

**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF MEETING
October 21, 2008**

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Larry Yandow called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Larry Yandow, SECOND by George Tyler, to go into Executive Session to conduct interviews for positions on the Planning Commission. VOTING: 5 ayes; motion carried.

Executive Session was convened at 6:31 p.m.

MOTION by John Lajza, SECOND by George Tyler, to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting. VOTING: 5 ayes; motion carried.

Executive Session was adjourned and the regular meeting reconvened at 7 p.m. Larry Yandow led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES

Addition:

- Discussion in Executive Session of contract negotiations/personnel matters prior to 'New Business'.
- Discussion of VLCT resolution regarding potential budget cuts in transportation funding under 'New Business'.

IV. GUESTS/PRESENTATIONS

1. Sidewalk Improvements at Maple Street Pool & Park

Brad Luck explained the plan to create a pedestrian area in front of the Administration Building at Maple Street Park to provide an easier and more pedestrian friendly drop off/pick up area. The Board discussed waiver of fees for the project.

MOTION by Deb Billado, SECOND by John Lajza, to approve the request for the proposed capital improvements to the Maple Street Park area and authorize the Village Manager to sign the zoning applications on behalf of the village as property owner. VOTING: 5 ayes; motion carried.

MOTION by George Tyler, SECOND by Peter Gustafson, to waive the fee(s) associated with the sidewalk improvement project at Maple Street Pool & Park. VOTING: 5 ayes; motion carried.

2. Comments from Public on Items not on Agenda

It was noted two students from St. Michael's College were in attendance to observe the meeting process and execution of the Sunshine Act.

3. Discussion in Executive Session: Contract Negotiations/Personnel Matters

MOTION by John Lajza, SECOND by George Tyler, to go into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations and personnel matters, and to invite representatives of the Village Employees Association to attend. VOTING: 5 ayes; motion carried.

Executive Session was convened at 7:15 p.m.

MOTION by John Lajza, SECOND by George Tyler, to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting. VOTING: 5 ayes; motion carried.

Executive Session was adjourned and the regular meeting reconvened at 8:12 p.m.

V. OLD BUSINESS

None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Review/Act on Proposed Graffiti Ordinance

Postponed until the next meeting.

2. VLCT Resolution on Potential Budget Cuts in Transportation Funding

Dave Crawford reviewed the resolution opposing proposed cuts in funds for the local highway aid program. There is a groundswell of items being pushed from the state level to the local level. VLCT suggested a resolution speaking to the proposed cutback in local highway program funding. The impact of the cutbacks to Essex Junction is \$6,800 and \$10,000 for Essex Town.

MOTION by John Lajza, SECOND by George Tyler, to approve the resolution opposing proposed cuts in state aid in transportation funding as presented.

DISCUSSION: Peter Gustafson observed \$3 million in funding cuts to towns and villages across the state will only make worse the current state of disrepair of highways and bridges. John Lajza commented it has been a consistent habit of the legislature to pirate transportation revenue for use in other areas. Only when there are more transportation funds than can be used should the money be used in other areas. Larry Yandow cited a rumor of increasing the gas tax by twenty cents to increase revenues to the state because gasoline consumption is down. John Lajza said he heard a rumor about a one to two cent increase in the gas tax. George Tyler commented positively on the value of VLCT to poll all communities on the impact of the cutbacks and produce the resolution. There were no further comments.

CALL THE QUESTION by Peter Gustafson, SECOND by John Lajza. Discussion ceased. VOTE ON CALL THE QUESTION: unanimous; motion carried.

VOTING ON RESOLUTION: 5 ayes; motion carried.

VII. VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT**1. Meeting Schedule**

- Special Meeting on 11/10/08 (Monday) with Prudential Committee. Other items to discuss include the graffiti ordinance and school district tax collection agreement.
- Special Meeting on 11/11/08 with Essex Selectboard (Executive Session at 5 p.m.)
- Special Meeting on 11/18/08
- Regular Meeting on 12/9/08
- Budget Meeting on 12/18/08 beginning at 8 a.m.

2. CVE Noise & Financial Committee Meetings

Dave Crawford reported the committee met to discuss noise and financial matters.

3. State Meeting with Vermont Managers

Mr. Crawford reported all municipalities are facing a tough budget year. The state is pushing much onto local municipalities.

4. Storm Water Stream Study

The Town of Essex will share in the cost of the storm water stream study.

5. GBIC Support

Dave Crawford reported the Village provides \$500 per year in support of GBIC.

6. Rotary at Five Corners

Information and letters regarding a rotary (roundabout) at Five Corners were provided to the Board.

7. Political Signs

Political signs are not allowed in the village right-of-way and will be removed. John Lajza suggested there be a two week window allowing signs in the right-of-way after which the signs must be removed by the group that placed the signs. Otherwise the signs will be removed by the street crew and a bill will be sent to the name on the sign. There was discussion of the probability of the bill being paid (low probability).

VIII. TRUSTEES COMMENTS/CONCERNS**1. McDonald's Owners**

Larry Yandow said the owners of the McDonald's franchise are very interested in the planned Pearl Street improvements and should be included in future meetings. It was noted CVE put forth \$80,000 over eight years for the Pearl Street Improvement Project with the first payment of \$10,000 being made this year. The money will go toward obtaining federal funds as part of the 20% local match requirement.

2. Winning Coach: Bill O'Neil

Peter Gustafson mentioned the 1,000th win celebration of Essex High School coach, Bill O'Neil. Coach O'Neil has many years of coaching girls soccer, boys hockey, and girls softball with a low loss percentage record.

3. Drunken Noodle House Opening

Deb Billado reported the grand opening of the Drunken Noodle House was well attended and very nice.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA & READING FILE

MOTION by John Lajza, SECOND by Peter Gustafson, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- 1. Approve Minutes (10/14/08)**
- 2. Reading list acceptance (letters/communications)**
 - **Invitation to Grand Opening at Drunken Noodle House**
 - **Letter from Town of Essex Public Works Director/Town Engineer**
 - **Letter from Town Resident regarding Roundabouts**
 - **Appointment of Acting Village Manager**

VOTING: 5 ayes; motion carried.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Larry Yandow, SECOND by George Tyler, to go into Executive Session to discuss legal and/or personnel matters, and to invite the Village Manager to attend.

VOTING: 5 ayes; motion carried.

The Board entered Executive Session at 8:35 p.m.

MOTION by John Lajza, SECOND by Peter Gustafson, to adjourn Executive Session.

VOTING: 5 ayes; motion carried.

Executive Session was adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Deb Billado, SECOND by Peter Gustafson, to appoint Aaron Martin and John Alden to the Essex Junction Planning Commission each for a three year term ending June 30, 2011. VOTING: 5 ayes; motion carried.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by John Lajza, SECOND by George Tyler, to adjourn the meeting. VOTING: 5 ayes; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

RScty: M.E.Riordan