 51032289	110-45510.610 GENERAL SUPPLIES	4.06	32734	02/12/21
33495	INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES I	01/29/21	Juvenile Books 51032289	110-45510.641 Juvenile Collection	31.60	32734	02/12/21
33495	INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES I	01/29/21	Juvenile Books 51040577	110-45510.641 Juvenile Collection	17.98	32734	02/12/21
33495	INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES I	01/29/21	Juvenile Books 51040577	110-45510.610 GENERAL SUPPLIES	0.69	32734	02/12/21
27670	IROQUOIS MANUFACTURING, I	02/03/21	for plow on truck 25 158632	110-43110.433 R&M SUPPLIES - VEHICLES	401.18	32735	02/12/21
17710	KOFILE INC	02/02/21	January recording INV-KSW-0001	110-41540.570 OTHER PURCHASED SERVICE	1205.00	32737	02/12/21
44275	MVP SELECT CARE INC.	02/05/21	Town 01-21 Administrative 2021-01A	110-41510.570 OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	40.00	32743	02/12/21
37605	NEW ENGLAND MUNICIPAL RES	01/30/21	Marshall Swift Tables 47350	110-41950.560 DUES/SUBSCRIPTION/MEET	2081.32	32745	02/12/21
40075	NEW YORK CLEANERS	01/29/21	JAN DRY CLEANING 01/29/21	110-42130.612 UNIFORMS	239.70	32746	02/12/21
11000	PETER'S TYPEWRITER SERVIC	02/05/21	Typewriter repairs 010711	110-41540.430 REPAIR/MAINTENANCE SERV	109.00	32748	02/12/21
24410	PRIORITY EXPRESS INC	01/31/21	Book Courier Service 8051216	110-45510.570 OTHER PURCHASED SERVICE	80.00	32750	02/12/21
42970	ROUSE TIRE SALES INC	01/08/21	EPR Truck Tires 30102436	110-45220.431 R&M SUPPLIES	745.60	32757	02/12/21
05335	SAFELITE FULFILLMENT INC	02/09/21	Truck 26 windshield W.O.685108	110-43110.432 R&M SVCES - VEHICLES	172.11	32759	02/12/21

Vendor		Invoice Date	Invoice Description / Invoice Number	Account	Amount Paid	Check Number	Check Date
42565	SEVEN DAYS	01/13/21	TOWN BUDGET HEARING NOTIC 208773	110-41320.540 ADVERTISING	65.00	32762	02/12/21
42565	SEVEN DAYS	01/27/21	TOWN CAPITAL BUDGET HEARI 209076	110-41320.540 ADVERTISING	59.80	32762	02/12/21
12145	SHRED-EX	02/09/21	Paper Shredding 50.00 19361	110-41942.010 R&M Bldgs - 81 Main St	75.00	32764	02/12/21
11815	THE ROYAL GROUP INC	01/29/21	VEST/LOBBY CAMERAS-INSURA 675919	110-41942.013 R&M Bldgs - Police Sta.	2020.12	32768	02/12/21
11815	THE ROYAL GROUP INC	01/29/21	EVIDENCE CAMERAS 675920	110-41942.013 R&M Bldgs - Police Sta.	2590.95	32768	02/12/21
11815	THE ROYAL GROUP INC	01/29/21	CAMERAS-INSURANCE 675921	110-41942.013 R&M Bldgs - Police Sta.	3870.00	32768	02/12/21
29825	VT GAS SYSTEMS	01/21/21	Sand Hill Road VT Gas Jan 2202232 0121	110-41948.016 Natural Gas - Parks Gar	209.66	32774	02/12/21
27030	VT OFFICE OF CHILD SUPPOR	02/12/21	Payroll Transfer PR-02/12/21	110-20211.000 MISC DEDUCTIONS PAYABLE	311.54	32775	02/12/21
19370	VT PLASTIC SPECIALTIES IN	01/08/21	Trail Markers 58277	110-45220.610 GENERAL SUPPLIES	300.00	32776	02/12/21
13620	WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERAT	01/27/21	WEF renewal 1-2100611427	110-43151.570 OTHER PURCHASED SERVICE	185.00	32778	02/12/21
26030	THOMSON REUTERS - WEST	02/01/21	JAN CLEAR LE INVESTIGATOR 843764281	121-42160.810 Justice Fund Exp	185.50	32770	02/12/21
14400	ABOVE AND BEYOND	02/03/21	EPD CJC JAN JANITORIAL 5793	122-42160.330 Professional Services	195.00	32700	02/12/21
35625	RESOURCE	01/31/21	CJC ESG PARTICIPATION FEE 118570	122-42160.330 Professional Services	125.00	32755	02/12/21
37985	A T & T MOBILITY	01/23/21	JAN CELL PHONE SERVICE 878149869X02	125-45120.530 ESP COMMUNICATIONS	33.24	32699	02/12/21
19815	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	01/25/21	Giving Tree Return 11RRX4FH4KQL	125-45115.610 General Supplies	-19.99	32703	02/12/21
19815	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	01/25/21	Giving Tree Return 1KFVWF4QR7MA	125-45115.610 General Supplies	-26.84	32703	02/12/21
19815	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	01/20/21	Giving Tree Return 1KFVWF4QR7MB	125-45115.610 General Supplies	-15.99	32703	02/12/21
19815	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	01/21/21	Giving Tree Return 1QL6YHF76TFA	125-45115.610 General Supplies	-29.99	32703	02/12/21
19815	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	01/22/21	Giving Tree Return 1XTFMDL6Y3LC	125-45115.610 General Supplies	-29.99	32703	02/12/21
21760	FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA	12/24/20	EPR Credit Card December 0492 1220	125-45110.570 OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	50.36	32730	02/12/21
21760	FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA	12/24/20	EPR Credit Card December 0492 1220	125-45110.570 OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	10.00	32730	02/12/21
21760	FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA	12/24/20	EPR Credit Card December 0492 1220	125-45115.610 General Supplies	3499.15	32730	02/12/21
21760	FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA	12/24/20	EPR Credit Card December 0492 1220	125-45110.560 DUES/SUBSCRIPT/MEETINGS	46.99	32730	02/12/21
23495	STUDENT TRANSPORTATION OF	02/09/21	Bolton Ski Bus 2/5 70114128	125-45110.580 TRAVEL	707.53	32767	02/12/21
19125	WICKED COOL FOR KIDS	11/24/20	ESP/Enrichment Program 2406	125-45120.570 ESP OTHER PURCHASED SVCE	330.00	32779	02/12/21

