VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION WARNING INFORMATIONAL HEARING APRIL 7, 2021 AND ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 13, 2021

Informational Hearing Wednesday, April 7

[7:00 PM]

COVID-19 UPDATE: Due to the Covid-19, this meeting will be held remotely. Available options to watch or join the meeting:

- WATCH: The meeting will be live-streamed on Town Meeting TV.
- JOIN ONLINE: Join via Zoom Meeting https://zoom.us/j/95576633602?pwd=VFN4YWhYSUhvb3dNQ0NxT3INeU5tZz09
- JOIN CALLING: (646) 558-8656 US (New York), Meeting ID: 955 7663 3602, Passcode: 538553
- MODERATOR: All instructions for conduct of the hearing will be guided by the Moderator.

If you have difficulty accessing the hearing, please call (802) 878-1341 or email manager@essex.org.

The 2021 Village Annual Meeting will be held entirely by Australian ballot. A public informational hearing on the Articles to be voted on at Village Annual Meeting will be held according to 17 V.S.A. § 2680. **No voting will take place during this hearing.** If you wish to make a public comment but do not have the ability to comment remotely during the meeting, please email your comment(s) to the Unified Manager at manager@essex.org by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 6. Agenda will include discussion of articles and public to be heard.

Annual Meeting Tuesday, April 13

The legal voters of the Village of Essex Junction are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Essex Community Educational Center on Educational Drive in the Village of Essex Junction on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 to transact the following business by Australian ballot. Said voting by Australian ballot to begin at 7:00 AM and close at 7:00 PM.

ARTICLE 1. Shall the voters approve an annual General Fund Budget in the amount of \$5,641,278 for fiscal year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, \$3,745,866 of which is to be levied in taxes against the Village Grand List?

ARTICLE 2. Shall the Village authorize the transfer of the remaining balance in the Land Acquisition Fund, estimated balance to be approximately \$82,700, to the Economic Development Fund to be used for downtown development.

ARTICLE 3. Shall the voters approve extending the one cent Capital Improvement tax (also known as Economic Development tax), as established in 2016, to be reconsidered at annual meeting in 2024.

ARTICLE 4. Shall the annual stipend for the position of a Trustee of the Village Board of Trustees be raised from \$500 to \$1,000?

ARTICLE 5. Shall the voters approve holding the 2022 Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 6, 2022 to act upon any articles not involving voting by Australian ballot and to reconvene on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 to vote for the Village officers and transact any business involving voting by Australian ballot?

ARTICLE 6. By a non-binding resolution, shall the Essex Junction Board of Trustees be advised to draft a charter to create the independent City of Essex Junction, for consideration by the Village of Essex Junction voters no later than November 2021, should efforts seeking a vote for reconsideration on the issue of merger fail. We advise that the charter shall not include any union municipal districts, interlocal contracts, special tax districts or other relationships within the Town of Essex for the provision of Village Government services. The only exception may be for the consideration of police services.

ARTICLE 7. To elect Village officers required by law including: Moderator (one-year term); two Village Trustees (2 three-year terms); one Library Trustee (five-year term)?

Dated at Essex Junction, Vermont, this 9th day of March, 2021 by the Village Board of Trustees

Andrew P. Brown, President

George A. Tyler, Vice President

Raj D. Chawla, Trustee

Daniel S. Kerin, Trustee

Amber L. Thibeault, Trustee

VOTER INFORMATION NOTICE VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION - 2021 ANNUAL MEETING TOWN OF ESSEX - SPECIAL MEETING APRIL 13, 2021

Australian Ballot - Polling place and hours:

- Residents of the **Village** of Essex Junction vote at **Essex High School**, 2 Educational Drive, **Tuesday**, **April 13**, **2021**, **7 AM to 7 PM**.
- Residents of the **Town** outside of the Village of Essex Junction vote at **Essex Middle School**, 58 Founders Drive, Essex Junction, **Tuesday, April 13, 2021, 7 AM to 7 PM**

If you are voting in person and are unsure of your polling place, please call the town clerk's office at 879-0413, option 6.

A ballot box will be located outside the town clerk's office at 81 Main Street to deposit your mailed ballot.

Early/Absentee Ballots Requests and Deadline: ALL VOTERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO VERIFY THEIR MAILING ADDRESS BY GOING TO https://mvp.vermont.gov/ or email clerk@essex.org. Ballots will be mailed to all "active" voters. If you do not receive a ballot by March 29th call 879-0413, option 6, or email clerk@essex.org. Because the town office is closed to the public there will be no in-office early voting. Ballots must be returned by the close of polls (7:00 p.m. April 13th) in order to be counted. Ballots returned by April 7th will be processed on April 8th, 9th and 12th at the Town Clerk's office in accordance with 17 VSA, Chapter 51, §2546(a).

BE SURE TO FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS AND SIGN THE CERTIFICATE ON THE VOTED BALLOT ENVELOPE. BALLOT MUST BE RETURNED IN THE VOTED BALLOT ENVELOPE IN ORDER TO BE COUNTED. DO <u>NOT</u> IDENTIFY YOUR SELF ON THE BALLOT – THIS WILL INVALIDATE YOUR BALLOT AND YOUR VOTE WILL NOT BE COUNTED.

<u>Voter Registration</u>: Residents may register online at https://olvr.vermont.gov/, or at the polling place for same registration. All that is required for voter registration is your VT driver's license number, or if you do not have a VT driver's license, the last four digits of your social security number. For questions concerning voter registration, call the town clerk's office at 879-0413, option 6.

<u>Voting instructions at the polls</u>: Enter polls to check-in table, state name and street address, receive ballot, proceed and enter voting booth, mark your ballot in the voting booth (if you tear, deface of wrongly mark your ballot, return it to the election worker to receive another ballot), proceed to the ballot tabulator, cast ballot, exit polling area.

<u>Problems at the Polls:</u> Anyone needing assistance with voting or help with a problem at the polls should seek the assistance of the Presiding Officer.

<u>Campaigning During Polling Hours</u>: No candidate or other person may physically interfere with the progress of a voter to and from the polling place. No campaign advertisement may be displayed, placed, handed out or allowed to remain within the building containing a polling place. An election official or other person may not campaign, solicit voter or distribute campaign materials in the building containing a polling place.

For questions concerning this election, call Susan McNamara-Hill, Clerk, Village of Essex Junction and Town of Essex at 879-0413 option 6.