



VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION TRUSTEES
TOWN OF ESSEX SELECTBOARD
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Online
Essex Junction, VT 05452
Monday, January 25, 2021
6:30 PM

E-mail: manager@essexjunction.org

www.essexjunction.org

Phone: (802) 878-6951

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, **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 Microsoft Teams Meeting](#). Depending on your browser, you may need to call in for audio (below).
- **JOIN CALLING:** Join via conference call (*audio only*): (802) 377-3784 | Conference ID: 729 013 377#
- **PROVIDE FULL NAME:** For minutes, please provide your full name whenever prompted.
- **CHAT DURING MEETING:** Please use "Chat" to request to speak, only. **Please do not use for comments.**
- **RAISE YOUR HAND:** Click on the hand in Teams to speak or use the "Chat" feature to request to speak.
- **MUTE YOUR MIC:** When not speaking, please mute your microphone on your computer/phone.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** [6:30 PM]
2. **AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES**
3. **APPROVE AGENDA**
4. **PUBLIC TO BE HEARD**
 - a. Comments from Public on Items Not on Agenda
5. **BUSINESS ITEMS**
 - a. Essex CHIPS annual update -- David Voegele
 - b. Merger Cost Update (memo from Sarah)
 - c. Discussion on public outreach for merger vote (banners, websites, mailers, Teams informational meetings, Town Meeting TV)
 - d. Consider approval of mailing ballots for Town and Village annual meetings
6. **CONSENT ITEMS**
 - a. Approve minutes: January 11, 2021 – Selectboard only
7. **READING FILE**
 - a. Board member comments
 - b. Elections Bulletin - Emergency Annual Meeting Legislation and Directive
 - c. Email from Rep. Marybeth Redmond
 - d. Chittenden County RPC January Newsletter
 - e. Howard Center Community Outreach FY21 Q1 Report
 - f. Village postcard mailer
 - g. Memo from Sarah Macy re: COVID Related Grant Initiative Recap
 - h. Rebuttal to Town Meeting TV program originally aired Jan. 15
 - i. Upcoming meeting schedule
8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
 - a. An executive session is not anticipated
9. **ADJOURN**

Members of the public are encouraged to speak during the Public to Be Heard agenda item, during a Public Hearing, or, when recognized by the Chair or President, during consideration of a specific agenda item. The public will not be permitted to participate when a motion is being discussed except when specifically requested by the Chair or President. This agenda is available in alternative formats upon request. Meetings, like all programs and activities of the Village of Essex Junction and the Town of Essex, are accessible to people with disabilities. For information on accessibility or this agenda, call the Unified Manager's office at 878-1341 TTY: 7-1-1 or (800) 253-0191.

Certification: 1/22/2021



2020 Activities and Accomplishments in the COVID Era

Teen/Tween Center - Despite only 4 months of in-person programs, the Center has remained active and engaging. Remote activities via ZOOM have included: group discussions, hula hooping, DnD, arts and crafts, chef club, photo contests, scavenger hunts, guest speakers, one-one chats with youth workers, and games. The Teen Center is a founding member of the **Vermont Youth Center Alliance**.

Substance Use Prevention – CHIPS continues to host the **Essex Healthy Youth Coalition**, and is an active member of the **Chittenden Prevention Network**. We continue to be the technical assistance hub for the Agency on Education statewide school-based **Tobacco Use Prevention** efforts. Staff coordinate community education campaigns via social media regarding prevention of vaping, tobacco, prescription, alcohol, and marijuana use.

OutLet – CHIPS works in collaboration with the EWSD One Heart Club, and has supported the development and operation of a middle school **LGBTQ** group.

EYE – Staff have also supported the development of **Essex Youth Empowerment (EYE)**, a middle school group focused on preventing substance use and promoting youth empowerment.

Youth Mental Health First Aid Training – CHIPS continues to host these trainings which certified another 30 adults and older teens in **YMHFA** over the past year. Next training will be in March.

Quality Youth Development (QYD) – Having completed the design of this unique community certification process in 2019, which is intended to increase community support for youth in communities throughout New England (and beyond), CHIPS staff guided Middlebury and Essex through the certification process in 2020, for them to become the first **QYD Communities**. Brattleboro is expected to complete the certification process by June, and QYD activity is underway in Barre and Hinesburg through paid student interns.

Mentoring – The school-based FriendCHIPS program has been reinvented as a community-based mentoring initiative over the past several months. **We are actively recruiting mentors**. Services are currently conducted remotely.

TeenLine - Information & Referral (and “warm line”) services are particularly important to youth and adults who are anxious, lonely, or in distress during COVID. As of early February, TeenLine will become a statewide program, **serving youth and adults across Vermont**, from 1pm-5pm Monday – Friday.

Memorandum

To: Town Selectboard; Village Trustees; Evan Teich, Unified Manager
From: Sarah Macy, Finance Director/Assistant Manager
Re: Merger Cost Update, using FY22 data
Date: January 21, 2021

Issue:

This is an **informational memo** to update the Selectboard and Trustees on the estimated cost of merger using FY22 budget data and FY21 grand list data.

Discussion:

Original merger cost estimates were calculated using FY20 budget and grand list as that was the most current information at the time. Since then we have voter approved FY21 budgets, final FY21 grand list data, and are in the process of working on FY22 budgets. The FY22 budgets, while not approved yet, would eliminate the highway tax and move the Village rolling stock capital contribution into the Town budget two things that were included in the original merger cost estimate. Looking at a property assessed at \$280,000 in the Town outside the Village, using the FY22 proposed budgets (which have been reviewed but not approved by the boards as of writing this memo) I have looked at three scenarios to show what I think is the full range of the possible cost of merger. FY21 Grand List data unadjusted for stabilization is used as the baseline. Sidewalk district is estimated at cost each year, capital district is frozen at \$462,250, and debt is factored in at actual cost.

1. The high end of the range shows the cost assuming zero growth in the grand list and that the sidewalk and capital districts are moved into the Town budget in year 13 causing a final increase. The average is calculated over 13 years.
2. The middle range shows the cost assuming 1.25% annual growth in the Town grand list and assumes the sidewalk and capital district funding is moved into the full budget in year 13. The average is calculated over 13 years.
3. The low end of the range shows the cost assuming 1.25% annual growth in the Town grand list, 0.5% growth in the Village grand list, and assumes that the sidewalk and capital district funding is eliminated in year 13. The average is calculated over 12 years for the TOV and 13 years for the Village. This is because eliminating the sidewalk and capital district funding would have one final decrease to the Village but no final increase to the TOV.

TOV -- \$280k	Total Cost	Average Annual Cost
1. High Range	\$372	\$29
2. Middle Range	\$309	\$24
3. Low Range	\$259	\$22

You'll see that originally using a zero growth model produced numbers that fall between the middle range and the high range with the original estimate at \$330 for total cost and \$26 average annual cost to TOV. Updated impacts to Village properties are also shown here.

Village -- \$280k	Total Cost	Average Annual Cost
1. High Range	(\$567)	(\$44)
2. Middle Range	(\$630)	(\$48)
3. Low Range	(\$674)	(\$52)

Cost:

No cost

Recommendation:

Informational only.

High Range Data:

Grand List Growth, Town	0.00%
Grand List Growth, Village	0.00%

Merged Year:													Distict Bump?
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	

	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31	FY32	FY33	FY34	FY35	FY35
Grand List (adjusted)																	
Town	26,482,155	26,832,397	26,832,397	26,832,397	26,832,397	26,832,397	26,832,397	26,832,397	26,832,397	26,832,397	26,832,397	26,832,397	26,832,397	26,832,397	26,832,397	26,832,397	26,832,397
TOV																	
Village		11,164,103	11,164,103	11,164,103	11,164,103	11,164,103	11,164,103	11,164,103	11,164,103	11,164,103	11,164,103	11,164,103	11,164,103	11,164,103	11,164,103	11,164,103	11,164,103
Village, w/stabilization		11,115,164	11,184,486	11,148,194	11,164,103	11,164,103	11,164,103	11,164,103	11,164,103	11,164,103	11,164,103	11,164,103	11,164,103	11,164,103	11,164,103	11,164,103	11,164,103
<i>Village stabilization void at merger</i>																	