Vendor		Invoice Date	Invoice Description / Invoice Number	Account	Amount Paid	Check Number	Check Date
39425	SCOTT & PARTNERS INC	01/18/21	Facilities Analysis	130-46808.100	1375.00	32761	02/12/21
			3135	Bldgs Facilities Needs			
05590	STONE ENVIRONMENTAL INC	02/08/21	Phosphorus Control Plan,	130-46820.009	1614.78	32766	02/12/21
			14033	CA0530 Phosphorus Control			
17250	TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES	02/08/21	Rav 4 Lease Pmt 22	130-47223.000	55.58	32771	02/12/21
			82WS401 2/21	Lease Int - Assr Vehicle			
17250	TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES	02/08/21	Rav 4 Lease Pmt 22	130-47123.000	229.12	32771	02/12/21
			82WS401 2/21	Lease Prin - Assr Vehicle			
37985	A T & T MOBILITY	01/23/21	JAN CELL PHONE SERVICE	151-43200.530	127.95	32699	02/12/21
			878149869X02	COMMUNICATIONS			
42625	ALDRICH & ELLIOTT PC	02/01/21	Sand Hill Intersection Wa	151-43201.749	615.00	32702	02/12/21
			79653	Sandhill/VT15 Waterline			
07465	BIBENS ACE HARDWARE INC	02/03/21	parts for pressure washer	151-43200.433	45.79	32706	02/12/21
			40441	R&M SUPPLIES - VEHICLES			
11280	MISSION COMMUICATIONS LLC	02/04/21	service pkg AlderBrook PS	151-43202.570	850.80	32741	02/12/21
			1048702	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICE			
02970	USA BLUE BOOK INC	01/25/21	parts for pressure washer	151-43200.611	43.77	32772	02/12/21
			482689	SMALL TOOLS & EQUIPMENT			
	Report Total				50269.74		

To the Treasurer of Town of Essex, We Hereby certify that there is due to the several persons whose names are listed hereon the sum against each name and that there are good and sufficient vouchers supporting the payments aggregating $ ****50,269.74
Let this be your order for the payments of these amounts.

On Feb 4, 2021, at 12:58 PM, Evan Teich <eteich@essex.org> wrote:

Hello all: below, Andy forwarded several questions from a resident regarding the Merger Booklet so I asked Brad to respond back to me and they are attached below. If you have any questions regarding this response-please send them to me.

From: Brad Luck
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 10:45 AM
To: Evan Teich <eteich@essex.org>
Subject: Re: Questions from Resident regarding merger booklet

Hi Evan-

Prior to the '20-'21 school year, the YMCA had been providing licensed after school care at Essex Elementary, Founders, and Westford schools, and Essex Junction Recreation & Parks (EJRP) had been providing licensed childcare at Hiawatha, Summit, and Fleming schools. The Essex Westford School District (EWSD) asked EJRP to operate after school programs district wide starting this school year. We began in September at all six elementary schools.

In Vermont, Child Care Resource is where eligible parents/families are able to get subsidy for licensed after school participation. Families fill out an application to determine eligibility. This process and funding is the same for all licensed childcare, regardless of the provider (whether it is us or the Y). It is a state operated program and funding stream. Program's then get paid directly based on a variety of formulas and the child's attendance.

This is the language on the Y's website: State subsidy for child care can be the most impactful for eligible families, but we also offer limited Y scholarship to help with demonstrated need.

We do not offer scholarship beyond what state subsidy provides (nor have we have had anyone ask). We find that state subsidy tends to cover those in financial need.

The Y's rates for after school care are more expensive than ours. For a child who attends the program 4-days per week this school year, our program is $3.75 less expensive per day. Over the course of this school year, that will be equivalent to $531 less for a child in our program vs. the Y's. Additionally, we offer a $2.00 per day discount for any siblings. I do not see anything on the Y's site that they offer a similar discount. For a family with two children attending 4-days per week, our program would be $1,345 less expensive over the course of this school year. As a side note - our summer day camps were $50 less expensive per week last summer vs. the Y (there are 9 weeks of summer).

All of our licensed childcare revenues and expenses are in our program (enterprise fund), not the General Fund. This means that all direct expenses are covered by user fees.

In terms of "competing with private childcare providers," this is an interesting conversation that comes up with recreation often, as well as a function of government itself. I have many thoughts, but I will try to be concise:

- Pretty much every program that municipal recreation operates is competing with private organizations/businesses (non-profit and for profit). Zumba, yoga, childcare, basketball, summer camps, sports leagues, swim lessons....basically you name it and there is someone out there that does it. If the lens we use is to not compete with the private sector, then we should remove "recreation" from our department and simply be "parks." Maple Street and Sandhill Pool arguably compete with private swimming ventures, so those may need to go as well.
- If we use other lenses for municipal recreation programming, like providing recreational experiences for all ages, providing community opportunities for fun and celebration, offer affordable and accessible programs, provide diverse learning experiences, promote lifelong health and well-being, etc. that is where we come into play. When it comes to childcare, there is a significant and essential need in our community for children to be well cared for during out of school time. Providing this service fulfills an important need and value to our community members who are able to work and know that their children are being well taken care of, locally, at an affordable price.
- An added benefit of when municipal recreation operates programming is that the funding and resources are reinvested in our community. Whether fees for programs support staffing, equipment, supplies, or other enhancements to our facilities and/or parks, all money stays local. This is not the same for fees paid to non-profits or for profits, especially ones that may be located in another community.
- The mission, management, and financial needs are different for private organizations vs. public. Public programming is arguably more consistent and sustainable. Additionally, the public programming answers directly to the citizens. The only absolute voice that participants have with a private organization is to discontinue participation. With municipally operated programming, there are other avenues for residents to pursue service issues and have a voice. And, having the municipality provide the service throughout the community, as EWSD has, provides consistency and equity for all residents, regardless of where they live or what school they attend.
- This debate of governmental service vs. private sector competition expands well beyond Essex and recreation and has a long history. In some places rec departments operate marinas, fitness centers, and golf courses, and some local governments coordinate trash collection. For others, it is public utilities like Burlington Telecom, and on a larger scale the privatization of education, the US postal service, and the Social Security Administration have all come up. The underlying question generally is: does the facility or program provide public benefit/purpose? And, this is certainly open to interpretation.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Thanks.

