

**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
August 12, 2008**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES:** Larry Yandow (Village President); Deb Billado, John Lajza, George Tyler, Peter Gustafson.  
**ADMINISTRATION:** Dave Crawford, Village Manager.

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**I. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Prior to the arrival of Village President Yandow, Trustee Billado called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**III. GUESTS/PRESENTATIONS**

**1. Vermont Council on Rural Development Presentation**

Paul Costello, Executive Director of the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) explained the charge of the organization (through the federal farm bill to coordinate state and federal policy). There are 40 state councils including Vermont. VCRD helps the state and federal governments work better together. VCRD wants local government to share what works and have a mechanism to negotiate between the federal and state governments. Typical issues covered include a broad band policy and energy use in the future. VCRD wants to work in the best interest of the people served. VCRD brings people to the table for an equal, democratic discussion process. VCRD works directly with towns and cities in the state to help them think about the “big picture direction” they want to pursue and help them develop a local steering group recommended by the municipality and representing the demographics of the community. Next a process is structured with the issues and ideas, leading to a list of potential projects. The elected officials (selectboard or trustees) and the community may then form task forces to move forward with the projects. Mr. Costello said his organization has worked with 20 communities across the state. Killington is one example. VCRD helped identify key people with resources, policy expertise, and experience in what the Killington community was experiencing relative to businesses on the mountain road and the ski resort. The Secretary of Transportation attended meetings to hear about transportation issues. Mr. Costello cited other examples where VCRD helped communities partner their interests to get needed and desired results and improvements. To date no towns have regretted using the services of the organization. VCRD works best with people ready to step up and elected boards that want to engage the citizenry in an issue. Mr. Costello briefly described the process: a local steering committee is established (the steering committee is a nominated membership of diverse representation) and a meeting is held to outline areas to be explored. VCRD identifies key people to support potential projects that may emerge. A community visit day is held. There is an intense public relations effort to get people to feel invited so they will attend the community visit day. Focus forums on different issues are formed. There are 30 executive level leaders to

listen to the groups. Testimony is taken from the working groups. The information is analyzed and key ideas that emerge and are actionable are identified. A town meeting type of event is held on the information and the people champion what is most important. Who has done projects before, who has resources, and potential federal funds is identified and the people are brought in to formulate a work plan. A framework to work with the municipality is established. VCRD checks back in six months and after a year on the committee.

George Tyler asked if a letter from both the Essex Selectboard and Village Trustees is needed to apply to the program. Paul Costello stated VCRD is not interested in working with communities if there is a lack of readiness or unanimity to be engaged so if there is controversy between the Village and Town VCRD likely will not participate. Trustee Tyler noted an economic development initiative in the village has begun, and asked how this could be integrated with the VCRD process. Mr. Costello stated VCRD recognizes a town's initiatives and tries not to duplicate the efforts unless the town wants the added focus.

Peter Gustafson asked if VCRD sees areas in common with the Town of Essex. Paul Costello said VCRD has worked on the issue of creative economy in Vermont, arts, culture, business incubators, attracting technology. The definition of "rural" according to the Federal Government is up to a population of 20,000 people. VCRD is interested in supporting the state as a whole and does not see a line of division between the Village and Town. The VCRD board will have to think about helping just Essex Junction.

Deb Billado asked about VCRD's broad band goal. Mr. Costello explained VCRD has been working to support universal service in Vermont and extension of broad band. Much progress has been made. George Tyler spoke in support of wireless internet in Essex Jct.

There was discussion of the "openness" of the process. The steering committee and the full community determine the priorities and provide the momentum, stated Mr. Costello, and federal and state resources come to the "squeaky wheel" and where there is momentum.

Susan McCormack, resident, spoke highly of Paul Costello's and VCRD's work. Broad citizen momentum and a voice are needed, and the VCRD process provides this.

2. Comments from Public on Items not on Agenda  
None.

#### **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

#### **V. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Consider Request for Noise Waiver for CVE Fair Days

Dave Grimm, CVE General Manager, Tom Oddy, Director of Special Events, and Matt Stevens, Board of Directors, requested a noise waiver for the week of the 2008 fair and

discussed expanding the pre-arranged monitoring schedule. Mr. Grimm said monitoring began in the spring with New England Air Quality Testing. It was found the events on July 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> (WOKO festival and Elton John concert) were in the mid-70 dB range. It was also discovered that a car can create 70 dB by the monitoring station. It is felt the fair could be in the 70 dB range for the duration because the carnival is by the monitoring station, but this will not be known until readings are taken. The carnival rides have been in the same location for the past 40 years. CVE does not want to incur a fine for 12 hours per day for each day of the fair. The monitoring process is good, continued Mr. Grimm, and it is felt there should be more monitoring during the fair including the grandstand events in order to get a good baseline. This may require monitoring all 10 days of the fair. CVE will pay the expense. CVE respectfully requests a noise waiver for the 2008 fair. Besides during the carnival, readings will be taken before grandstand events and during the concerts. It is prudent to monitor the carnival itself and establish a baseline. The data gathered may lead to some sort of mitigation.

