

**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF MEETING
August 25, 2009**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Deb Billado, George Tyler, Peter Gustafson, John Lajza.
(Larry Yandow was absent.)

ADMINISTRATION: Dave Crawford, Village Manager.

I. CALL TO ORDER and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

In the absence of Village President, Larry Yandow, Trustee Billado called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES

Dave Crawford acknowledged receipt of a copy of the communication to the Board of Trustees regarding permission to protest, but due to the late arrival the item was not added to the agenda.

III. GUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Comments from Public on Items Not on Agenda

Chris Chiquoine, village resident, confirmed he received the list of events at the fairgrounds including those granted waivers and those to be monitored. Mr. Chiquoine counted 20 events of which 12 will receive a waiver leaving eight events, but there are more than 20 event days at the fairgrounds. Dave Crawford mentioned the fair is a grandfathered event. Chris Chiquoine contended more waivers than specified in the noise agreement are being granted. There was further discussion of the number of events and waivers. Dave Crawford explained the days of the fair are grandfathered. The fair itself is not monitored, but the events on that day are counted as a waiver.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. Update on Pearl Street Streetscape and Paving Projects

Dave Crawford reported discussion is continuing with VTrans regarding ownership and control of Pearl Street. The state wants to maintain ownership because federal money was used on the road and the funds would have to be reimbursed if the ownership is transferred. VTrans is suggesting control of the road be the Village's jurisdiction except the storm water permits which would mean the Village will have to work with the state on drainage issues. The Village has concerns with the traffic light, continued Mr. Crawford. The light is scheduled to be replaced by the state. It is suggested the light remain on the state's replacement schedule and once the light is replaced then the Village will assume ownership. The time line is such that the road take over will occur in the fall so the earmark project (streetscape) can begin. State review is different if the road is owned by the municipality versus the state.

There was discussion of reducing the speed limit on Pearl Street once the road is owned by the village. It was noted the area is a construction zone presently and drivers should

slow down. Dave Crawford will investigate posting temporary construction signs with speed limits on them.

Dave Crawford reported the lane reconfiguration will not go into effect until after the fair. Also, the bump by the entrance to the fairgrounds will be leveled off to avoid traffic delays.

The budget for the streetscape project is \$2.6 million. An RFQ for a design engineer will be sent out the first week of September and the engineer hired by the end of September.

3. Recovery Act Projects

Dave Crawford report the Village received an energy grant for \$50,000. The grant will be used to replace windows and doors in Lincoln Hall and improve energy efficiency. Sawyer Joecks will investigate an Energy Star grant.

4. Railroad Upgrade Project

Dave Crawford reported staff continues to attend Rail Council and rail subcommittee meetings to promote the rail upgrade project. Legislative support is needed. At the recent ceremony for the Vermont Neighborhood development off Roscoe Court in the village, Trustee Lajza discussed the rail upgrade project with Gov. Douglas who confirmed his support and said the project is worth being added to the VTrans list of projects in order to be eligible for the earmarked funds. Scott Rogers with VTrans also confirmed the first draft of the Rail Division budget will include the project. If stimulus money is received to upgrade the rail line then earmarked funds will be freed up for use on other projects. Mr. Crawford also reported on recent conversations with rail officials and the Secretary of Transportation regarding the multi-use path and ideas for the Amtrak railroad station in Essex Junction (Village takes over ownership and improves the station then leases space to the railroad). On September 1, 2009 at 7:30 a.m. there will be a community meeting on ideas for improvements around the railroad station.

5. Local Option Tax Committee

Dave Crawford noted a letter was sent to Richard Westman, Vermont Tax Commissioner, regarding Essex Junction investigating a local option tax. Deb Billado reported the first meeting of the committee was held on 8/24/09. Discussion was mainly about the concept of a local option tax. Next meeting is at 6 p.m. on 9/10/09 at Lincoln Hall.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. Preparation for September Meeting with Essex Selectboard

Potential discussion items include the following:

- Tree Farm
- Town Office Location
- Shared Capital Funding (fire ladder truck)
- Collaboration of Economic Development
- Update of Town Plan and Role of Both Municipalities
- Joint Meeting Schedule & Communication Between Village and Town

Deb Billado stressed the importance of the tree farm acreage to the village. Dave Crawford will investigate the current status of the tree farm property.

Peter Gustafson suggested firming up a regular joint meeting schedule with the Village Planning Commission, the Essex Selectboard, and both school boards.

2. Board Priorities

Suggested items should be forwarded to Dave Crawford. A retreat will likely be scheduled in October.

VI. VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Meeting Schedule

- Sept. 8 @ 6:30 – Regular Trustees Meeting
- Sept. 22 @ 6:30 – Regular Trustees Meeting
- Oct. 13 @ 6:30 – Regular Trustees Meeting
- Oct. 27 @ 6:30 – Regular Trustees Meeting
- Nov. 10 @ 6:30 – Regular Trustees Meeting
- Nov. 24 @ 6:30 – Regular Trustees Meeting (Thanksgiving week)
- Dec. 8 @ 6:30 – Regular Trustees Meeting
- Dec. 22 @ 6:30 – Regular Trustees Meeting

2. Briefing Sen. Leahy's Office on Redevelopment Project

Staff will brief Sen. Leahy's Office on redevelopment project(s) in the village.

3. Vac-Con Truck

Public Works received the sewer and catch basin cleaner (vac-con truck). A sample of the sleeve pipe liner for water and sewer pipes was displayed. The sleeve is a cost effective way to repair compromised pipes because it can be inserted into a pipe without digging up the road.

4. West Street Project

The state employee working on the report for the West Street property was laid off so the Village did not have the input that was expected.

VII. TRUSTEES COMMENTS/CONCERNS

There were no comments from the Board.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA & READING FILE

MOTION by John Lajza, SECOND by George Tyler, to approve the consent agenda as presented below:

- 1. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting (8/11/09)**
- 2. Approve Warrants**
- 3. Approve 2009-2010 Employee Association Contract**
- 4. Award Bid for WWTF Sewage Pumps and Mixer**
- 4. Reading List Acceptance (Letters & Communications)**
 - **Zoning Board Minutes of 7/21/09**

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- Planning Commission Minutes of 7/16/09 and 8/6/09
 - Authorization for Speed, Traffic & Signalization Studies on Main Street, Pearl Street and Park Street
 - Invitation to Whitcomb Woods 30th Anniversary Celebration on 9/3/09
 - VLCT Town Fair Registration Packet for 10/1/09
 - Proposed VLCT Bylaw Changes

VOTING: 4 ayes; motion carried.

IX. 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, and potential budget changes related to personnel issues where premature general public knowledge would clearly place the Village at a substantial disadvantage, and to permit staff (i.e. Village Manager and intern, Sawyer Joecks) to be present for the session. **VOTING: 4 ayes; motion carried.**

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:45 p.m.

MOTION by John Lajza, **SECOND** by Peter Gustafson, to adjourn Executive Session. **VOTING: 4 ayes; motion carried.**

Executive Session was adjourned and the regular meeting reconvened at 9:49 p.m.

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by George Tyler, **SECOND** by Peter Gustafson, to adjourn the meeting. **VOTING: 4 ayes; motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

RScty: M.E.Riordan