-Brad

From: Evan Teich <eteich@essex.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 2:30 PM
To: Brad Luck <bluck@ejrp.org>
Subject: FW: Questions from Resident regarding merger booklet

Brad, could you please answer these questions(below) back to me please.

From: Andy Watts
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 1:52 PM
To: Evan Teich <eteich@essex.org>; Gregory Duggan <gduggan@ESSEX.ORG>
Subject: Questions from Resident regarding merger booklet

Hi Evan and Greg,

I got a couple of questions from a resident regarding some of the content in the merger booklet. They are asking when the YMCA after school program ended. They also asked whether similar income sensitivity regarding cost was available (they say that YMCA offered reduced dates for lower income folks). They also asked why we would compete with private childcare providers. Any information you can share would be helpful. Thanks!

Best regards,
Andy Watts
Sent from the copier

From: Elaine Haney
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 5:24 PM
To: Marybeth Redmond; Tanya Vyhovsky; Alyssa Black; Lori Houghton; kndolan@leg.state.vt.us
Cc: eteich@essex.org; Gregory Duggan; Annie Cooper; Patrick Murray; Andrew Brown; Owiso Makuku; Robin Pierce
Subject: Town concerns re: H.124, Vermont Employment Growth Incentive

Hello Essex Representatives,

We recently learned of changes to the VEGI program proposed by H.124 (attached). Essex has benefitted greatly from this program in recent years, in that the program has enabled several businesses to either move or expand in our community. Because VEGI is one of only two economic development incentives offered by the state of Vermont (the other being the Vermont Training Program), Essex and other Vermont communities rely on it as an economic development tool. Essex currently does not offer any other incentives to businesses other than the possibility of tax stabilization. If VEGI is substantially weakened, as H.124 proposes, it will eliminate much of our ability to attract or grow new businesses.

Here is a list of Essex businesses that have used VEGI since 2007:

- Green Mountain Coffee Roasters
- Ask In Tag
- GMCR #2
- Revision
- Alpla
- GMCR #3
- Blodgett
- Twincraft
- Revision
- Flex A Seal
- Autumn Harp
- Blodgett #2
- Gordini
- Twincraft #2
- NuHarbor Securities
- Twincraft #3
- Marvell

Twelve companies completed the program, while the others did not meet their targets to fully qualify.

More information is available at:
https://accd.vermont.gov/sites/accdnew/files/documents/DED/VEPC/VEGI/VEGI-AllApplicationsConsidered.pdf
This is a spread sheet of all the information released by the Vermont Economic Progress Council as public information.

Another spreadsheet lists only those incentives complete or currently active:
https://accd.vermont.gov/sites/accdnew/files/documents/DED/VEPC/VEGI/VEGI-ActiveApplications.pdf

More information about the program itself is here: https://accd.vermont.gov/economic-development/funding-incentives/vegi

We are very concerned that this program will become ineffective and no longer useful to businesses if the proposed changes are implemented. The changes would put Essex at a disadvantage when seeking to assist existing businesses or bring in new ones.

If you would like to discuss this bill please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you,

Elaine

CC:
Evan Teich, Town Manager
Greg Duggan, Deputy Town Manager
Owiso Makuku, Interim Community Development Director
Pat Murray, Selectboard Vice Chair
Annie Cooper, Economic Development Committee Chair
Andrew Brown, President, Village of Essex Junction
Robin Pierce, Essex Junction Development Director

Elaine Haney (she / her)
Chair, Town of Essex Selectboard
ehaney@essex.org
(802) 324-2546

H.124

Introduced by Representatives Ancel of Calais, Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Anthony of Barre City, Bluemle of Burlington, Brumsted of Shelburne, Coffey of Guilford, Colburn of Burlington, Conlon of Cornwall, Cordes of Lincoln, Hooper of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, Masland of Thetford, Mrowicki of Putney, Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Patt of Worcester, Squirrell of Underhill, Stebbins of Burlington, Stevens of Waterbury, Surprenant of Barnard, Townsend of South Burlington, and White of Bethel

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Commerce and trade; economic development

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to amend the Vermont Employment Growth Incentive Program.

An act relating to amending the Vermont Employment Growth Incentive Program

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 32 V.S.A. chapter 105 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 105: VERMONT EMPLOYMENT GROWTH INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Subchapter 1: Vermont Economic Progress Council

§ 3325. VERMONT ECONOMIC PROGRESS COUNCIL

(a) Creation. The Vermont Economic Progress Council is created to exercise the authority and perform the duties assigned to it, including its authority and duties relating to:

(1) the Vermont Employment Growth Incentive Program pursuant to subchapter 2 of this chapter; and

(2) tax increment financing districts pursuant to 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 5 and section 5404a of this title.

(b) Membership.

~~(1)~~ The Council shall have ~~11~~ nine voting members~~:~~

~~(A)~~ ~~nine~~ who are residents of the State ~~appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate~~ and who are knowledgeable and experienced in the subjects of community development and planning, education funding requirements, economic development, State fiscal affairs, property taxation, or entrepreneurial ventures and represent diverse geographical areas of the State and municipalities of various sizes~~;~~, appointed as follows:

(1) five members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate;

(2) two members appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

(3) two members appointed by the Senate Committee on Committees

~~(B) one member of the Vermont House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House; and~~

~~(C) one member of the Vermont Senate appointed by the Senate Committee on Committees~~.

~~(2)(A) The Council shall have two regional members from each region of the State, one appointed by the regional development corporation of the region and one appointed by the regional planning commission of the region.~~

~~(B) A regional member shall be a nonvoting member and shall serve during consideration by the Council of an application from his or her region.~~

* * *

(e) Operation.

