

**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 5, 2010**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Larry Yandow (Village President), Deborah Billado (Vice President) Peter Gustafson, John Lajza, George Tyler
ADMINISTRATION: David Crawford, Village Manager
Lauren Morrisseau, Finance/MIS Director
Sawyer Joecks, Management Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Larry Yandow called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

2. BUSINESS

1. Approval of M.O.U. Regarding Tree Farm Purchase

Trevor Lashua, Assistant Town Manager, was present to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Essex and the Village of Essex Junction for the purchase of the Tree Farm from the State of Vermont.

Mr. Lashua asked whether third parties should be excluded from the M.O.U. The Trustees and David Crawford agreed that there should not be language in the agreement to lock the Village or Town into excluding third party involvement.

It was agreed by all present that the M.O.U. needs further “wordsmithing” and the use of the word “shall” is too prevalent and binding.

The Trustees concurred that they don’t have a problem with whatever the Town decides to do with their portion of the property, as long as it isn’t extremely unusual or intrusive. If this is the case, Dave Crawford and Trevor Lashua verbally agreed that the Village and Town should let each other know what their plans are.

Mr. Lashua will work on language changes and resubmit the M.O.U. to the Trustees and Dave Crawford. Mr. Crawford suggested an arrangement where a mediator is brought in if both sides cannot agree and if that doesn’t work, a three-person board of arbitrators would settle any disagreements.

John Lajza asserted that each of Village and Town zoning codes would govern, and that the proposed improvement plans must pass through the normal channels of planning and zoning. He also expressed that this is a golden opportunity for the Village and Town to cooperate and learn that working together can be possible and productive.

MOTION by Larry Yandow to indicate to the Town Selectboard that the Village wants a “unilateral” approach to the Tree Farm purchase (Village may start property division process without approval from the Town), **SECOND** by John Lajza. **VOTING:** 4 ayes; 1 nay; motion carried.

MOTION by Larry Yandow to authorize staff to bring back a new draft of the agreement for the Trustees to consider at the January 12th meeting, **SECOND** by John Lajza.

VOTING: 5 ayes; motion carried.

2. FY 11 Budget Work Session

The Board held a budget work session from 7:45 to 9:00 PM. Lauren Morrisseau, Dave Crawford and the Trustees reviewed the proposed FY 11 budget, and Dave is to make changes per the Board's discussion for consideration at the January 12th meeting.

Fire Chief Chris Gaboriault joined the meeting to discuss the Fire Department budget. He asserted that the volunteers have helped the budget by agreeing to a maximum monthly pay. He also explained that the Fire Department's ISO rating went down and we need funds to test hoses and pumps to get the rate back up.

Lauren Morrisseau explained that salaries and Social Security are going up as normal, and a part time accounting position was made full time in FY 10.

John Lajza noted that the postponement of budget items that are cut from this year's budget will not make them go away, they must be funded sometime in the near future.

Dave Crawford commented that the local option tax is a viable funding option, not a fantasy. The Local Option Tax Study Committee will be making a recommendation to the Trustees in January.

George Tyler stressed that Dave Crawford and the Board must make the voters aware of how much revenue the Village has lost from IBM as an explanation for a portion of the tax increase.

3. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

MOTION by Peter Gustafson, **SECOND** by George Tyler, that the Board of Trustees go into Executive Session to consider legal matters, contract negotiations and personnel matters where general public knowledge would clearly place the Village at a substantial disadvantage and to invite the Village Manager and Village Management Intern to attend.

VOTING: 5 ayes; motion carried. The board entered executive session at 9:03 p.m.

MOTION by Peter Gustafson, **SECOND** by John Lajza, to adjourn Executive Session. **VOTING:** 5 ayes; motion carried. Executive session adjourned at 9:45 p.m. No action was taken.

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Peter Gustafson, **SECOND** by John Lajza, to adjourn the meeting at 9:47 p.m. **VOTING:** 4 ayes; motion carried.