

**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
September 9, 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**

Village President, Larry Yandow, 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. Comments from Public on Items not on Agenda

Mike Penchina, 58 Dunbar Drive, said a recreational vehicle (RV) has been parked for the summer on Wilkinson Drive. According to the zoning officer there is nothing in the village code to prevent this, but the vehicle which is parked on the street day and night with a power cord from the house over village property to the vehicle blocks one lane of the roadway. There is also a large fishing boat and trailer in the neighborhood parked on the street in front of the owner's house. The vehicles block one lane of the road which could present a safety issue if emergency vehicles cannot get down the street. In addition, the character of the village will be impacted if boats, trailers, RVs, commercial trucks and such are allowed to park for extended periods of time on the street. Mr. Penchina showed photographs of the vehicles parked on Wilkinson Drive. Trustee Gustafson asked if there is room on the owner's property to park the RV. Mr. Penchina said condominium association rules do not allow parking on the lawn. Cars occupy the driveways of private homes.

Peter Gustafson cited a similar experience on his street with a lane of traffic being blocked by a parked RV. Trustee Gustafson questioned if the parked vehicle presents any liability exposure to the village. There was agreement the village streets are not designed to accommodate large vehicles parked for extended periods of time. Mike Penchina suggested an ordinance be drafted that sets a timeframe so out-of-town visitors can be accommodated, but permanent or long term parking on the street is not allowed. The Trustees will further discuss the matter.

On a different matter Mike Penchina commended the village highway department on the yeoman job last year in clearing the streets throughout the winter. The task was done early and completely.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**V. NEW BUSINESS****1. Approve Large User Water Policy and Rate**

Jeffrey Chapman, Tim Baechle, and Janette Bombardier representing IBM were in attendance. Jeff Chapman mentioned working with Dave Crawford on the water policy was very productive. Dave Crawford noted the past multi-year agreement with IBM has ended and a new rate setting policy and rate were established following meetings with IBM. The policy and rate is responsible, fair and equitable for IBM and the village.

**MOTION by George Tyler, SECOND by John Lajza, to adopt the following policies as submitted by the Village Manager effective July 1, 2008:**

- “Large Volume Water User Rate Setting Process”
- “Village Calculation Method for Setting Large User Rate”

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

**MOTION by George Tyler, SECOND by John Lajza, to adopt the large volume water user rate for IBM of \$0.045 per 1,000 gallons effective July 1, 2008 as submitted by the Village Manager.**

**DISCUSSION:** Jeff Chapman noted IBM uses 3.5 million gallons per day of water now and projects the amount will remain steady. For comparison Champlain Water District has 10 million gallon average daily use.

**Appreciation by the Trustees was expressed for the cooperation between IBM and the Village Manager in developing a satisfactory solution to the water use situation. John Lajza stated IBM is a valued member of the community. Dave Crawford reported John O’Kane is very appreciative of the Board’s appreciation. There was brief discussion of having presentations on areas of joint interest.**

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

**VI. VILLAGE MANAGER’S REPORT****1. Exploring Ideas with IBM**

Dave Crawford reported discussions are ongoing with IBM on how the village can assist as the host community. John O’Kane appreciates the Board’s continued effort of involvement.

**2. VTrans and Circumferential Highway Meeting**

Current status is VTrans and FHWA agree the circ highway is the way to go. The Corps of Engineers and EPA do not share this agreement at this point in time. If there is disagreement the matter will grind up through the federal bureaucracy and potentially be a court case. The Route 2A alternative through Five Corners would have severe impact on the village. There would be four lanes from Tafts Corners increasing to seven lanes in the village to Five Corners. The road would have to be widened up to the front steps of the houses on Park Street. Half the existing buildings on the street would be taken for the road expansion, changing the character of the village. It was noted the Trustees voted against the alternative, but the legislature could theoretically over-rule the vote if the traffic burden is considered severe enough. The likelihood of this happening, however, is

remote and has not occurred previously (the Class 1 road would have to be taken from the village and given to the state). John Lajza likened funneling traffic through Five Corners to doubling the size of a bathtub to hold more water, but not changing the size of the drain (the water/traffic will not drain/move any faster). George Tyler pointed out the Route 2A alternative shows several roundabouts in Williston, expansion lanes, and a roundabout at Five Corners which will impact buildings and Memorial Park. Providing traffic relief for Essex Junction by removing half the village is illogical, observed Trustee Tyler. John Lajza noted in Europe rotaries and roundabouts are being removed. Modeling for the Route 2A alternative shows the roundabouts between Tafts Corners and Five Corner failed. Trustee Lajza stressed the job of the Trustees is to protect the vitality, walkability, and desirability of the village. Peter Gustafson commented his family's house was taken by eminent domain for a highway in New Bedford, MA.

### 3. CVE Negotiations

The date of the next negotiation meeting is to be scheduled.

### 4. Trustees Meeting Schedule

- Executive Session on 9/15/08
- Special Meeting on 9/30/08
- Regular Meeting on 10/14/08
- Special Meeting on 10/21/08
- Regular Meeting on 11/10/08 (Monday)
- Regular Meeting on 11/25/08

## **VII. TRUSTEES COMMENTS/CONCERNS**

### 1. Board Member Comments

- George Tyler stated a report on the VTrans meeting (on the circ highway) will be posted on the village website on 9/11/08. Press releases will be sent to the local newspapers as well.
- Constructive criticism of the village website is being sought. Also, anyone with pictures of Essex Junction is encouraged to submit them for posting on the website.
- Larry Yandow mentioned the interview with Sen. Doyle's committee on length of service and residency in the community. The interview brought up many fond memories of what the village was like in the past.

## **VIII. CONSENT AGENDA & READING FILE**

**MOTION by Deb Billado, SECOND by Peter Gustafson, to approve the consent agenda as follows:**

- 1. Approve Minutes (8/11/08, 8/12/08, 8/19/08, 9/2/08)**
- 2. Approve Warrants**
- 3. Approve Essex CHIPS Grant Application Resolution**
- 4. Reading list acceptance (letters/communications)**
  - **Thank you note from George Dunbar**
  - **Planning Commission Minutes of 8/21//08**
  - **CCMPO Transportation Advisory Committee Agenda & Minutes**

- VLCT Candidate Forum Tool Kit
- VLCT and VLCT PACIF Annual Meeting on 10/2/08

**DISCUSSION:** Deb Billado asked if the resolution for CHIPS will enhance the functionality and appearance of Lincoln Hall. Dave Crawford said staff is looking at two state grants for CHIPS. The grants have a 30% local match. The grants will be used for energy efficiency improvements to the buildings (replacement of windows on the second floor of Lincoln Hall and the back door). The windows will cost \$30,000. Funds are included in the capital plan for the windows. Peter Gustafson mentioned the article in the *Burlington Free Press* covering recognition by the United Way of Cali Cornacchia, a senior at Essex High representing youth in the community and working with CHIPS. The entire Cornacchia family has worked with CHIPS over the years.

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

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

**MOTION** by Larry Yandow, **SECOND** by Deb Billado, to go into Executive Session to discuss legal matters, and to invite the Village Manager to attend. **VOTING:** 5 ayes; motion carried.

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:30 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 9:35 p.m.

*RScty: M.E.Riordan*