(1) The Governor shall appoint a chair from the Council's members.

(2)(A) The Council shall receive administrative support from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development and the Department of Taxes.

(B) The Council shall receive legal counsel exclusively from the Office of the Attorney General.

* * *

§ 3330. PURPOSE; FORM OF INCENTIVES; ENHANCED INCENTIVES; ELIGIBLE APPLICANT

(a) Purpose. The purpose of the Vermont Employment Growth Incentive Program is to generate net new revenue to the State by ~~encouraging~~ rewarding a business ~~to add~~ for adding new payroll, ~~create~~ new jobs, and ~~make~~ new capital investments it otherwise would not have undertaken without the incentive and sharing a portion of the revenue with the business.

(b) ~~Form of incentives; enhanced incentives.~~

~~(1) The Vermont Economic Progress Council may approve an incentive under this subchapter in the form of a direct cash payment in annual installments.~~

~~(2) The Council may approve the following enhanced incentives:~~

~~(A) an enhanced incentive for a business in a labor market area with higher than average unemployment or lower than average wages pursuant to section 3334 of this title;~~

~~(B) an enhanced incentive for an environmental technology business pursuant to section 3335 of this title; and~~

~~(C) an enhanced incentive for a business that participates in a State workforce training program pursuant to section 3336 of this title.~~

~~(c)~~ Eligible applicant.

(1) Only a business may apply for an incentive pursuant to this subchapter.

(2) For purposes of the Program, the Council shall treat a business and its legal predecessor or successor in interest as the same entity.

§ 3331. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Award period" means the consecutive five years during which a business may apply for an incentive under this subchapter.

(2) "Base employment" means the number of full-time Vermont jobs held by non-owner employees as of the date a business with an approved application commences its proposed economic activity.

(3) "Base payroll" means the Vermont gross salaries and wages paid as compensation to full-time Vermont jobs held by non-owner employees as of the date a business with an approved application commences its proposed economic activity.

(4) "Capital investment performance requirement" means the minimum value of additional investment in one or more capital improvements.

(5) “Jobs performance requirement” means the minimum number of qualifying jobs a business must add.

(6) “Labor market area” means a labor market area as designated by the Vermont Department of Labor.

(7) “Non-owner” means a person with no more than 10 percent ownership interest, including attribution of ownership interests of the person’s spouse, parents, spouse’s parents, siblings, and children.

(8) “Payroll performance requirement” means the minimum value of Vermont gross salaries and wages a business must pay as compensation for one or more qualifying jobs.

(9) “Qualifying job” means a new, permanent position in Vermont that meets each of the following criteria:

(A) The position is filled by a non-owner employee who regularly works at least 35 hours each week.

(B) The business provides compensation for the position that equals or exceeds the wage threshold.

(C) The business provides for the position at least three of the following:

(i) health care benefits with 50 percent or more of the premium paid by the business;

(ii) ~~dental assistance~~ not fewer than eight weeks of paid family leave at not less than 70 percent of the employee's regular compensation;

(iii) not fewer than 20 days of paid vacation or sick time, or both; and

(iv) ~~paid holidays;~~

~~(v)~~ child care, either provided on-site or for reimbursement of the full cost of care, for one child;

~~(vi) other extraordinary employee benefits;~~

~~(vii)~~(v) retirement benefits~~;~~, under which the business matches 100 percent of the employee's retirement contribution for up to five percent of the employee's regular compensation

~~(viii) other paid time off, excluding paid sick days~~.

(D) The position is not an existing position that the business, or a parent, subsidiary, or affiliate under common ownership or control, transfers from another facility within the State.

(E) When the position is added to base employment, the business's total employment exceeds its ~~average annual~~ highest employment level during the two preceding years, unless the business proves and the Council ~~determines~~ verifies that the business is establishing a significantly different, new line of business and creating new jobs in the new line of business that were not part of the business prior to filing its application.

(10) "Utilization period" means each year of the award period and the four years immediately following each year of the award period.

(11) "Vermont gross wages and salaries" means Medicare wages as reported on Federal Tax Form W-2 to the extent those wages are Vermont wages, excluding income from nonstatutory stock options.

(12) "Wage threshold" means the minimum amount of annualized Vermont gross wages and salaries a business must pay for a qualifying job, as required by the Council in its discretion, but not less than~~:~~

~~(A) 60~~ 100 percent above the State minimum wage at the time of application~~; or~~

~~(B) for a business located in a labor market area in which the average annual unemployment rate is higher than the average annual unemployment rate for the State, 40 percent above the State minimum wage at the time of application~~.

§ 3332. APPLICATION; APPROVAL CRITERIA

(a) Application.

(1) A business may apply for an incentive in one or more years of an award period by submitting an application to the Council in the format the Council specifies for that purpose.

(2) For each award year the business applies for an incentive, the business shall:

(A) specify a payroll performance requirement;

(B) specify a jobs performance requirement or a capital investment performance requirement, or both; and

(C) provide any other information the Council requires to evaluate the application under this subchapter.

(b) Mandatory criteria. The Council shall not approve an application unless it finds:

(1) ~~Except as otherwise provided for an enhanced incentive for a business in a qualifying labor market area under section 3334 of this title, the~~ The new revenue the proposed activity would generate to the State would exceed the costs of the activity to the State.

* * *

§ 3333. CALCULATING THE VALUE OF AN INCENTIVE

~~Except as otherwise provided for an enhanced incentive for a business in a qualifying labor market area under section 3334 of this title, an enhanced incentive for an environmental technology business under section 3335 of this title, or an enhanced incentive for workforce training under section 3336 of this title, the~~

(a) The Council shall calculate the value of an incentive for an award year as follows:

(1) Calculate new revenue growth. To calculate new revenue growth, the Council shall use the cost-benefit model created pursuant to section 3326 of this title to determine the amount by which the new revenue generated by the proposed economic activity to the State exceeds the costs of the activity to the State.

(2) Calculate the business's potential share of new revenue growth. ~~Except as otherwise provided for an environmental technology business in section 3335 of this title, to~~ To calculate the business's potential share of new revenue growth, the Council shall multiply the new revenue growth determined under subdivision (1) of this subsection by 80 percent.