	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31	FY32	FY33	FY34	FY35	FY35
				Projected Increase FY23	0.00%												
Village Tax Levy	3,556,422	3,670,039	3,737,566	3,737,566	2,705,077	2,459,161	2,213,245	1,967,329	1,721,413	1,475,497	1,229,580	983,664	737,748	491,832	245,916	-	-
Less:																	
Sidewalk District	(125,000)	(125,000)	(125,000)	(125,000)	119,768	122,261	124,827	127,471	130,194	132,999	135,888	138,864	141,929	145,086	148,337	151,686	-
Capital Transfer	(365,414)	(401,955)	(462,248)	(462,250)	462,250	462,250	462,250	462,250	462,250	462,250	462,250	462,250	462,250	462,250	462,250	462,250	-
Debt District	(313,560)	(202,734)	(199,325)	(195,550)	191,479	187,205	182,781	178,217	173,523	168,716	163,812	158,808	153,689	148,483	143,195	137,833	-
Adjusted Village Tax Levy	2,752,448	2,940,350	2,950,993	2,954,766	3,478,574	3,230,876	2,983,103	2,735,267	2,487,380	2,239,462	1,991,531	1,743,586	1,495,616	1,247,651	999,698	751,769	-

Annual Impact; cummlative -- this is important for when factoring in grand list growth	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08		
		245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08		
			245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08		
				245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08		
					245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08		
						245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08		
							245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08		
								245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08		
									245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08		
										245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08		
											245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08		
												245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08		
													245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08		
														245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08		
															245,916.08	245,916.08	245,916.08		
																245,916.08	245,916.08		
																	245,916.08		
																		245,916.08	
																			151,686.19 sidewalk
																			462,250.00 capital
					245,916.08	491,832.17	737,748.25	983,664.33	1,229,580.42	1,475,496.50	1,721,412.58	1,967,328.67	2,213,244.75	2,459,160.83	2,705,076.92	2,950,993.00	3,564,929.19		

FY20: \$	229,370.67
FY21: \$	245,029.17
FY22: \$	245,916.08

TOV IMPACT	Tax Rate:	0.0092	0.0183	0.0275	0.0367	0.0458	0.0550	0.0642	0.0733	0.0825	0.0916	0.1008	0.1100	0.1329
\$280k home	Cummulative:	\$ 25.66	\$ 51.32	\$ 76.99	\$ 102.65	\$ 128.31	\$ 153.97	\$ 179.63	\$ 205.29	\$ 230.96	\$ 256.62	\$ 282.28	\$ 307.94	\$ 372.01
	Annual Change:	\$ 25.66	\$ 25.66	\$ 25.66	\$ 25.66	\$ 25.66	\$ 25.66	\$ 25.66	\$ 25.66	\$ 25.66	\$ 25.66	\$ 25.66	\$ 25.66	\$ 64.07
														Total: \$ 372.01
														Average: \$ 28.62
VILLAGE IMPACT	Tax Rate:	0.3208	0.3077	0.2947	0.2817	0.2686	0.2556	0.2426	0.2295	0.2165	0.2034	0.1903	0.1773	0.1329
\$280k home	Cummulative:	\$ 898.14	\$ 861.64	\$ 825.15	\$ 788.65	\$ 752.15	\$ 715.65	\$ 679.15	\$ 642.65	\$ 606.16	\$ 569.66	\$ 532.88	\$ 496.38	\$ 372.01
	Annual Change:	\$ (40.70)	\$ (36.50)	\$ (36.50)	\$ (36.50)	\$ (36.50)	\$ (36.50)	\$ (36.50)	\$ (36.50)	\$ (36.50)	\$ (36.50)	\$ (36.78)	\$ (36.50)	\$ (124.37)
														Total: \$ (566.83)
														Average: \$ (43.60)

Memorandum

To: Village Trustees and Town Selectboard; Evan Teich, Unified Manager
From: Linda Mahns, Administrative Assistant; Tammy Getchell, Assistant to the Manager
Re: Public outreach on merger vote
Date: January 22, 2021

Issue

The issue is to update the Selectboard and Trustees on the public outreach on the Town merger vote.

Discussion

In an effort to inform and synchronize the outreach efforts by the Village Trustees and the Town Selectboard to inform the public about the Plan of Merger and the proposed Charter for merged municipalities, we are providing the boards with the following bullet lists:

Steps taken to date:

- Town has completed a 52-page mailer booklet that will be mailed to Town households with the expectation that it will arrive in residents' mailboxes by 2/19.
- Village has completed a mailer postcard to be mailed to Village households clarifying that Village residents are also Town residents and may vote on merger on March 2. This will be mailed on with the expectation that it will arrive in residents' mailboxes by 2/19.
- Banners are being printed for 3, possibly 4 locations: Lincoln Hall, 81 Main Street office, Recreation at 75 Maple St., and possibly Essex Free Library. The banners will announce the date of the informational meeting as well as the date to vote in March.
- Updates to www.greateressex2020.org, www.essexjunction.org, and www.essexvt.org have started and will be ongoing. All three websites will feature upcoming important dates and copies of both versions of the proposed Charter.
- Town Meeting TV program airing [Essex Ballot Item – The Merger](#).

Planned efforts include:

- Town and Village Employee Discussion and Q & A on Merger to allow employees an opportunity to ask questions and discuss. Employees will be able to submit questions anonymously and later join board members in an online informational event.
- Town and Village annual reports will include excerpts from the mailer booklet and the Village postcard.

For possible discussion:

- Online informational events for the public to discuss and ask questions (who will attend, materials used, dates)
- Town Informational meeting on March 1 (previously part of Annual Meeting, but will be completely online and informational only)

Cost

N/A

Recommendation

This memo is for discussion purposes.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Trustees/Selectboard and Evan Teich, Unified Manager
FROM: Susan McNamara-Hill, Village Clerk
DATE: January 25, 2021
SUBJECT: Early/Absentee ballots

Issue

The issue is whether or not the Board of Trustees and Selectboard will approve mailing ballots to all active registered voters as allowed under H.48 as approved and signed by the Governor.

Discussion

Vermont election laws require that any early or absentee ballots mailed to voters must be requested by the voter. Due to COVID-19, the legislature has enacted and the Governor has signed a bill allowing municipalities to mail ballots to all active registered voters:

“(2) permit municipalities to mail out 2021 annual meeting early voter absentee Australian ballots to all active registered municipal voters to encourage absentee voting and thereby reduce exposure to COVID-19;”

Cost

There will be significant expenses in printing additional ballots and the cost of mailing. The state has provided Essex with enough envelopes to mail ballots. The postage costs for the town meeting will be approximately \$17,825 to mail ballots and provide return postage on return envelopes. The postage costs for the village election will be shared with the school district. The legislature has appropriated \$2 million to help municipalities with the costs associated with printing ballots, mailing and outreach. The details of how the funds will be distributed to municipalities is not yet available.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that both boards approve mailing ballots for both the town and village meetings to all active registered voters as allowed under H.48.

(B) many municipalities want to continue their custom of conducting annual meetings using floor votes.

(b) Intent and purpose. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the citizens of Vermont should be able to protect their health, safety, and welfare while also continuing to exercise their right to participate in annual municipal meetings. Accordingly, the purpose of this act is to:

(1) permit municipalities to move the date of their 2021 annual meeting to a potentially safer date later in the year;

(2) permit municipalities to mail out 2021 annual meeting early voter absentee Australian ballots to all active registered municipal voters to encourage absentee voting and thereby reduce exposure to COVID-19; and

(3) authorize the Secretary of State to order or permit supplemental elections procedures related to these 2021 annual municipal meeting provisions.

(c) Intent for the cooperation of municipalities. It is the intent of the General Assembly that municipal officials, including boards of civil authority and municipal clerks, shall cooperate with and assist school districts and other incorporated districts with the administration of annual district meetings and budget votes.

TOWN OF ESSEX
SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
Monday January 11, 2021

SELECTBOARD: Elaine Haney, Chair; Vince Franco; Dawn Hill-Fleury; Patrick Murray; Andy Watts

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Evan Teich, Unified Manager; Tammy Getchell, Assistant to the Manager; Ron Hoague, Chief of Police; Sarah Macy; Finance Director / Assistant Manager; Linda Mahns, Administrative Assistant; Harlan Smith, Grounds & Facilities Director

OTHERS PRESENT: John Alden; Gilman Allen; Andrew Brown; Jeanne Bull; Diane Clemens; Annie Cooper; Patty Davis; Tracey Delphia; Erin Dickinson; Karen Dolan; Betsy Dunn; Allen Gilman; Sayamwong Hammak; Sachi Hergesheimer; Dan House; Adam Kavanaugh; Max Levy; Reese Marin; Linda Meyers; Timothy Miller; Hubert Norton; Jayne O'Connell; Brian Shelden; Ken Signorello; Harlan Smith; Margaret Smith; Daryl Stultz; Sara Stultz; Liz Subin; Mike Sullivan; Mike Thorne; Tom Torti; Melanie Tupaj; George Tyler; Corey Wood; Irene Wrenner; Sharon Zukowski; Alison; Heidi; Matt

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Haney called the Essex Selectboard to order at 6:30 PM.

