MINUTES SUBJECT TO CORRECTION BY THE ESSEX JUNCTION BOARD OF TRUSTEES. CHANGES, IF ANY, WILL BE RECORDED IN THE MINUTES OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD.

VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES/ESSEX SELECTBOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING
August 9, 2010

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:	Deb Billado (Village President); John Lajza, George Tyler, Peter Gustafson. (Larry Yandow was absent.)
ESSEX SELECTBOARD:	Max Levy, Linda Myers, Irene Wrenner, Dave Rogerson, Bruce Post.
ADMINISTRATION:	Dave Crawford, Village Manager; Pat Scheidel, Town Manager; Trevor Lashua, Assistant Town Manager; Jonathan Williams, Jr., Village Manager Assistant.

CALL TO ORDER
Village President, Deb Billado, called the Trustees meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Essex Selectboard Chairman, Max Levy, called the Selectboard meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

WORK SESSION
A joint work session was held by the Village Trustees and the Essex Selectboard to discuss the following items of mutual interest:

FIRE DEPARTMENT LADDER TRUCK
Deb Billado stated the Essex Jct. Fire Dept.'s ladder truck is up for replacement. The fire departments in the village and town work well together providing fire protection services to the community. The village's ladder truck is used in the town as well. There is a joint service agreement for mutual aid. Both the village and town respond to calls. The village's ISO rating calls for an aerial truck. Of the total number of runs tallied last year for the ladder truck, 53 or 43% were in the village and 71 or 57% were in the town outside the village. The Trustees ask that the town outside the village join in the financing of the new truck estimated to cost up to $950,000 because the truck is community property. The town is being asked to consider covering 50% of the cost. Specifications for the new truck are being drafted now. Bid specs should be done by March 2011 and the bids opened by June, 2011. Delivery is anticipated in late 2011 or early 2012. Dave Crawford will forward an information packet to the town for review by the fire department. Deb Billado noted the Trustees asked the Essex Jct. Fire Chief to compile a comprehensive list of equipment in Chittenden County and a list of mutual aid agreements so the Trustees can get a snapshot of the equipment available in the county.

Trevor Lashua said the town has applied for a competitive grant to fund a fire truck and will know by the end of August which applicants remain under consideration. The grant is to fund a 100' ladder truck. Peter Gustafson stated the boards need to discuss if both communities need a truck or if one truck serving both communities is sufficient. Deb Billado observed if the town does not get the grant then the Trustees will know how to proceed. If the town receives the grant then further discussion will be needed.

POLICE FACILITY
Max Levy stated following the completion of the police facility analysis report the Selectboard discussed forming a five member committee to determine the best proposal. The committee would include a member from the Village Trustees, Town Selectboard, the police union president, and two citizens at-large. It is not appropriate for the Police Chief to participate in the decision on the proposal because the Police Chief will directly benefit from the facility. The Selectboard wanted the Trustees to review the analysis report before forming the committee. There was agreement and support of the approach to look at the big picture of what is best for the entire community. The need for a larger and improved police facility has been there for many years and it is time to move the matter forward. Specifications for the facility include a two-story building that can accommodate current department needs and some growth. The facility could be located on any piece of property (i.e. size specific, site indifferent). A capital earmark was used for the study. The town has accrued impact fees from developments for the police facility. Voter approval of the specific proposal is needed (via Australian ballot – one person, one vote). Public information meetings should also be held. Any forward movement on the police facility will speak loudly to the Police Department and public. Both boards concurred with forming a committee and moving the police facility project forward.

BRIDGE AT 81 MAIN STREET
Dave Crawford reported the bridge at 81 Main Street is deteriorating and may be a good candidate for the CCMPO process for repair/replacement (estimated cost of the bridge is $1.3 million). The village is requesting guidance from the Town Engineer, Dennis Lutz, on how to get through the grant process. The village is also requesting the project be put in both the village and town capital programs so the project can be pushed jointly. It is recognized that Dennis Lutz has had much success with the grant process. The village has not used the process, but plans to self-train and participate. VTrans inspected the bridge and felt the condition was not critical, but the village does not want the bridge to deteriorate to a crisis standpoint. The bridge is on a Class 1 road in the village.

Pat Scheidel asked about the possibility or leverage for help from the school district. George Tyler asked about the possibility of including the bridge in the renovation or upgrade of 81 Main Street for the police department. There was further discussion of the cost estimate and having the project go through the CCMPO process. Pat Scheidel said he will ask Dennis Lutz about in-kind services. The Selectboard will have to make the decision on staff time.

Bruce Post commented for the $1 million ladder truck, $5 million police facility, and $1.3 million bridge projects it is hoped the two municipal governments can economize to avoid continuing to increase the municipal property tax. At some point the issue of how to do things as a whole community needs to be engaged to be sensitive to those who pay the taxes. The boards concurred. John Lajza observed the boards need to look at how two capital budgets and capital expenses can be blended, especially with larger items such as storm water and replacement of fire trucks. Pat Scheidel affirmed capital requirements and infrastructure are where the focus should be. Dave Crawford mentioned

refurbishment of the waste water treatment plant which is projected to cost between $8 million and $12 million and the anticipated change in the sewer user rate. The nearly 30 year old facility is shared by Essex Junction, Essex Town, and Williston. Deb Billado suggested a 10-15 year forecast be done using the current municipal tax rates, average increases, and the impact of big projects.

OTHER ITEMS

Lincoln Inn Development Group

Deb Billado announced Alex McEwing and partners forming the Lincoln Inn Development Group will be presenting a substantial development proposal that includes 250 housing units, retail and commercial space, and underground parking in association with the crescent connector road. Traffic is a huge concern. The crescent road will be very helpful. Nearly 50% of the traffic volume through Five Corners travels on Route 2A, Route 117, and Route 15. The crescent connector will take that traffic out of Five Corners. CCMPO is doing a study of the crescent road proposal with and without the circumferential highway in place. A Tiger II grant is being sought. The Lincoln Inn Development Group project is a great collaborative effort and the largest construction project the village has seen in many, many years. The transit oriented design will be good for the village and town.

John Lajza commented the crescent road alleviates traffic congestion at Five Corners, but does not resolve the safety issue of access by emergency vehicles if the circ highway bridge is not built. The bridge is critical.

Circ Highway Resolution of Support

A copy of the draft resolution to be signed by the Trustees in support of the circ highway was provided to the Selectboard.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Deb Billado, SECOND by John Lajza, to adjourn the Village Board of Trustees meeting. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

MOTION by Linda Myers, SECOND by Irene Wrenner, to adjourn the Essex Selectboard meeting. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

The joint meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

RScty: M.E.Riordan