* * *

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, the amount of an incentive shall not exceed 10 percent of the new revenue growth calculated pursuant to subdivision (a)(1) of this section.

§ 3334. ~~ENHANCED INCENTIVE FOR A BUSINESS IN A QUALIFYING LABOR MARKET AREA~~

~~(a) The Council may increase the value of an incentive for a business that is located in a labor market area in which:~~

~~(1) the average annual unemployment rate is greater than the average annual unemployment rate for the State; or~~

~~(2) the average annual wage is less than the average annual wage for the State.~~

~~(b) In each calendar year, the amount by which the Council may increase the value of all incentives pursuant to this section is:~~

~~(1) $1,500,000.00 for one or more initial approvals; and~~

~~(2) $1,000,000.00 for one or more final approvals.~~

~~(c) The Council may increase the cap imposed in subdivision (b)(2) of this section by not more than $500,000.00 upon application by the Governor to, and approval of, the Joint Fiscal Committee.~~

~~(d) In evaluating the Governor's request, the Committee shall consider the economic and fiscal condition of the State, including recent revenue forecasts and budget projections.~~

~~(e) The Council shall provide the Committee with testimony, documentation, company-specific data, and any other information the Committee requests to demonstrate that increasing the cap will create an opportunity for return on investment to the State.~~

~~(f) The purpose of the enhanced incentive for a business in a qualifying labor market area is to increase job growth in economically disadvantaged regions of the State, as provided in subsection (a) of this section.~~ [Repealed.]

§ 3335. ~~ENHANCED INCENTIVE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS~~

~~(a) As used in this section, an "environmental technology business" means a business that:~~

~~(1) is subject to income taxation in Vermont; and~~

~~(2) seeks an incentive for economic activity in Vermont that the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development certifies is primarily research, design, engineering, development, or manufacturing related to one or more of the following:~~

~~(A) waste management, including waste collection, treatment, disposal, reduction, recycling, and remediation;~~

~~(B) natural resource protection and management, including water and wastewater purification and treatment, air pollution control and prevention or remediation, soil and groundwater protection or remediation, and hazardous waste control or remediation;~~

~~(C) energy efficiency or conservation;~~

~~(D) clean energy, including solar, wind, wave, hydro, geothermal, hydrogen, fuel cells, waste-to-energy, or biomass.~~

~~(b) The Council shall consider and administer an application from an environmental technology business pursuant to the provisions of this subchapter, except that:~~

~~(1) the business's potential share of new revenue growth shall be 90 percent; and~~

~~(2) to calculate qualifying payroll, the Council shall:~~

~~(A) determine the background growth rate in payroll for the applicable business sector in the award year;~~

~~(B) multiply the business's full-time payroll for the award year by 20 percent of the background growth rate; and~~

~~(C) subtract the product from the payroll performance requirement for the award year.~~

~~(c) The purpose of the enhanced incentive for an environmental technology business is to promote the growth of businesses in Vermont that both create and sustain high quality jobs and improve the natural environment.~~ [Repealed.]

* * *

§ 3340. REPORTING

(a) On or before September 1 of each year, the Vermont Economic Progress Council and the Department of Taxes shall submit a joint report on the incentives authorized in this subchapter to the House Committees on Ways and Means, on Commerce and Economic Development, and on Appropriations, to the Senate Committees on Finance, on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, and on Appropriations, and to the Joint Fiscal Committee.

(b) The Council and the Department shall include in the joint report:

(1) the total amount of incentives authorized during the preceding year and the amount per business;

(2) with respect to each business with an approved application:

(A) the date and amount of authorization;

(B) the calendar year or years in which the authorization is expected to be exercised;

(C) whether the authorization is active; and

(D) the date the authorization will expire; and

(3) the following ~~aggregate~~ information specific to each business that earns an incentive:

(A) the number of claims and incentive payments made in the current and prior claim years;

(B) the payroll performance requirement, the jobs performance requirement, and the capital investment performance requirement for each award year;

~~(B)~~(C) the number, NAICS code, median wage, and average wage of qualifying jobs; ~~and~~

(D) the number of jobs by wage range; and

~~(C)~~(E) the amount of new payroll and capital investment.

(c) The Council and the Department shall present data and information in the joint report in a searchable format.

(d) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, an incentive awarded pursuant to this subchapter shall be treated as a tax expenditure for purposes of chapter 5 of this title.

§ 3341. CONFIDENTIALITY OF PROPRIETARY BUSINESS INFORMATION; ACCESS TO INFORMATION

(a) The Vermont Economic Progress Council and the Department of Taxes shall use measures to protect ~~proprietary~~ confidential financial information, ~~including reporting information in an aggregate form~~.

(b)(1) Information and materials submitted by a business concerning its income taxes and other confidential financial information ~~shall not be~~ is not subject to public disclosure under the State's public records law in 1 V.S.A. chapter 5~~, but shall be available~~.

(2) The Council shall make available all the information that a business submits to the Council in the course of its application to and participation in the Program, including tax and other confidential information that is subject to subdivision (1) of this subsection:

(A) to the Joint Fiscal Office, or to its agent, upon authorization of the Joint Fiscal Committee or a standing committee of the General Assembly~~,~~; and ~~shall also be available~~

(B) to the Auditor of Accounts in connection with the performance of duties under section 163 of this title~~; provided, however, that the~~.

(3) The Joint Fiscal Office or its agent and the Auditor of Accounts shall not disclose~~, directly or indirectly, to any person any~~ ~~proprietary~~ confidential business information ~~or any information that would identify a business~~ except in accordance with a judicial order or as otherwise specifically provided by law.

(c) ~~Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the publication of statistical information, rulings, determinations, reports, opinions, policies, or other information so long as the data are disclosed in a form that cannot identify or be associated with a particular business.~~ [Repealed.]

§ 3342. ANNUAL PROGRAM CAP; LIMITATION ON AWARDS IN PERIODS OF LOW UNEMPLOYMENT

(a) In each calendar year the Vermont Economic Progress Council may approve one or more incentives under this subchapter, the total value of which shall not exceed:

(1) $15,000,000.00 for one or more initial approvals; and

(2) $10,000,000.00 for one or more final approvals.