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS/ CHANGES

Mr. Teich requested an additional document for agenda item 6b: *Draft Essex Merger Charter compared changes document (11/16/2020 version to 1/11/2021 version)*. He also requested the addition of agenda item 8g: *Letter from Andrew Brown, President to Town of Essex Selectboard re: Please Vote Yes on Merger Plan*. He requested an additional handout be included with 8g: *Letter from Andrew Brown sent by email on 1/9/2021 to Town of Essex Selectboard re: Please Vote Yes on Merger Plan*.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

VINCE FRANCO made a motion, seconded by DAWN HILL-FLEURY, to approve the agenda, as amended. The motion passed 5-0.

4. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

a. Comments from Public on Items Not on Agenda

Ms. Dunn wondered whether a meeting needed to be warned, if more than three Selectboard members are anticipated for the upcoming school board meeting. Ms. Haney clarified that Selectboard members would be attending as guests, so a warning is not required.

5. PUBLIC HEARING

b. Public Hearing on addition to Title 7, Motor Vehicles, Traffic and Parking, of the Municipal Ordinance, Section 7.12.015 to change speed limit on portion of Sand Hill Road from 30 mph to 25 mph.

Ms. Haney opened the public hearing at 6:35 PM.

Ms. Dunn said she liked the idea of changing the speed limit on Sand Hill Road and suggested extending the reduced speed limit to the intersection of Route 15.

Ms. Cooper requested that people turn off their videos, to alleviate distractions, if they were not called on to speak during public speaking times in this meeting.

53 Ms. Clemens said more clarity of location, based on addresses, would help people know where
54 the speed change would begin. She suggested the change be on Sand Hill Road, extending from
55 Allen Martin Parkway to Route 15 because of the high number of pedestrians. She also suggested
56 that strategies be implemented to educate people on the speed limit change so it is not ignored.
57

58 Ms. Haney closed the Public Hearing at 6:39 PM.
59

60 **6. BUSINESS ITEMS**

61 a. **Consider approval on addition to Title 7, Motor Vehicles, Traffic and Parking, of the**
62 **Municipal Ordinance, Section 7.12.015 to change speed limit on portion of Sand Hill Road**
63 **from 30 mph to 25 mph.**

64 Mr. Lutz talked with the Selectboard about the proposed speed limit reduction change. He said a
65 completed traffic study supported the reduced speed limit and location. He recommended that the
66 Selectboard approve the municipal ordinance change at this meeting, and if they wanted to
67 consider expanding it further down the road, to conduct that business at a later date. Mr. Watts
68 said posted signs already installed can begin flashing lights to notify drivers of the reduced speed.
69 Mr. Murray wondered if a crosswalk was considered for Sand Hill Road. Mr. Teich said the traffic
70 study revealed an issue with the line of sight, which would preclude implementing a crosswalk.
71

72 **VINCE FRANCO made a motion, seconded by DAWN HILL-FLEURY, that the Selectboard**
73 **approve the final passage of the additional provision to Title 7 Motor Vehicles, Traffic and**
74 **Parking, of the Municipal Ordinance, Chapter 7.12, Section 7.12.015, as written, to change the**
75 **speed limit on portion of Sand Hill Road from 30 mph to 25 mph, to become effective**
76 **immediately. The motion passed 5-0.**
77

78 b. **Consider approval of the Plan for Merger of the Town of Essex and Village of Essex**
79 **Junction and the proposed Charter for the merged communities.**

80 Ms. Haney introduced the issue of whether to approve the Plan for Merger and proposed Charter
81 for the merged communities. She said the Selectboard already approved for staff to prepare to
82 place the merger question on the March ballot and Village voters already passed a version of the
83 Charter. She stated that if the Town version of the Charter also passes, both versions would go to
84 the legislature where Government Operations (Gov. Ops.) would help reconcile them. Mr. Teich
85 said the plan for merger and proposed charter were devised through research, negotiation, and
86 discussions with the public as well as help from a separate attorney.
87

88 Mr. Brown read his letter regarding this agenda item on behalf of the Town residents who live in
89 the Village. He encouraged the Selectboard to approve their proposed Charter knowing that the
90 Legislature can help to reconcile the two Charter versions. He said the Selectboard's version is
91 good and talked about the work as well as the negotiations that went into the process of crafting it.
92

93 Mr. Tyler discussed the proposed charter's Special District and Tax Reconciliation Plan. He said
94 these strategies received positive reviews from: the Gov. Ops, legal counsel, the VT Tax
95 Department, and Essex State delegates. He said the process of devising this Plan for Merger and
96 Charter included compromises and withstood the test of time and scrutiny. He said charters are
97 living documents: never perfect but able to be changed. He requested the Selectboard approve
98 the Plan for Merger and proposed Charter as written.
99

100 Mr. House said he is a 16-year resident of the Town outside the Village (TOV), who served on the
101 school board for 7 years and during the school merger vote. He said it is time for the Plan for
102 Merger and proposed Charter to be put on the ballot so voters can decide for or against it.
103

104 Mr. Sullivan acknowledged how far the working sessions on the charter and proposed merger
105 have come. He agreed with Mr. House's comments and said, "a vote delayed is a vote denied."
106

107 Mr. Smith requested that the proposed Charter and Merger plan be put to a public vote. He said
108 he respects the charter's 3+3 governance model but does not have a preference. He requested
109 Selectboard members explain their reasoning if they vote to not approve the Charter.
110

111 Ms. Davis said she does not trust the current leaders and disagrees with the Selectboard's at-
112 large configuration. She said no solutions are included in the plan to positively effect Town outside
113 the Village (TOV) residents. She said these residents have been scrutinized and she demanded
114 equal voice representation with some shared services with the Village.
115

116 Mr. Torti said he has been a TOV resident since 1989 and served the municipality in various
117 capacities. He said he believes the municipal leaders and elected officials are people of good faith
118 and good will who want to make Essex better. He said voters are urging the elected officials to be
119 able to have a voice, so the merger should be put on the ballot.
120

121 Mr. Levy said he is a TOV resident who was on the Selectboard for 12 years, as chair for 5 years.
122 He said, "There is never a perfect document because perfection is a subjective concept." He
123 stated the elected officials wanted to plan for a bright future through opportunities within the
124 merger and proposed Charter. He requested the Selectboard unanimously vote for it and let the
125 voters decide.
126

127 Ms. Meyers said she was also a former chair of the Selectboard. She urged the Selectboard to put
128 the proposed Charter on the ballot because it can provide unification. She said the merger
129 decision should now be made by the voters and if changes are warranted to the Charter the
130 legislature can make them. She requested unanimous approval by the Selectboard.
131

132 Mr. Sheldon seconded the former Selectboard members' requests for the Selectboard to
133 unanimously approve the proposed Charter for a vote.
134

135 Ms. Cooper agreed with speakers' kind words of the elected officials. She said she never
136 questioned the Selectboard members' trustworthiness or integrity. She requested their unanimous
137 vote for the proposed Charter. She acknowledged that the 3+3 governance model stalled the
138 process but she and others are now ready to support it with their vote in March.
139

140 Mr. Allen said he also trusts the elected leadership and he trusts the voters. He agreed that a vote
141 delayed is a vote denied.
142

143 Mr. Norton said that the current COVID-19 restrictions would exclude people from the opportunity
144 of full discussion of the Charter at an open meeting. He requested the vote be postponed until
145 next year, not as a statement against the document, but so members of the public can engage.
146

147 Ms. Subin said that, while serving as the School Board's Clerk, she learned about how a merger
148 can take place. She requested that the Selectboard allow voters to decide on the Town's Plan of
149 Merger and proposed Charter, now that so much hard work has been put into it.
150

151 Ms. Dolan said that over 3000 Town voters--who live inside the Village--want a merger to pass.
152 She said it is time to move forward with a vote and residents are very engaged. She commented
153 that more people appeared to be discussing and learning about the merger in virtual Selectboard
154 meetings than when meetings were in-person, and there have been many social media
155 discussions on the topic.
156

