

**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF MEETING
December 14, 2010**

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

FY 12 BUDGET WORK SESSION

The Board held a budget work session from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Until the arrival of Village President, Deb Billado, Vice President, Peter Gustafson, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES

Add under 'Consent Agenda':

- Memo from Jim Jutras, dated 12/13/10, re" Blower Installation Programing by Control Technologies
- Essex Parade Committee Request for flyover at 2011 Memorial Day Parade

Add under 'Old Business':

- Village Organizational Chart with and without the Recreation Dept.

Add under 'New Business':

- Replacement of Water Meters

III. GUESTS AND PRESENTATION

1. Comments from Public on Items Not on Agenda

There were no comments from the public at this time.

2. Discussion of 2011 Legislative Priorities with Representatives

Representatives and Senators in attendance: Rep. Tim Jerman, Rep. Linda Waite Simpson, Sen. Sally Fox, Sen. Tim Ashe, Sen. Phil Baruth, Sen. Ginny Lyons.

Legislative priorities for Essex Junction:

1. Circumferential highway in its entirety and rejection of the 'no build' option. Tim Jerman pointed out the Environmental Protection Agency is causing delay of the highway. John Lajza stressed without the highway there is a safety issue relative to movement of emergency vehicles. Traffic congestion and limited number of bridge crossings over the river impede response time. The highway will provide another bridge across the Winooski River and reduce the number of vehicles on Route 2 and local roads, especially during commuter traffic times. There was mention of the volume of money being spent not to build the highway.
2. Rail upgrade to allow passenger service from Burlington to Essex Junction and heavier freight cars (\$3 million project). Dave Crawford mentioned initially

- special passenger service could be run on the track (during the fair, special events, and such). The rail improvement will also allow heavier freight loads. Federal money is already in hand at the state level (Jefford's earmark), but the funds are being eroded by inflation over time. A 20% match is needed and Rail America is willing to participate in the match. The Governor and legislature just need to say the project can go forward.
3. Supporting IBM through innovative projects for energy cost savings so the corporation will remain in the state. Sen. Lyons noted IBM is interested in Smart Grid legislation and will participate in the research of how technology can help improve energy efficiency and distribution. IBM's energy costs are enormous even with a decrease in usage (\$35 million for electricity per year and \$6.6 million for fuel per year). Dave Crawford mentioned steps being taken in the village toward energy efficiency, such as added insulation and new windows in buildings and conversion of methane into energy at the treatment plant. There are no solar or wind initiatives as yet. The upgrade of the treatment plant (\$15 million project) includes energy efficiencies. The town is pursuing energy initiatives with homeowners.
 4. Transfer of the 29 acre parcel of state owned land off West Street in the village. The state has developed a plan of use for the property which the village did not support. The highest and best use of the property should be discussed. Ideas include commercial development, open space, park and ride (for commuter train). Area residents presently enjoy use of the land as open space and community gardens.
 5. State aid to municipalities should not be cut and used to balance the state budget. John Lajza mentioned villages in the state are under stress, paying for both village and town services. Over the years the population has migrated from the village to the town requiring a duplication of services. Linda Waite Simpson stated there likely will not be any movement in the legislature on the issues facing villages because there are not enough villages existing in the state at this point in time. How to share costs and services equitably between the village and town needs to be discussed locally. Sen. Lyons added the conversation could be held at a regional level as well and could include sharing capital investments. Dave Crawford mentioned storm water issues and progress made by the village independently and by working with the town, noting the state testing and requirements are discouraging. Sen. Lyons agreed the state should pass a law mandating collaboration on storm water utilities.

Other issues that were discussed include the effort to clean up Lake Champlain. Dave Crawford pointed out the village has been proactive in managing phosphorous at the waste water treatment plant. Sludge will be land applied on the Whitcomb Farm which will keep phosphorous out of the lake and provide a good fertilizer for the land. Affordable housing was also discussed and the restrictiveness of the growth center law. The law needs to be more thoughtful of development in a community. There were no further comments.

MOTION by Deb Billado, SECOND by George Tyler, to take a five minute recess. VOTING: unanimous (5-0); motion carried.