(b) The Council may increase the cap imposed in subdivision (a)(2) of this section by not more than $5,000,000.00 upon application by the Governor to, and approval of, the Joint Fiscal Committee.

(c) In evaluating the Governor's request, the Committee shall consider the economic and fiscal condition of the State, including recent revenue forecasts and budget projections.

(d) The Council shall provide the Committee with testimony, documentation, company-specific data, and any other information the Committee requests to demonstrate that increasing the cap will create an opportunity for return on investment to the State.

(e) Notwithstanding any provision of this subchapter to the contrary, the Council shall not award any incentives during the six-month period following a January or July consensus revenue forecast if the State unemployment rate at the time of the forecast is 2.5 percent or lower.

Sec. 2. IMPLEMENTATION

(a) Subject to subsections (b) and (c) of this section, 32 V.S.A. §§ 3341 and 3342, as amended in Sec. 1 of this act, apply to current and future participants in the Vermont Employment Growth Incentive Program.

(b) A business with an approved application may opt out of the amended reporting requirements in 32 V.S.A. §§ 3341 and 3342 and withdraw from future participation in the Program, except as otherwise provided in subsection (c) of this section, by providing written notice of its intent to the Vermont Economic Progress Council on or before December 31, 2021.

(c) A business that provides notice pursuant to subsection (b) of this section:

(1) is subject to and shall comply with the reporting requirements in 32 V.S.A. §§ 3341 and 3342, as those sections of law appeared prior to the effective date of this act, for the remainder of its participation in the Program;

(2) may earn an incentive and the installment payments for award year 2020 if the business otherwise meets the requirements of the Program;

(3) may earn the remaining installment payments for one or more incentives the business earned in award years prior to 2021 if the business otherwise meets the requirements of the Program; and

(4) is ineligible to earn an incentive for any award year after 2021.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.

From: Gilbert Margaret
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 6:25 PM
To: Raj Chawla <RChawla@essexjunction.org>; Town of Essex Town Managers <manager@essex.org>
Subject: Brief statement in support of merger

Hello,

Please include the statement below in the Reading File of the next Merger Public Hearing.

My family and I have called Essex Junction home for the past 12 years and have always believed we live in one of the most amazing and dynamic communities and have felt lucky to be raising our two children here. We wholeheartedly SUPPORT merger.

"We are looking forward to becoming one community to enjoy all that our town has to offer, to share our wonderful resources ***together*** and end decades worth of divisiveness regarding tax inequity."

Thank you,
Matt and Margaret Gilbert

On Feb 11, 2021, at 11:21 AM, Evan Teich <eteich@essex.org> wrote:
Ms. Orsini,

Thank you so much for your kind words. The services that we are able to provide to our senior population is of great pride to us here in Essex and what we believe helps make Essex a great place to live. I know that Ally Vile, Nicole, our Senior Bus drivers, and so many others in both recreation departments all want our senior to have active, happy lives and to be able to get out, socialize, shop, and get to their doctors, weather permitting of course. I will also send this lovely note on to the Village Board and Town Selectboard as they should be made aware of your sentiments.

Please be well and careful during these very troubling times.

Evan

-----Original Message-----
From: Madeline Orsini
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2021 10:41 AM
To: Evan Teich <eteich@essex.org>
Subject: Essex Area Senior Center

Dear Mr. Teich, I am writing to give a huge shout out for the Essex Area Senior Center, and all that they provide for the Senior citizens of Essex town and village. I am one of those seniors. Many of us do not drive and I would never be able to shop for food, medicine or get to my doctor's appointments if it were not for the Senior van service. I feel so fortunate and blessed to have chosen Essex for my permanent home. Everyone at the Senior Center is just wonderful, the staff cannot do enough for us, they are always so pleasant and eager to help us. I am a widow, I am alone so I am blessed to have made many friends at t he senior center which I refer to as my senior center family. Thank you for your part in keeping this wonderful organization in existence for us.

Gregory Duggan

From: Jim Jutras
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 9:15 AM
To: TAshe@leg.state.vt.us; RBancroft@leg.state.vt.us; PBaruth@leg.state.vt.us; ABlack@leg.state.vt.us; TChittenden@leg.state.vt.us; KNDolan@leg.state.vt.us; dgiambatista@leg.state.vt.us; LHoughton@leg.state.vt.us; DIngram@leg.state.vt.us; Ginny Lyons; LMyers@leg.state.vt.us; CPearson@leg.state.vt.us; KRam@leg.state.vt.us; MRedmond@leg.state.vt.us; msirotkin@leg.state.vt.us
Cc: Evan Teich; Gregory Duggan; Village of Essex Trustees; Town of Essex Selectboard
Subject: Legislative priorities
Attachments: Essex Jct and Essex Legislative issues Dec. 23 2020.pdf

Good morning and thank you for your continued work for the citizens of Vermont.

For your consideration and in addition to the items presented to the Essex Junction Board of trustees and Essex Select board at their joint meeting held on December 28, 2020 (attached):

The water quality industry is generally municipally owned and serves the residents of Chittenden County and Vermont with safe drinking water, water distribution, wastewater treatment and stormwater treatment services. Your local utility crosses over multiple regulatory sectors from energy, to water quality, emerging contaminants of concern (PFAS), carbon emissions, nutrient control/recycling, agriculture, and a host of other topics that are covered by legislation proposed each biennium. The water quality professional is also an environmentalist that works daily on behalf of its customers (residents) to protect the public health and the environment. Other special interests are more voiced than your local water quality professionals. I thank you in advance for thinking of your local water and wastewater professionals and our public health role as you deliberate bills proposed.

In current legislative proposal, water quality professionals generally support action to date on PFAS regulation at the source (H.26) and adjustments to climate change committee operations (H.39). We do not support H.3 for the further regulation of the wastewater treatment residuals (Biosolids).

I would appreciate the opportunity to answer any question that you may have. If I am not the correct person to answer your questions, I will be happy to connect you to the right person.

Be safe and thank you for your consideration.

