

**SELECTBOARD
(DRAFT)**

**TOWN OF ESSEX SELECTBOARD
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 27, 2026**

SELECTBOARD: Shannon Jackson, Chair; Ethan Lawrence, Vice-Chair; Meg Zimmerman, Clerk; Kendall Chamberlin, Andy Watts

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Greg Duggan, Town Manager; Karen Adams, Deputy Town Manager

PUBLIC: Betsy Dunn, Gina Halpin Barrett, Dawn Hill-Fleury, Anne Miller, John Morris, Margaret Smith, Lorraine Zaloom, Sharon Zukowski

1. CALL TO ORDER

As Shannon Jackson was remote, Ethan Lawrence called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES

Greg Duggan requested that Item 5b, "Consider approval to include Justice of the Peace candidates and any other valid local questions on November general election ballot," be removed from the Consent Agenda and be discussed as Business Item 6a.

SHANNON JACKSON made a motion, seconded by ANDY WATTS, to move Consent Item 5B to Business Item 6a. Motion passed 5-0.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

SHANNON JACKSON made a motion, seconded by MEG ZIMMERMAN, to approve the agenda. Motion passed 5-0.

4. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Ken Signorello said he wished to counter a point made by a Selectboard member at a previous meeting, whom he said stated the Charter Change Committee recommended an overlap between the Development Review Board (DRB) and Planning Commission (PC). He said this was not the case, and the rationale for separation was for each board to perform their separate duties. The Charter Change Committee recommended that five individuals serve on the DRB and PC, respectfully. While state statute does allow for overlap between the two boards, many larger municipalities, including Essex Junction, do not allow this. He said no one person is singled out with the charter change proposal to eliminate the overlap, but that it is good governance. He said he believes the Selectboard voted on the charter change proposal, as discussed at the last meeting, with inaccurate information.

Betsy Dunn said Essex needs to have an independent zip code from Essex Junction prior to moving forward on the Local Option Taxes. She encouraged children on e-bikes not to be allowed in car lanes, and that better education occurs on the issue of e-bikes. She said she believes licenses should be required for e-bikes so that improper behavior can be reported. She also expressed concern about loud cars overnight.

Margaret Smith confirmed that the Charter Change Committee did not recommend overlap between the DRB and the PC.

Lorraine Zaloom said she would like to see a reconsideration of the Local Option Taxes appearing on the November ballot, saying it is a regressive tax and would have a negative impact on local businesses. She

asked for clarification on which members of the Selectboard support the Local Option Tax and asked how it was able to get on the agenda to be voted upon.

Anne Miller said she checked with several communities in Vermont and saw very little overlap between the DRB and PC.

Gina Halpin Barrett expressed concern about the process around a recent appointment to the PC, and a need to ensure that all positions are posted and advertised.

5. CONSENT ITEMS

SHANNON JACKSON made a motion, seconded by MEG ZIMMERMAN, to approve the Consent Agenda, as amended. Motion passed 5-0.

a. Approve minutes: July 13, 2026

~~b. Consider approval to include Justice of the Peace candidates and any other valid local questions on November general election ballot~~

c. Consider approval of application for extension to file the grand list

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Consider approval to include Justice of the Peace candidates and any other valid local questions on November general election ballot

G. Duggan said the Selectboard needs to approve the Justice of the Peace candidates for the November ballot if the board wants the candidates to be included on the ballot being mailed by the State of Vermont. He is recommending to not include a motion for “any other valid local questions”, given that language from any valid petitions could change after they are received. No petitions for inclusion of other questions on the ballot have been received. E. Lawrence requested public comment, of which there was none.

MEG ZIMMERMAN made a motion, seconded by SHANNON JACKSON, that the Selectboard approve inclusion of the Justice of the Peace candidates on the November general election ballot. Motion passed 5-0.

7. READING FILE

a. a. Board member comments: S. Jackson thanked E. Lawrence for serving as Chair this evening. K. Chamberlin congratulated outgoing Zoning Administrator Sharon Kelley on her retirement. E. Lawrence said an Essex Little League team will be playing in a semi-final game for the state championships.

b. Upcoming meeting schedule

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Not held.

9. ADJOURN

MEG ZIMMERMAN made a motion, seconded by SHANNON JACKSON, for the Selectboard to adjourn. Motion passed 5-0 at 7:04 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Darby Mayville
Recording Secretary