157 Ms. Stultz agreed with statements made regarding moving ahead with the proposed Charter vote.
158 She acknowledged municipal leaders' years of hard work on it and countered statements of
159 mistrust that suggested outside the box ideas were not included. She demanded the opportunity
160 to vote for tax equity.
161

162 Ms. Wrenner requested the vote be postponed to allow for greater public debate. She said not
163 enough people have shown up to discuss the complexities of the Plan for Merger because
164 people's lives have been disrupted by COVID-19.
165

166 Ms. Marin said there is no perfect time for a meeting, when every resident can attend, and the
167 merger vote was supposed to be in November but was postponed. She requested the vote take
168 place in March because if it is not on the ballot people cannot share their voices.
169

170 Mr. Signorello said many people in the Town are not online so if they receive a ballot in the mail it
171 may be their first time hearing about the merger. He said he did not think many will be informed.
172

173 Ms. Dunn requested the Selectboard use strategies to reach out to people who do not have
174 access to computers. She suggested they send the full document to all homes in Essex.
175

176 Ms. Clemens agreed that the Plan of Merger and proposed Charter should be sent to all voters
177 because she thinks many cannot go online. She stated that before Australian ballot, people could
178 not attend Town meeting to vote but if information is sent, voters will be able to decide on Merger.
179

180 Ms. Zukowski suggested that, instead of sending the whole, lengthy document to everyone, each
181 individual should be sent a one-page summary that includes directions for how to get a copy of
182 the document from the Town Office.
183

184 Ms. Delphia said most people surveyed by KSV (toward the beginning of this Merger's planning)
185 said they wanted information to be directly mailed to them.
186

187 Ms. Smith said she was having trouble accessing this meeting by computer so she called in. She
188 said, as a resident of the TOV, she always felt excluded from Village happenings but is concerned
189 by the tax increase to TOV residents in the Plan for Merger. She said the final Charter must have
190 a 3+3 governance model and suggested the vote be delayed so people can engage in-person.
191

192 Ms. Haney thanked the public for their engagement and invited the Selectboard to discuss the
193 Plan for Merger and proposed Charter.
194

195 Mr. Watts and Ms. Hill-Fleury talked about why they believed the Plan for Merger and proposed
196 Charter were not ready for their votes. Mr. Watts said that although charters do not have to be
197 perfect and could be changed in future, he had concerns with the Sidewalk and Capital District
198 strategies. He said he did not think the Sidewalk District would save enough money to individual
199 taxpayers for the challenge of implementing it. He said he could not justify it to the public while it
200 was unclear whether the funding mechanism would need to be recalculated year-to-year or if it
201 could be one cost, broken up over 12 years. He also was concerned with the wording of the
202 Sidewalk District in the Charter because some plowing--like at the library-- seemed to be beyond
203 its' scope. Ms. Haney, Mr. Richardson, and Mr. Teich discussed Mr. Watts' concerns with him.
204 Ms. Haney said the planned \$125,000 cost of the Sidewalk District was included as a fixed cost
205 each year. Mr. Teich said it was calculated for two full-time employees, plus machines, road
206 supplies, and overtime. Mr. Murray said the Sidewalk District was included as one of the
207 strategies to bring down the tax burden to the TOV as much as possible. Mr. Richardson
208 explained that funding toward the Sidewalk District should be attributed to costs associated with

209 the district but related activities within the district are legally acceptable. Mr. Watts also said he
210 was concerned that the plan's Capital District would be for 12 years, but the current Village
211 Capital Plan is written for 5 years. Ms. Hill-Fleury said she thought the Charter should not go to
212 vote until ordinances are aligned and she sees clear gains to the TOV residents through merger.
213

214 Mr. Franco, Mr. Murray, and Ms. Haney discussed what they saw as the Plan for Merger and the
215 proposed Charter's strengths. Mr. Franco said the Merger Plan was solid and the Charter was a
216 well thought-out document which could establish a good place to start a merged community. Mr.
217 Murray said major concerns were addressed through research and compromise while crafting the
218 Plan and the proposed Charter. He said he was satisfied that tax inequity in Essex could be
219 solved as a single community where residents could have access to equal services. Mr. Murray
220 said he believed the vote should not be postponed again and accessibility to information on the
221 vote should include multiple strategies to overcome technology barriers. Ms. Haney said the
222 proposed Charter outlined plans for each aspect of merger with next steps for the transition and
223 long-run. She said it would establish: one budget in the Town; streamline finances and operations;
224 implement solutions for tax inequities and paying for infrastructure; and provide equal access for
225 residents to services, including Parks and Rec. childcare. She also noted that the charter would
226 establish same-day voting for the school and Town budgets.
227

228 **VINCE FRANCO made a motion, seconded by PATRICK MURRAY, that the Selectboard finalize**
229 **and approve the Plan of Merger of the Town of Essex and Village of Essex Junction and the**
230 **proposed Charter for the merged communities dated January 11, 2021, before warning a vote**
231 **for the ballot in March. The motion passed 3-2 by roll call, with Andy Watts and Dawn Hill-**
232 **Fleury dissenting.**
233

234 **c. Consider approval of merger vote informational materials**

235 Ms. Haney asked the Selectboard to consider approving a mailing of informational materials as a
236 booklet to include: a copy of the Charter and a summary; explanations of taxation, timeline, and
237 districts; the Plan for Merger's history and answers to other Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).
238 Mr. Teich explained the printing timeline for it to be ready in time for early and absentee voting.
239 Ms. Hill-Fleury suggested revisions to fix redundancies. Mr. Watts said he emailed suggested
240 revisions. He requested clarification of the cost. Mr. Teich said the cost would be \$4,733 to print
241 and \$1,775 to ship, in addition to staff time. He thanked Ms. Mahns for her efforts on the
242 documents. Ms. Haney said a vote on the document would take place once it is revised.
243

244 Ms. Dunn asked if anyone could submit recommendations for changes to the materials and Ms.
245 Haney said suggestions could be shared with the board members who would decide what to
246 include or not include.
247

248 Ms. Cooper requested people not speak out of turn in the virtual meeting's chat window and to,
249 instead, make comments when public comments are requested.
250

251 Ms. Wrenner said that, because there is already one Town of Essex, language used in written
252 materials, or when the Selectboard members are speaking, should not suggest otherwise.
253

254 **d. Consider approval of Fiscal Year 2020 Fund Balance Assignments – Sarah Macy**

255 Ms. Macy introduced the issue of assigning FY2020 fund balance. She explained: the Town's
256 Fund Balance Policy; reviewed non-spendable and restricted fund balance items; explained
257 reasons for fund balance in existing budget categories; and described funding reassignments. Mr.
258 Teich talked about planning initiatives and outstanding bills that will continue to spend down
259 funds. Mr. Watts said he would like budgeted money to be accurate and spent for its intended
260 purposes. He verified with Mr. Teich and Ms. Macy about specific areas where money will be

261 spent by the end of the year. He pointed out that Merger-related costs and K9 Supplies
262 assignments could impact the FY2022 budget. He wondered if FY2022 budget requests related to
263 COVID contingencies could be filled using fund balance instead of adding them to the FY2022
264 budget. Ms. Macy discussed proposed FY2022 fund balance assignments to future tax reduction
265 and transfer to capital. Mr. Watts wondered if \$50,000 could be used from the existing \$93,721
266 assigned for future tax reduction. Ms. Haney tabled approval of the fund balance assignments,
267 until after item 6d, to determine if any other funds could be used in the reassignment for tax
268 reduction.
269

270 Ms. Dunn requested that funds be made available to use by the Board of Civil Authority (BCA) for
271 property tax abatement and wondered if fund balance assignment could be used for this purpose.
272 Mr. Murray said strict rules required the BCA, once they voted to not abate the first COVID related
273 case, to adhere to the same determination for other similar claims thereafter. Ms. Dunn said the
274 first determination--to not approve abatement on the basis of COVID--was influenced by concerns
275 that so many people might approach the BCA with similar cases that there would not be enough
276 money to cover them all. She said money should be available for the BCA so that in the future,
277 concerns about lack money do not influence setting a precedent to not abate.
278

279 Mr. Signorello said the recurrence of unspent, budgeted funds, to hire Town police officers, should
280 not be rolled into another fiscal budget. He said he was glad most of the fund balance is
281 recommended to go back to taxpayers. He agreed with Ms. Dunn about BCA funds for abatement.
282

283 Ms. Wrenner requested that the Selectboard should try to minimize how much fund balance will
284 be left unassigned to allow more money for taxpayers.
285