Jim

James L. Jutras, Water Quality Superintendent
Village of Essex Junction, 2 Lincoln Street, Essex Jct., VT 05452-3685
Facility location: 35 Cascade St
Phone: 802-878-6943 ext 1701 (Fax) 802-878-6948

Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees; Selectboard; Evan Teich, Unified Manager

Cc: Sen. Tim Ashe; Rep. Robert Bancroft; Sen. Philip Baruth; Rep.-elect Alyssa Black; Sen.-elect Thomas Chittenden; Rep.-elect Karen Dolan; Rep. Dylan Giambatista; Rep. Lori Houghton; Sen. Debbie Ingram; Sen. Ginny Lyons; Rep. Linda Myers; Sen. Christopher Pearson; Sen.-elect Kesha Ram; Rep. Marybeth Redmond; Sen. Michael Sirotkin; Rep.-elect Tanya Vyhovsky

From: Greg Duggan, Deputy Manager GSD

Re: Discussion about Vermont legislative issues

Date: December 23, 2020

Issue

The issue is for the Trustees, Selectboard, Essex and Essex Junction Representatives, and Chittenden County Senators to have an opportunity to discuss existing and upcoming legislative issues that may impact Essex and Essex Junction.

Discussion

Essex and Essex Junction Representatives and Chittenden County Senators have been invited to the Trustee and Selectboard meeting on December 28. Possible topics for discussion include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Covid-19 relief and economic assistance for municipalities, businesses, residents
- Common level of appraisal and impact on school and municipal taxes
- Town Meeting in the time of covid
- Extension to the State of Vermont LGER program
- Retail cannabis
- Act 250 revisions
- Merger of Village of Essex Junction and Town of Essex
- Status of 3+3 Selectboard charter change
- Expectations for upcoming legislative biennium

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns' Legislative Primer is available online at https://www.vlct.org/newsletter/vlct-news-january-february-2021

Cost

N/a

Recommendation

This memo is for discussion purposes.

From: **Peter Gustafson** <pgustafson@ewsd.org>
Date: Sun, Jan 31, 2021 at 2:54 PM
Subject: Planting trees this spring
To: <Eteich@essexjunction.org>, <abrown@essexjunction.org>, <gtyler@essexjunction.org>, <dkerin@essexjunction.org>, rick@essexjunction.org <rick@essexjunction.org>, Beth Cobb <bcobb@ewsd.org>, Jennifer Wood <jwood@ewsd.org>, Bruce Murdough <bmurdough@ewsd.org>

This past May I became aware of a study that suggested that if all the countries of the world were to plant one trillion trees it would help end global warming as we know it. The following article is excellent for bringing up the subject on a local, state and country level. https://insideclimatenews.org/news/27052020/trillion-trees-climate-change/.

I am writing this letter to both the Village of Essex Junction municipal staff and to the administrators of our EWSD School district.

My students are just completing a month long unit on the dwindling rainforests around the world. My students learned that the world's rainforests are currently disappearing at a rate of **6000** acres every hour(this is about **4000** football fields per hour). It is my hope that I can figure out a way to have my students help to plant trees around the greater Essex Junction community. Below is a letter I recently received from Essex resident Natalee Braun who is a member of 350Burlington, a volunteer and member of the Essex Energy Committee; her goal is to have Vermont plant **100,000** trees by 2022.. She might be able to coordinate a way for the Village to purchase trees and shrubs at a really reduced rate.

Hello Peter,
Nick Meyer suggested I contact you in response to your interest in having your sixth graders plant trees to mitigate climate change. You are definitely speaking my language! The easiest thing might be for me to paste below the letter I've been sending to local organizations about 350VT's 100,000 trees by 2022 campaign. If it sounds like there's a way that we could collaborate please let me know. Natalee

I am a local organizer with 350VT writing to connect about our state-wide Rewild Vermont project. As part of our commitment to lift up just and local solutions to the climate emergency, we are working to plant one hundred thousand trees and shrubs across the state by the end of 2022. We hope to plant a variety of native and food-producing species to build soil, absorb carbon and feed our communities.

We are now looking for places to plant trees. Specifically, I'm curious if we could collaborate on a tree planting project on your land and/or with members of your organization. Tree planting can connect wildlife habitat, install a windbreak, reduce heating/cooling costs, limit erosion, become a food forest and add beauty in addition to the all-important task of mitigating climate change. I hope to get your thoughts on the possibility of working together. 350VT has access to low-cost seedlings and expertise and if you have folks who are willing to help plant and care for the young trees it could be an excellent partnership. Do you have any interest in collaborating on this project?

I am more than happy to talk through details around access to your land, selection and care of the trees and the best timeline. We will be organizing bulk orders for larger plantings in Spring 2021 and the ordering deadline is mid-March.

Thank you so much for your consideration and let us know any questions, thoughts or comments.

Looking forward to hearing from you, and I hope to find a way to collaborate!

Kindly,
Natalee Braun, 350Burlington volunteer and member, Essex Energy Committee

Could you please consider our local government and the EWSD collaborating on this? I look forward to having my students roll up their sleeves, get out their shovels and plant in April + May.

Thanks

Peter Gustafson

Memorandum

TO: Evan Teich, Unified Manager and the Selectboard
FROM: Dennis Lutz, P.E., Public Works Director
DATE: 3 February as of 24 January 2021
SUBJECT: Status of Winter Operations through 24 January 2021(INFORMATION)

The weather through the 24th of January has generally been mild compared to past winters, which was welcomed due to the outbreak of COVID in the department that impacted the ability of the workforce to respond to storm events. The plowing index was reduced to yellow but generally the plowing took place without significant delays. More intense weather is predicted for the month of February, so it is still too early to make accurate predictions as to the outcome of costs this winter.

Winter Overtime:

The following table compares the winter overtime at this time of year for the current year and the past two years:

Winter	Overtime to Date
2018-2019	1970 man hours
2019-2020	1275 man hours
2020-2021	786 man hours

The approved budget for this year includes approximately 2700 man hours of overtime. We are about 58% through the winter period and have used 29% of the budgeted overtime hours.

Winter Salt Use:

The following table compares the winter salt purchased and used at this time of year for the current year and the past two years.