Peter Gustafson asked about the tractor trailer trucks that were parked by the perimeter of the property during the recent concert. Tom Oddy said the trucks were parked there to mitigate noise and keep the sound on the grounds. The monitoring helped determine where the trucks are most effective. No complaints about noise were received at CVE. There was one complaint registered at the police station. Larry Yandow said he did not hear either concert event and usually does at his residence on Main Street. It was noted the Elton John concert could be heard at the NECI facility on Park Street. Dave Grimm stated the monitoring is very sensitive. Conversation by the monitor microphone could be close to 70 dB. In the past it was thought the west side of the fairgrounds by Grandview Ave. was the problem area, but it is not. Nor is the area perpendicular to the stage. The eastern fence line by the Reithhoffer rides, half way to Gate G, is the area to address. Beyond that point is the noise from Pearl Street and the zoning is industrial/commercial which allows a higher decibel level.

**MOTION by John Lajza, SECOND by Deb Billado, that the Board grant CVE the requested noise waiver in lieu of learning more information to create the best ordinance and correction to the situation.**

**DISCUSSION: Peter Gustafson said the Elton John concert was an outstanding event. The video on the Elton John website very positively promotes Essex Junction and the State of Vermont. Dave Grimm expressed appreciation for the comments. Tickets for the concert were sold to 12 states. It was reiterated many positive comments were received. Deb Billado commented on the noise issue being headed in the right direction to figure out a workable solution.**

**VOTING: 5 ayes; motion carried.**

## **VI. VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **1. Trustees Meeting Schedule**

- Special Meeting on 8/19/08 beginning with Executive Session
- Regular Meeting on 9/9/08
- Executive Session on 9/16/08

- Special Meeting on 9/30/08 if desired.

## 2. Community Issues

Dave Crawford reported he and Robin Pierce have been visiting local businesses to see what the issues are.

## 3. Trustees Meeting at High School

Peter Gustafson suggested a regular Trustees meeting be held at the high school during the school day so the students can participate.

## 4. CVE Discussion on Financial Issue

Dave Crawford reported the dialogue with CVE has been frank and positive. CVE will present a draft letter for the first payment of \$80,000 for the Pearl Street project. CCMPO has been contacted to provide technical assistance in doing a plan defining the Pearl Street project for review by Sen. Leahy's Office. There will also be discussion with CVE about alternatives to taxes, such as a sales tax, rooms & meals tax, or an entertainment tax.

## 5. Town of Essex Demographic Study

The Chamber of Commerce is to do a demographic study of the town and village. Several different sources will be used to get the most current and best information. There are interns ready to do the work. The Chamber wants to provide the municipal membership with more definitive information. The information may show how the population ages in the village and town versus the county and state (the village may have more retirees and the town may have a younger population). Peter Gustafson noted the Prudential Committee has statistics associated with the schools.

## 6. Thanks from Jeff Arango

Jeff Arango extends thanks and appreciation for the open house prior to his leaving for the west coast. Thanks were extended to Jeff Arango for five years of service to the village.

## 7. District 5 Salt Supplier

District 5 will provide salt to the village at the same price charged the state.

## 8. Handy Development at 235 Pearl Street

Gabe Handy has slightly revised his development plans for 235 Pearl Street. The changes to the plans are being handled administratively.

## 9. Five Corners Project

The target date for major construction to be done on the Five Corners project is August 20, 2008. New light poles will be installed in late September. The old poles will be removed. It is hoped the work will be complete by early November. There will be some small tasks to do in the spring.

# **VII. TRUSTEES COMMENTS/CONCERNS**

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1. Board Member Comments

- George Tyler announced the website is ready to go. The Board can review the site. The address will be published when school is back in session.

**VIII. CONSENT AGENDA & READING FILE**

**MOTION by John Lajza, SECOND by George Tyler, to approve the consent agenda as follows:**

- 1. Approve minutes of 7/22/08**
- 2. Approve warrants**
- 3. Reading list acceptance (letters/communications)**
  - **Zoning Board Minutes of 7/15/08**
  - **Planning Commission Minutes of 7/17//08**
  - **Memo from VLCT re: 2008 Awards Program and Nomination Forms**
  - **VHFA Invitation to 2008 VT Statewide Housing Conference on 11/18/08**
  - **Notice of School Tax Rates**
  - **FY09 Tax Rates**
  - **CCMPO Public Hearing Notice 9/17/08 re: Draft 2008 Public Plan**
  - **Letter from IBM re: Modifications to Waste Management Systems**

**VOTING: 5 aye; motion carried.**

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION and/or ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION by Larry Yandow, SECOND by John Lajza, to go into Executive Session.**

**VOTING: 5 ayes; motion carried.**

The Board entered Executive Session at 8 p.m.

**MOTION by John Lajza, SECOND by Peter Gustafson, to adjourn Executive Session and the regular meeting. VOTING: 5 ayes; motion carried.**

Executive Session and the regular meeting were adjourned at 10:55 p.m.

*RScty: M.E.Riordan*