286 Ms. Smith suggested that if new police or CDL snowplow candidates are not available in Vermont,
287 Essex should consider applicants from other states.
288

289 **e. Continue Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Work Session**

290 Ms. Macy proposed a list of suggested adjustments to the FY2022 Town General Fund budget
291 presented Monday January 4, 2020. She talked about the driving forces for the FY2022 budget
292 increase. She proposed: decreases to the police salaries and benefits budget line and the CCRP
293 budget; increases to the GMT contribution; and increases to Non-tax revenue from the
294 Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). She said this would reduce the estimated tax rate, to be
295 a 3% increase over FY2021. She introduced additional budget adjustment proposals for the
296 Selectboard to consider that could result in only a 2.5 % increase over the FY2021 tax rate.
297

298 Mr. Watts said he also had suggestions for budget adjustments, mostly based on history of
299 spending vs. current requests that may result in an additional of \$30,000 in savings. He
300 questioned the cost of off-year election expenses at the rate of \$20,000. He also noted potential
301 savings in K-9 supplies and landfill certification. The Selectboard agreed to consider Mr. Watts full
302 list during the meeting in order to determine the exact amount of FY2021 fund balance left to be
303 used for tax reduction. Mr. Franco suggested changing the FY2022 tax reduction to \$400,000 and
304 assign \$200,000 for tax reduction in future years. Ms. Macy talked about risk tolerance when
305 determining an amount tax rate offset amounts. Mr. Watts and Mr. Franco discussed how 15% of
306 unassigned fund balance is supposed to be used to address emergencies. They talked about the
307 role the Selectboard plays in determining assignments. They considered how risk adverse the
308 budget would need to be over then next few years. Mr. Teich said Essex's highest risk is property
309 tax income because the budget relies 90% on this. Ms. Getchell suggested that if the Selectboard
310 did not approve the budget at this meeting a special meeting may need to be warned in order to
311 avoid bumping up against deadlines for budget hearings in time for the public vote.
312

Ms. Haney called a meeting recess at 9:46 PM and called the meeting back to order at 9:50 PM.

Ms. Haney invited Ms. Macy to go through and consider Mr. Watts' list of proposed budget changes. Mr. Murray and Mr. Franco expressed concern with making changes to the budget without input from department heads. Ms. Macy considered and talked about each of Mr. Watts' cost reduction suggestions in: admin and Community Development printing and binding; election expenses; IT capital; assessment's budget for advertising; Economic Development; canine supplies; admin travel; Parks and Rec. small tools and equipment; Senior Center purchased services; Library rental equipment, trainings/ conferences, and tech subscriptions; landfill expenses; public admin building expenses; stormwater purchased services; the Village highway fund transfer and Selectboard merger related expenses. Upon discussion, it was determined that the suggested changes to the bigger line items were not possible. Only \$2,000 of reductions were made, which did not result in changes to the FY2021 Fund Balance. Ms. Macy agreed to add \$2,500 from the Landfill Budget to the fund balance assignment. She said the budget changes resulted in a 2.1% tax rate increase over FY2021. She said the budget's bottom line is a 4% increase over the previous year, mostly from new initiatives, and a change to the Human Services budget.

Mr. Signorello stated that because the Town underspent the budget by \$780,000 and has a track record of underspending each year, the suggestion to reduce the FY2022 budget by \$300,000 should be more seriously considered. He recommended if the Selectboard sees a need to save money to be used for future emergencies, they might want to adjust the 15% fund balance assignment rate.

Ms. Cooper agreed with the decision to not decrease the Clerk's election budget without input from Ms. McNamera-Hill.

Ms. Dunn wondered if, in the future, the school budget presentation and the Town budget presentation could be done together.

f. Consider approval of warning for public hearing on Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget

ANDY WATTS made a motion, seconded by DAWN HILL-FLEURY, that the Selectboard warn a public hearing for the fiscal year 2022 operating budget for the Town of Essex, in the amount of \$15,985,320, to be held January 19, 2021 at 6:35 PM online. The motion passed 5-0.

6d. Continued:

The Selectboard took back up agenda item 6d. Ms. Macy recommended, based on their budget discussions and the reassignment of \$2,500 from landfill monitoring, that the Selectboard use \$402,500 in unassigned funds to reduce property taxes in FY22; then change the Reduce property taxes future years line accordingly to \$197,500.

PATRICK MURRAY made a motion, seconded by DAWN HILL-FLEURY, that the Selectboard assign balance in the following amounts:

- **Reduce Property Taxes in FY2022 in the amount of \$402,500. Details: assignment for future budgeted tax reduction**
- **Reduce Property Taxes in future years in the amount of \$197,500. Details: FY2022 proposed budget includes increase in use of fund balance, this will need to be stepped back gradually to avoid a spike in tax rate.**
- **Transfer to Capital in the amount of \$189,717. Details: transfer balance to Capital Fund for total Additional assignments in the amount of \$789,717.**

The motion passed 5-0.

365
366
367
368
369
370
371
372
373
374
375
376
377
378
379
380
381
382
383
384
385
386
387
388
389
390
391
392
393
394
395
396
397
398
399
400
401
402
403
404
405
406
407
408
409
410
411
412
413
414
415

g. Approve minutes: December 28, 2020 Joint

Mr. Watts requested that lines 232-234 be moved to just after the Trustees' adjournment.

Ms. Wrenner requested the following changes to the minutes:

- Line 96 should be changed to say the motion passed "4-0" instead of "5-0".
- Lines 100-102, "Elect" should be added before delegates Vyhovsky, Black, Lyons, Chittenden, and Ram.
- Line 181, "Elect" should be added before Vyhovsky.
- Line 180, change "community-wide" to "state-wide", with Mr. Murray's approval.

VINCE FRANCO made a motion, seconded by PATRICK MURRAY, to approve the Joint Meeting Minutes December 28, 2020, as amended. The motion passed 5-0,

7. CONSENT ITEMS

DAWN HILL-FLEURY made a motion, seconded by PATRICK MURRAY, to approve the Consent Agenda:

a. Approve Annual Report dedication

Approval of a joint dedication with the Village Trustees of the Town Annual Report and the Village of Essex Junction Annual Report in memory of those who died from the COVID pandemic and in honor of those who are essential to our economy and society and continue to sacrifice daily for our nation's safety and wellbeing.

b. Approve minutes: December 21, 2020; ~~December 28, 2020 Joint~~

c. Check Warrant: 12/31/20; #17815 – 1/8/21

The motion passed 5-0.

8. READING FILE

- a. Board member comments
There were no comments from the board members at this time.
- b. Fiscal Year 2022 Capital Budget Binder
- c. Memo from Dennis Lutz re: Proposed VT15 Waterline Project
- d. Email from Nancy Benerofe re: Town Meeting Ballot Question
- e. Town 2021 Annual Meeting/Election Preparation Schedule
- f. Upcoming meeting schedule

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

a. *An executive session is not expected.

An executive session did not take place.

10. ADJOURN

DAWN HILL-FLEURY made a motion, seconded by VINCE FRANCO, to adjourn. The motion passed 5-0 at 10:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cathy Ainsworth
Recording Secretary

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2021
(See minutes of this day for corrections, if any)

416 _____
417 Vince Franco, Clerk, Selectboard



State of Vermont
Office of the Secretary of State
128 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-1101

[phone] 802-828-2363
<https://sos.vermont.gov>

James C. Condos, Secretary of State
Christopher D. Winters, Deputy Secretary

January 20, 2021

Permitted Processes for Annual Meetings and all other Local Elections Conducted in 2021

Pursuant to the authority granted in H.48, §2(a)(5) (2021):

The Secretary of State hereby permits, in the year 2021, the legislative body of any municipality that has an upcoming local election to adopt one or more of the following procedures for use in conducting that election:

1. *A Board of Civil Authority (BCA) may vote to use a tabulator for an upcoming local election no less than 20 days prior to the election.*
2. *In addition to annual meeting, ballots may be mailed to all active voters for any elections that occur as a result of the annual meeting, including any run-off election, reconsideration vote, and re-votes of a budget that does not pass.*
3. *If a municipality typically conducts its annual meeting by voting on some questions at a floor meeting and other questions via Australian Ballot, that municipality may conduct the Australian ballot portion of the business on the standard annual meeting date and may postpone the portion of that meeting conducted from the floor until a later date pursuant to H. 48.*
4. *Ballots for more than one municipality may be included in a single mailing to a voter.*
5. *Ballot questions from more than one municipality may be included on a single ballot.*
6. *Local election officials may process ballots returned by mail or voted in the Clerk's office through the tabulator or into a secure ballot box during the 20 days preceding election.*
 - *At a minimum, ballots shall be processed in the presence of at least two election officials who, if possible, shall be from different parties.*
 - *The process shall be conducted in accordance with guidance issued by the Secretary of State's Office.*
 - *The process shall be conducted during normal business hours if practicable or, if conducting the process at a time other than normal business hours or at a time when your office is closed due to COVID-19, notice of the date(s), time(s), and location of the processing shall be posted at the Clerk's office and two other public places at least three days in advance.*