Winter	Salt Purchased to Date
2018-2019	1288 tons (1466 tons used)
2019-2020	825 tons (957 tons used)
2020-2021	442 tons (541 used)

The current budget was estimated on the basis of $131,200 or 1600 tons (regular salt) at $82 per ton and $18,000 (low temp salt) on the basis of 200 tons at $90/ton. The actual current cost is $70.50/ton for regular salt and $80.50/ton for low temperature salt. Based upon the actual cost per ton, the amount budgeted for regular salt this year is increased to 1,861 tons and 223 tons for low temp salt. We are 58% through the winter and our salt usage is at 26%.

Sand use:

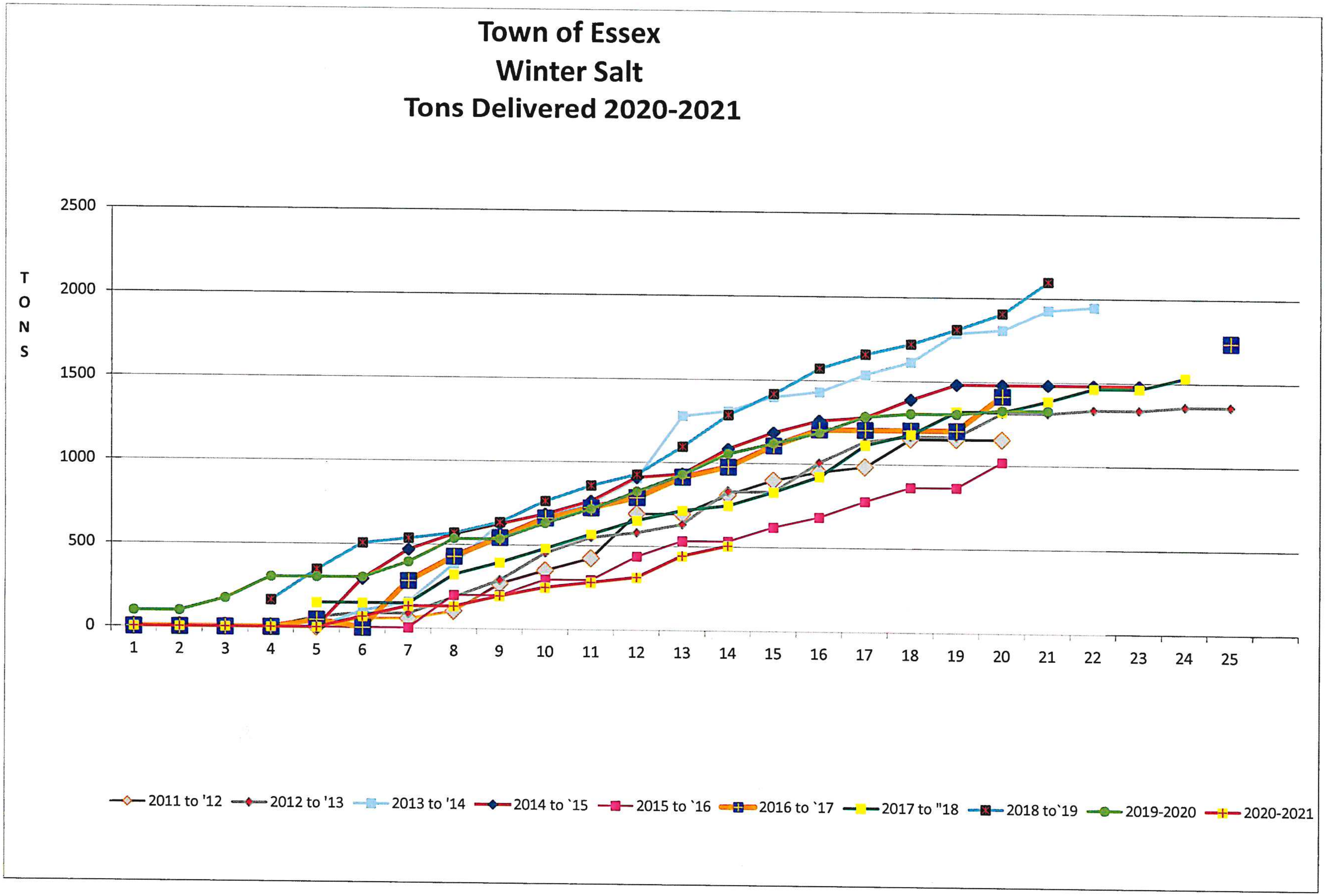
The following table compares the winter sand use at this time of year for the current year and the past two years.

Winter	Sand used to Date
2018-2019	4135 cy
2019-2020	2405 cy
2020-2021	1588 cy

The sand budget for the year is based on a total of 5000 tons (3125 cy) at a price of $15.50 per ton. We are currently at 51% of the budget. Salt costs significantly more than sand (approximately 5 times the cost) so as long as salt use remains low, we can afford to purchase added sand without significantly impacting the winter budget.

Summary

Overall, it appears that costs for winter operations will be lower than in past years but conditions during the month of February will impact to a great degree what the end-year costs will be.


Town of Essex
Winter Salt
Tons Delivered 2020-2021
TONS
2500
2000
1500
1000
500
0
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25
2011 to '12
2012 to '13
2013 to '14
2014 to `15
2015 to `16
2016 to `17
2017 to "18
2018 to`19
2019-2020
2020-2021

MEETING SCHEDULES 2/12/2021

DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD ONLINE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETINGS	VILLAGE TRUSTEES MEETINGS	JOINT MEETINGS

February 16, 2021—6:30 PM	SB Regular	TBD
February 17, 2021 – 6:30 PM	VB Regular	TBD
February 22, 2021—6:30 PM	JT Special	Amy
February 23, 2021—6:30 PM	VB Regular	Cathy
March 1, 2021—7:30 PM	Town Annual Meeting	Cathy
March 9, 2021—6:30 PM	VB Regular	Cathy
March 15, 2021—6:30 PM	SB Regular	Cathy
March 22, 2021—6:30 PM	JT Special	Cathy
March 23, 2021—6:30 PM	VB Regular	Cathy
April 5, 2021—6:30 PM	SB Regular	Cathy
April 7, 2021—7:00 PM	Village Annual Meeting	Cathy