

Summary of Agenda Items for Essex Junction Trustee Meeting of January 31, 2012

Review FY 13 Budget and Fund Transfer

The Trustees are expected to finalize the FY 13 budget of \$3,236,671 they will be proposing for approval at the annual Village meeting in April. This represents an increase of 2.15% over the current FY 12 budget. Most of the cost increase was the need to begin paying for a new 100 foot ladder truck for the Village fire department. As part of the budgeting process, the Trustees are also proposing a transfer of \$320,000 from the Land Acquisition Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund. The money will be used to reduce the backlog of Village infrastructure repair projects, such as streets and sidewalks.

Update on Amtrak Station Project

The proposal to renovate the Amtrak/CCTA station has been presented as a possible design project for the University of Vermont Capstone program. It is anticipated that the UVM design team that takes the project will visit the Amtrak station on January 31. The Railroad Ave Recess committee is meeting on February 10 to plan a community forum, which will include the UVM students, to help jointly plan and formulate a vision for the renovation design. The Trustees will hear the details of this process and any additional relevant information.

Request to Put Health Care Reform Issue on the Ballot

Village resident Carl Houghton has proposed that the Trustees include in the Annual Meeting warning a special, non-binding ballot item requesting that the Vermont Legislature require the Green Mountain Care Board and the Governor release by September 1, 2013, the financing plans, including the estimated cost and source of payment, for the Vermont single-payer health care initiative known as Green Mountain Care. Mr. Houghton has requested to be on the agenda to explain his proposal. The Trustees must decide if they wish to include the proposal on the ballot and, if so, if it should be warned as an item to be voted on by voice vote during the annual meeting or by Australian ballot.

Dog Ordinance Amendment

The Essex Junction Recreation and Parks Department has signed a contract with the State of Vermont allowing the recreation department to operate a dog park on the state tree farm property on West Street. Presently, the Village has an ordinance requiring dogs to be under owner "control" at all times, with "control" meaning on leash when not on the owners property. Although the dog park agreement does not appear to violate the Village ordinance, staff concluded that it would be appropriate to amend the ordinance to recognize the existence of the dog park. The Village Clerk has proposed an ordinance amendment for Trustee approval. The Dog Park Committee has also submitted a request to the Trustees to waive the ban on dogs in public parks for an event at Maple St. Park in July.

Appointments to WiFi Committee

Responding to an exploratory proposal by the Chittenden Central Supervisory Union, the Essex Junction Prudential Committee and the Essex Junction Trustees have agreed to form a joint committee to explore the possibility of establishing Village-wide WiFi. The committee will have six members – three appointed by the Prudential Committee and three by the Trustees. The task of the committee is NOT to determine if Village-wide WiFi should be established. The task of the committee is to investigate and highlight technical, legal, and financial issues that need to be considered before moving ahead with the project. For the meeting, the Trustees must determine who to appoint to the committee.

Proposal to Discuss Village-Town Administrative Collaboration With Essex Selectboard

Within the not-too-distant future, the Village and Town could be facing the retirements of one or both of their municipal managers. Village President George Tyler is proposing that a change in managerial staff may present an opportunity for consolidating or realigning some of the managers' responsibilities in the Village and Town governments, rather than hiring two more full-time managers. Tyler is seeking board input and approval for approaching the Essex Selectboard to discuss the idea, with the possible outcome of having the two boards, or representatives of the two boards, continue to study the proposal.