- *Any member of the public requesting to observe the process shall be provided an opportunity to do so. Upon request of a member of the public to observe the process, if in-person observation by members of the public is not possible due to restrictions related to COVID-19, the process may be live-streamed in some manner to allow for remote viewing or may be recorded and the recording provided to those who request it for viewing.*
 - *In towns that count their ballots by hand, the voted ballots shall be deposited in a secure ballot box to be commingled with any ballots cast at the polls on Election Day and counted after the close of the polls.*
7. *If, pursuant to its Articles of Agreement, a union school district or unified union school district is required to compile the ballots cast by voters in the member towns before counting the results, the legislative body may vote that ballots for the 2021 annual meeting are not required to be compiled before counting. In such case, the ballots may be counted by each member town and the results reported to the school district clerk for determination of the official district-wide results.*
8. *A municipality may implement a drive-up voting procedure where voters complete the voting process without leaving their vehicle. Each voter shall:*
- *Be checked off the entrance checklist by an election official in the same manner as the voter would be in a standard polling place;*
 - *Be provided a ballot to vote and directed to an identified location where their vehicle may be parked during the voting process;*
 - *Be able to deposit their ballot directly into a secure ballot box that may be brought to the window of the vehicle or located in such a manner that it can be accessed from the vehicle, and again be checked off an exit checklist before leaving the voting location.*
- A person may fill out a voter registration form and submit it to an election official for processing before receiving a ballot. An area shall be provided for those filling out registration forms to leave the line of traffic and complete the form before being checked off the checklist and provided a ballot.*
9. *A municipality may hold their polling location outside and otherwise follow standard polling place rules.*
10. *The location of a polling place may be changed no less than 15 days prior to the election. The BCA must vote to change the location and the Secretary of State must be notified within 24 hours of the vote. The polling location shall also be updated in the Vermont Election Management System, by the Clerk, within 24 hours of the BCA approving the change. Every reasonable effort should be made to inform the public of the new location. These efforts should include but are not limited to, posting notice of the new location:*
- *In all locations where the original Warning was posted;*
 - *In additional locations in the town or city such as general stores, transfer stations, and other locations that are frequently used by residents;*
 - *On the town or city website, if one exists;*

- *On a town or city list serve or other online forum such as Front Porch Forum; or*
 - *If the BCA deems it necessary, by publication in a newspaper no less than 5 days prior to the election.*
11. *If a municipality uses a tabulator, ballots do not have to be reviewed by hand, under the following circumstances:*
- *There is no election of officers on the ballot and, as such, no write-in spaces; or*
 - *There is an election of officers but the total write-in vote counted by the tabulator is not higher than the total for the winning candidate(s) that was named on the ballot.*
12. *A municipality may waive the deadline to file nominating paperwork for local offices contained in 17 V.S.A. §2681 and allow those consent forms to be filed until a date determined by the municipality that will facilitate the ballots being prepared no later than 20 days before the election as required by 17 V.S.A. § 2681a.*
13. *If a person files a consent of candidate form to run for local office, and the annual meeting is postponed, that person will remain a qualified candidate for that office on whatever date the meeting is held, without being required to file another consent of candidate. Additional candidates may file to run for office in the election in advance of the consent of candidate filing deadline for the postponed meeting date.*
14. *Any polling place for a local election, whether employing the processes allowed by this directive or not, shall be conducted in a manner consistent with current guidance regarding social distancing, group size/building capacity orders, or other measures issued by the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD), found here: <https://accd.vermont.gov/news/update-new-work-safe-additions-be-smart-stay-safe-order>, the Vermont Department of Health, or contained in any current Executive Orders of the Governor.*

A municipality that intends to use any of the procedures permitted by this directive is strongly encouraged to consult with the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's office or ACCD for assistance in implementing these processes.

With the exception of the allowance of the permitted procedures in this Directive, in H.48 (2021) and in Act 162 (2020), the elections shall be carried out in all other respects in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Vermont Statutes.



James C. Condos
Vermont Secretary of State

H.48

An act relating to authorizing alternative procedures for 2021 annual municipal meetings in response to COVID-19

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS, INTENT, AND PURPOSE

(a) Findings.

(1) The General Assembly finds that the continued spread of COVID-19 in the State of Vermont has the potential to jeopardize the health, safety, and welfare of Vermonters voting in their 2021 annual municipal meetings. These meetings include annual town meetings, which are required by general law to be held on the first Tuesday of March; annual school district meetings, which are generally required to be held between the months of February and June; and other municipal annual meetings with meeting dates controlled by charter.

(2) While the General Assembly enacted 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 162 to permit municipal legislative bodies to vote to apply the Australian ballot system to their municipal meetings in the year 2021, the General Assembly finds that COVID-19 concerns persist regarding 2021 annual municipal meetings because:

(A) in municipalities applying the Australian ballot system to these meetings, general law requires voters to apply for an early voter absentee ballot, and a polling place is required for any voters who do not vote absentee;
and

(B) many municipalities want to continue their custom of conducting annual meetings using floor votes.

(b) Intent and purpose. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the citizens of Vermont should be able to protect their health, safety, and welfare while also continuing to exercise their right to participate in annual municipal meetings. Accordingly, the purpose of this act is to:

(1) permit municipalities to move the date of their 2021 annual meeting to a potentially safer date later in the year;

(2) permit municipalities to mail out 2021 annual meeting early voter absentee Australian ballots to all active registered municipal voters to encourage absentee voting and thereby reduce exposure to COVID-19; and

(3) authorize the Secretary of State to order or permit supplemental elections procedures related to these 2021 annual municipal meeting provisions.

(c) Intent for the cooperation of municipalities. It is the intent of the General Assembly that municipal officials, including boards of civil authority and municipal clerks, shall cooperate with and assist school districts and other incorporated districts with the administration of annual district meetings and budget votes.

Sec. 2. ANNUAL MUNICIPAL MEETINGS IN THE YEAR 2021;

ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in the year 2021:

(1) a municipal legislative body may vote to move the date of the municipality's 2021 annual meeting to a date later in the year 2021;

(2) a municipal legislative body may require the municipal clerk to mail to all of the active registered voters in the municipality the Australian ballot to be used at the 2021 annual municipal meeting;

(3) the Town of Brattleboro may hold its annual Representative Town Meeting by electronic means;

(4) the Board of Supervisors of the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District may vote to adopt the District's annual budget for the ensuing fiscal year; and

(5) the Secretary of State is authorized to order or permit, as applicable, appropriate elections procedures that supplement and relate to any municipal authority exercised under the provisions of this subsection in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of voters, elections workers, and candidates in carrying out those meetings.

(b) In any municipality that moves the date of the 2021 annual meeting pursuant to subdivision (a)(1) of this section, municipal officers shall serve until the annual meeting and until successors are chosen.

(c) For any election procedure the Secretary of State orders or permits under this section, the Secretary shall adopt any necessary corresponding procedures that ensure the public can monitor polling places and the counting of votes.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

Procedures for the Processing of Early/Absentee Ballots

2021 Annual Meetings

- When a ballot is returned by mail, the town clerk or an election official authorized by the clerk may open the mailing envelope, remove the certificate containing the voted ballot, and check the voter off the checklist. The certificate envelopes containing the voted ballot shall be stored in a secure location for transport to the polling place on Election Day, unless they are processed early in accordance with these procedures.
- During the 20 days preceding the election, voted ballots may also be removed from the certificate envelope and deposited in the vote tabulator or into a secure container to be hand counted or deposited into the tabulator on Election Day, in accordance with the following procedures:
 - At least two election officials, from different political parties to the extent practicable, shall be present for the processing of the ballots.
 - After confirming that the voter's name has been marked off the checklist, one election official shall open the certificate envelope, turn the certificate side face down, and hand the envelope face down to the second election official, who shall remove the ballots from the envelopes and deposit them in the ballot box or vote tabulator.
 - The secure container or tabulator containing the voted ballots must be stored securely in the vault when not in the presence of two election officials. Ballots deposited in the tabulator or ballot box must be transported to the polling place on Election Day in the presence of at least two election officials, to the extent possible from different parties.
 - Specific procedures for use of the tabulator in this process are described below.

