

**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
September 9, 2010**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Deborah Billado (President), Peter Gustafson, John Lajza, George Tyler (Larry Yandow was absent).
ADMINISTRATION: David Crawford, Village Manager
Jonathan Williams, Management Assistant

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/CALL TO ORDER

Deb Billado called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by George Tyler, **SECOND** by John Lajza, to go into Executive Session with Village Attorney David Barra to consider legal matters and contract negotiations where premature general public knowledge would clearly place the Village at a substantial disadvantage, and to invite the Village Manager, Dave Crawford, and Management Assistant, Jonathan Williams to attend. **VOTING:** 4 ayes; motion carried. Executive session was convened at 5:02 p.m.

MOTION by John Lajza, **SECOND** by Peter Gustafson to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene the special meeting. **VOTING:** 4 ayes; motion carried. No action was taken during Executive Session and the special meeting reconvened at 6:30 p.m.

3. GUESTS/COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC NOT ON AGENDA

Linda Waite-Simpson (chair of Prudential Committee) stated that a public referendum would be helpful in indicating a direction the public wants both boards to take on the issue of the recreation department. John Lajza stated that such a vote would not be binding. Deb Billado brought up the petition. Linda Waite-Simpson stated that the information issued with the petition was not accurate. John Lajza emphasized the need for more data before acting.

There was then general consensus on the need for an accurate timeframe before acting, and that an option for a temporary extension of the contract from 3-6 months was a useful idea. Linda Waite-Simpson stated that there was no need for a rush but John Lajza replied that the Trustees are trying to be responsive to the citizens of the Village. George Tyler stated that while he has great respect for the petition, the trustees are not entitled to push a timetable onto another board. Linda Waite-Simpson stated that the Recreation Department constitutes 1/4th of the total school district's budget and that any change would affect taxpayers negatively.

George Tyler stated that info agreed upon by the two boards in the light of a new timeframe must then be presented to public (some suggested at the annual meeting).

There then followed a conversation between Linda Waite-Simpson and Jeff Harton on the previous meetings discussing the petition, including the topic of 'baseball field lights'.

Again the need to establish a proper timeframe for gathering and presenting data was agreed upon by both the Trustees and Linda Waite-Simpson of the Prudential Committee. Dave Crawford stated that there should be a plan in place IF the Recreation Dept. is to come back to the Village government after July 1, 2011. Ninety days is not long enough to make a plan for a reasonable and thoughtful transition. A starting date of January for gathering data was established, potentially with a public forum following and then a decision on a plan by April, with a possible 3-6 month extension on the recreation department contract to allow for more flexibility in the action timeline.

4. WORK SESSION

The working draft letter from the Trustees was discussed and edited in the light of the meeting's discussions and revelations, with a sentence in the draft phrased by George Tyler regarding extensions. Further changes to the draft were suggested by Deb Billado on the issue of 'sub-committees', 'oversight' and 'the public'.

5. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by John Lajza, **SECOND** by George Tyler, to adjourn the special meeting at 7:30 p.m. **VOTING:** 4 ayes; motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jonathan Williams, Management Assistant