The meeting recessed at 7:45 PM and reconvened at 7:50 PM.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. Review Prudential Committee EJRP Governance Questions

Linda Waite Simpson suggested the public forum on the governance issue be postponed until after the 1/10/11 Prudential Committee (anticipated information may be received by that point) and invited the Trustees to the budget workshops held by the Prudential Committee at the end of January. Ms. Waite Simpson also asked for a list of any information that was requested and not yet received. An official legal opinion from the Prudential Committee's attorney will be provided. Ms. Waite Simpson spoke in support of re-setting in 2011 and beginning anew to do what is best for the community. The consensus of the Trustees is in support of Ms. Waite Simpson's suggestions. Dave Crawford will work with Dr. Deweese on the schedule for the forum.

There was discussion of the governance questions from the Prudential Committee. Trustee Tyler will compile questions/comments forwarded by the Board and staff will prepare them for the 1/4/11 Trustees meeting.

2. Review Letter from Recreation Advisory Council 11/12/10

The Trustees will attend the public forum before addressing the questions from the Recreation Advisory Committee.

MOTION by Steve Atwood, SECOND by George Tyler, to table response to the 30 questions from the Recreation Advisory Committee relative to the Rec. Dept. governance. VOTING: 4 ayes, one abstention (Peter Gustafson); motion carried.

3. Information for Reference

- Letter to Prudential Committee along with the proposed extended agreement
- Recreation governance survey results

4. Appointment of Recreation Agreement Ad Hoc Committee and Define Role

It was noted the consultant is in the process of collecting information and the contract extension agreement creates an ad hoc committee of sorts.

MOTION by Steve Atwood, SECOND by George Tyler, to defer appointment of the Recreation Agreement Ad Hoc Committee until further notice. VOTING: 4 ayes, one abstention (Peter Gustafson); motion carried.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. Replace Water Meters

Dave Crawford recalled the discussion during review of the Village Manager's proposed budget of the need to replace the 20 year old water meters in the village. A plan to install

radio read meters has been drafted. Public Works can do the work during the winter months.

MOTION by Peter Gustafson, SECOND by John Lajza, to authorize staff to proceed with the details of implementing the water meter replacement plan as outlined in the memo, dated 12/14/10. VOTING: unanimous (5-0); motion carried.

VI. VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT

The Trustees received a written report on items from the Village Manager.

1. Meeting Schedule

- January 4 @ 6:30 – Special Trustees Meeting
- January 11 @ 6:30 – Regular Trustees Meeting
- January 18 @ 6:30 – Special Trustees Meeting
- January 25 @ 6:30 – Regular Trustees Meeting
- February 8 @ 6:30 – Regular Trustees Meeting
- February 22 @ 6:30 – Regular Trustees Meeting
- March 8 @ 6:30 – Regular Trustees Meeting
- March 22 @ 6:30 – Regular Trustees Meeting
- April 6 @ 7:00 – Village Annual Meeting
- April 12 @ 6:30 – Regular Trustees Meeting
- April 26 @ 6:30 – Regular Trustees Meeting

Special Meetings/Events:

- April 12 – Australian Ballot Voting for Annual Meeting

2. Employee Retirement (Bill Boccio)

An open house will be held December 30, 2010 (2 PM - 4 PM) to recognize Bill Boccio who is retiring after 32 ½ years of employment by the village. Mr. Boccio is the longest serving employee and may do some part-time work at the treatment plant. The vacancy will be advertised per village policy.

VII. TRUSTEES COMMENTS/CONCERNS

No comments.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA & READING FILE

MOTION by Peter Gustafson, SECOND by John Lajza, to approve the consent agenda as follows and with the addition of the blower installation information from Jim Jutras (memo, dated 12/13/10), request for a flyover at the Memorial Day Parade, and authorizing acknowledgement of any additional letters received indicating a position as a village resident on the Rec. Dept. governance issue, noting the Trustees are working on the matter:

- 1. Approve bill list**
- 2. Approve 2010 Annual Report dedication**
- 3. Reading List Acceptance (Letters & Communications)**
 - Article in December Champlain Business Journal re: CVE

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- Ad for vacancy on the Brownell Library Board

VOTING: unanimous (5-0); motion carried.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION and/or ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Peter Gustafson, SECOND by George Tyler, to adjourn until the next meeting in 2011. VOTING: unanimous (5-0); motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

RScty: M.E.Riordan