Procedures For Tabulator Use in Processing Early/Absentee Ballots

- During the 20 days preceding the election, on any day in which ballots will be processed through the tabulator:
 - The tabulator shall be removed from the vault by two election officials and located where it can be observed at all times by the clerk or another election official.
 - The seal number on the memory card must be recorded each morning when the tabulator is removed from the vault and the election officials shall affirm that the seal number on the memory card is the same seal number as was recorded at the end of the previous day. The election official shall also confirm that the lock on the ballot bin has not been tampered with.

A chain of custody form for recording the necessary information is attached.

- The tabulator shall be plugged in, turned on, and the election officials shall record the number of ballots that the tabulator indicates have been processed and confirm that that number matches the number of ballots recorded when the tabulator was turned off on the previous day.
- When all ballots have been processed for the day, the election official shall record the number of ballots that the tabulator indicates have been counted, shall verify that the memory card is sealed in place, and shall record the seal number.
- The tabulator shall be turned off, unplugged, and returned to the vault for storage by two election officials.
- The election officials shall otherwise comply with all provisions of this title relating to the security of the vote tabulator.

Election Day

- On the day of the election, the sealed vote tabulator and/or sealed ballot boxes containing voted ballots shall be transferred to the polling place by two election officials.
 - In towns that use a tabulator, voted ballots may be fed into the tabulator by two election officials during polling hours.
 - In towns that count ballots by hand, ballot boxes containing voted ballots shall not be opened until the polls have closed on Election Day, when they will be counted along with any ballots cast by voters in person at the polling place.
 - When the vote tabulator is turned on at the polling place, if voted ballots were fed into the tabulator preceding the day of the Election, the town clerk or presiding officer shall verify that the number of ballots that the vote tabulator displays as having been counted matches the number recorded the last time that the tabulator was used to process ballots at the clerk's office and that the seal number on the memory card is also the same as the last seal number recorded at the town clerk's office.
- For any in-person voting occurring at the clerk's office, a town may allow the voter to deposit their voted ballot directly into the tabulator or ballot box, if available, or if not the voter may place their voted ballot in a sealed certificate envelope and return it to an election official at the clerk's office.



State of Vermont
Office of the Secretary of State
128 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-1101

[phone] 802-828-2363
<https://sos.vermont.gov>

James C. Condos, Secretary of State
Christopher D. Winters, Deputy Secretary

January 20, 2020

The Joint Fiscal Committee has appropriated \$2M to help pay for the costs of conducting annual meetings in a different manner than normal due to the coronavirus global pandemic. This money, requested by the Administration and with the support of the Secretary of State's Office, follows the same approach we took to the General Election: no Vermonter should have to choose between their health and their ability to have their voices heard at annual meetings being held across Vermont in a few short weeks.

The funding, combined with the empowerments provided in H.48, which was signed by the Governor yesterday, will allow municipalities the choices and flexibility to conduct safe elections, and helps to remove cost as a barrier in those calculations so that municipalities can make the right decision for their communities to protect health and safety during annual meetings.

We stepped forward to be the administrator of these funds to help support municipalities through this difficult time. This made sense because we have just played a similar role with CRF funds for the 2020 elections and have a reimbursement process in place.

In order to administer the funds and issue reimbursements as quickly and fairly as possible, we are issuing the following reimbursement guidelines based upon the memorandum used for approval of these funds and the ongoing legislative discussion and overall intent of this funding.

Major costs to be reimbursed over and above normal, previously budgeted election expenses:

- 1) Mailing ballots to voters (may include use of a mail house)
- 2) Production of ballots (eligible costs include only any increase from prior years to accommodate use of a ballot and/or ballot mailing)
- 3) Return postage on ballot envelopes
- 4) Tabulator programming costs (for any municipality using its tabulator in response to COVID-19)
- 5) Production and mailing of postcards and other outreach to encourage voting by mail

James C. Condos
Vermont Secretary of State

From: Marybeth Redmond [<mailto:MRedmond@leg.state.vt.us>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 5:45 PM

To: Elaine Haney; Evan Teich; Andrew Brown

Cc: Tanya Vyhovsky; Alyssa Black

Subject: H.95 introduced today

Hi, Elaine, Andrew and Evan:

Just wanting to inform you that H.95, an act related to approving changes to the charter of the Town of Essex (3+3 representation) was introduced in the Vermont House today and assigned to the Government Operations Committee for further examination and decision. Reps. Vyhovsky and Black joined me as sponsors. I anticipate that the committee of jurisdiction will take up H.95 after our Town Meeting vote on merger. We will certainly update you all as we know more. Here's a link to the bill: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/H.95>

My best,
Marybeth

Rep. Marybeth Redmond
Chittenden 8-1/Essex
Assistant Majority Leader

House Human Services Committee
Joint Child Protection Oversight
802.488.0531
mredmond@leg.state.vt.us



Photo by Lee Krohn, 2017

REGIONAL NOTES

January 2021

Quick Links

[VT Dept. of Health Daily COVID-19 Updates »](#)

[Chittenden County Municipal Response to COVID-19 »](#)

[UVM Health Network COVID-19 FAQ »](#)

[Vermont League of Cities & Towns Resources »](#)

[CCRPC Website »](#)

[CCRPC Calendar »](#)

Table of Contents

[Of Note](#)

[Transportation](#)

[Economy](#)

[Energy & Natural Resources](#)

[Quality of Place](#)

[Emergency Management](#)

[Social Community](#)

CCRPC Calendar of Events

PLEASE NOTE:
All meetings below will be held REMOTELY until further notice.
Information about joining remotely is provided with every meeting agenda.

JANUARY

Good morning,

Last month, we held our annual Chittenden County Municipal Legislative Briefing to serve as a forum for municipal representatives and legislators to connect on a few important topics for the upcoming legislative session. This virtual event was well attended and yielded some useful discussion.

To recap, we addressed: Racial equity, Act 250 changes, housing policy and investment, broadband, regional dispatch start-up funding, energy/climate, transportation funding, water quality funding, cannabis, economy, and property tax implications of COVID. Following a **presentation**, the discussion focused on what can be done at the municipal, regional, and State level to make improvements to our systems and progress toward our goals. View the full presentation and corresponding data handout on our website [here](#).

We also offered to help legislators with obtaining expert municipal testimony, data, or mapping on any of those topics or others that come before the legislature. As always, please let us know how we can help.

We look forward to working with our municipalities, the legislature, and all of our partners in the year ahead. If you have any thoughts or suggestions, we welcome the opportunity to hear from you. Please contact me (cbaker@ccrpcvt.org) or Regina Mahony (rmahony@ccrpcvt.org).

Wishing you a happy and healthy new year from all of us at CCRPC!

Best regards,

Charlie Baker
Executive Director, **CCRPC**

Of Note

CCRPC FY22 Annual Work Program (UPWP) Request for Projects -- Public Forum: **January 20; Applications Due: **January 22****

The CCRPC is beginning the process of creating the FY2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), our **annual work program** that describes our activities and specifies the deliverables for the next year (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022). The deadline for receipt of completed submissions is Friday, January 22. A public forum will be held on Wednesday, January 20 as part of the CCRPC's January Board meeting. The public is invited to offer suggestions for both transportation and land use planning projects within Chittenden County. [Learn More »](#)

Share Your Thoughts on the Future of Vermont

The challenges facing Vermont call on us to unite to build a better future. The Vermont Council on Rural Development, a neutral facilitator of public process, is excited to share the first draft of The Vermont Proposition: An

1/13, 2:30pm: CCRPC
Planning Advisory
Committee

1/18: CCRPC Closed;
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

1/20, 6:00pm: CCRPC
Board Meeting

1/20, 6:00pm: Public
Forum Re: FY2022 Annual
Work Program

FEBRUARY

2/2, 9:00am: CCRPC
Transportation Advisory
Committee Meeting

2/2, 11:00am: Clean Water
Advisory Committee
Meeting

2/2, 12:30: Clean Water
Advisory Committee MS-4
Sub-Committee Meeting

2/3, 5:45pm: CCRPC
Executive Committee
Meeting

2/15: CCRPC Closed;
Presidents' Day

2/17, 6:00pm: CCRPC
Board Meeting

[View full calendar »](#)



CCRPC FY21 Annual Work Program

The CCRPC's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is our annual work program that describes our activities and specifies the deliverables for the next year. The UPWP is the mechanism to implement the strategies for our region outlined in the **ECOS Plan** and helps municipalities implement their local plans.

[Learn More »](#)

effort to set non-partisan priorities for statewide action. The Proposition draft, based on input from thousands of Vermonters, shares a set of ideas to drive common action and advance a successful future for our communities, environment and economy. Now, VCRD is looking to you to help strengthen the Proposition. What's missing? What could be improved? What do we need to do to be successful for the next generation? To learn more about the initiative, see the current draft, and share your thoughts, visit futureofvermont.org.

Hinesburg Job Openings: Town Administrator/Manager; Zoning Administrator

The Town of Hinesburg is seeking candidates for the position of its first town manager pending a vote by Hinesburg voters in March of 2021. If the vote does not support a town manager, the position will remain a Town Administrator. The Town of Hinesburg also seeks qualified applicants for the position of Zoning Administrator. This is a part-time position of approximately 20 hours/week. [Learn More »](#)

Transportation

Implementing ECOS Strategy 2

VTrans Small-Scale Bike/Ped Grants -- Applications Due February 19

VTrans is now soliciting applications for small-scale projects through the **Bicycle and Pedestrian Program**. The intent of the Program is to improve access and safety for people walking and/or bicycling through the construction of simple physical improvements. Grants are to reimburse construction costs only and will be awarded in the range of \$5,000 to \$75,000. The local share of projects is 50%. Local match may be cash, in-kind labor, donated materials, or any combination thereof. [Learn More »](#)

Share Your Ideas for Walking and Biking in Richmond

Help create safe and family-friendly spaces for walking and biking -- on streets and trails. Please help the Town of Richmond and Chittenden County RPC identify areas you want to walk and bike from your community to theirs, as well as popular destinations and barriers to getting there. Provide your recommendations on our interactive map for the Richmond Walk, Bike, and Trails Plan: <https://wikimapping.com/Richmond-BikePed.html>. Visit the [project website](#) for more information.

#802phonesdown!headsup! Video Challenge -- Submissions Due March 15

The Vermont Highway Safety Alliance is proud to announce an award contest for Vermont high school students designed to change driving habits. The contest opened on January 11th, and runs through March 15. All Vermont high school students, including home schooled students (and cross border schools) grades 9 to 12 are eligible to participate by creating a 25 second YouTube video on the dangers of distracted driving. Visit the contest website for contest rules, award details, and more information. [Learn More »](#)

Save the Date: I-89 2050 Study Public Meeting: March 18, 7-9pm

Save the date for the second public meeting for the I-89 2050 Study, a collaborative effort of the CCRPC and VTrans to develop a comprehensive investment program for the 37 mile I-89 corridor in Chittenden County, Vermont through 2050. [Learn More »](#)

US DOT Releases First Pedestrian Safety Action Plan

The US Department of Transportation released its first Pedestrian Safety Action Plan in an effort to reduce pedestrian fatalities and injuries on America's roads. The Plan is overseen by the Federal Highway Administration and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. [Learn More »](#)

More Transportation Projects & Updates

- Chittenden County [I-89 2050 Study »](#)
- Richmond Bridge Street Complete Streets [Corridor Study »](#)
- Winooski Avenue [Corridor Study »](#)
- South Burlington VT116-Kimball-Tilley [Land Use & Transportation Plan »](#)



United Way of Northwest Vermont COVID-19 COMMUNITY RESPONSE

United Way is dedicated to supporting our community members through the COVID-19 pandemic and the social and economic fallout that may result from it. To support all of our neighbors, United Way is working with its existing network of partnerships and the community at large to develop **a comprehensive list** of community-based services and volunteer opportunities updated on a daily basis.

[Learn More »](#)

CCRPC Board of Directors FY21 Membership

Bolton: Sharon Murray

Buel's Gore: Garret Mott

Burlington: Andy Montroll

Charlotte: Jim Donovan

Colchester: Jacqueline
Murphy

Essex: Jeff Carr

Essex Junction: Dan Kerin

Hinesburg: Michael
Bissonette

Huntington: Barbara Elliott

Jericho: Catherine McMains

Milton: Tony Micklus

Richmond: Bard Hill

Shelburne: John Zicconi

St. George: Jeff Pillsbury

So. Burlington: Chris Shaw

Underhill: Vacant

Westford: Allison Hope

Williston: Erik Wells

Winooski: Mike O'Brien
(Chair)

- Winooski East Allen Street [Scoping Study »](#)
- Colchester Ave Protected Bike Lanes and East Ave [Intersection Improvements »](#)
- [Bikeway Connectivity, Pedestrian Safety, and Stormwater Management in the Old North End »](#)
- Richmond Rd. / North Rd. / Texas Hill Rd. Intersection [Scoping Study »](#)
- [Advanced Traffic Monitoring System »](#)
- [Way to Go! to School »](#)
- [Municipal Road General Permit \(MRGP\) Technical Assistance »](#)

For a full list of transportation projects, visit the CCRPC Transportation Advisory Committee [website](#); a full project list is provided in every TAC agenda and is updated regularly. [View the latest TAC agenda »](#)

Economy

Implementing ECOS Strategy 1

Paycheck Protection Program Updates & ACCD Resources; **Webinar TODAY, January 13 at 3pm**

The U.S. Small Business Administration, in consultation with the Treasury Department, announced that the Paycheck Protection Program will re-open for new borrowers and certain existing PPP borrowers. To promote access to capital, initially only community financial institutions will be able to make First Draw PPP Loans on Monday, January 11, and Second Draw PPP Loans on Wednesday, January 13. The PPP will open to all participating lenders shortly thereafter. The Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development is hosting weekly webinars to help businesses navigate the latest round of COVID-19 relief including PPP, EIDL, as well as changes to the employee retention tax credit and FFCRA leave. On January 13th at 3:00pm, join a webinar focused on health and commerce pandemic updates for the business community. [Learn More »](#)

Vermont Chamber of Commerce Business Impact Survey

The Vermont Chamber of Commerce has launched their annual state-wide survey of small- to medium-sized businesses. This year COVID-related business questions have been added that will hopefully result in some valuable insights for policymakers. The survey will remain open until Friday, January 29th. [Learn More »](#)

Small Scale Development Seminar: **February 23**

This seminar on small scale real estate development is all about project formation. We take a big picture view of neighborhood-based development to help attendees analyze what makes a good project, how a building makes money, and how small developers interact with the broader ecosystem of professionals in the built environment. By the end of the seminar, aspiring developers will feel more prepared to take the first steps on their own project. [Learn More & Register »](#)

COVID-19 Business Impacts in Vermont

ACCD wants to hear from all Vermont businesses impacted by the response to the COVID-19 virus. Please share these impacts via the ACCD Business Impact Form, which will help assess the full impact as we work toward solutions. [Learn More »](#)

Energy & Natural Resources

Implementing ECOS Strategies 3 & 4

New Guide for Vermonters on Residential Heating & Cooling

The Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA), a national nonprofit coalition of public agencies working together to advance clean energy, has published [A Vermonter's Guide to Residential Clean Heating and Cooling](#) to inform Vermont residents about the benefits of clean heating and cooling technologies. The guide, prepared for the Vermont Public Service Department's Clean Energy Development Fund, provides information on CH&C technologies to help Vermonters make informed decisions regarding heating and cooling their homes with clean and renewable energy. [Learn More »](#)

FY21 Membership is effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

For more information about the CCRPC Board of Directors, [click here](#).

CCRPC Staff

Charlie Baker, Executive Director

Dan Albrecht, Senior Planner

Pam Brangan, GISP, GIS Data & IT Manager

Jason Charest, PE, Senior Transportation Planning Engineer

Eleni Churchill, Transportation Program Manager

Forest Cohen, Senior Business Manager

Bryan Davis, AICP, Senior Transportation Planner

Marshall Distel, Transportation Planner

Chris Dubin, Senior Transportation Planner

Christine Forde, AICP, Senior Transportation Planner

Amy Irvin Witham, Business Office Associate

Regina Mahony, AICP, Planning Program Manager

Melanie Needle, Senior Planner

Taylor Newton, Senior Planner

Sai Sarepalli, PE, Senior Transportation Planning Engineer

Emma Vaughn, Communications Manager

Please Note: As of March 16, 2020, CCRPC employees are working remotely and the office is closed to visitors. Please call or email and we will respond as soon as possible. *Thank you!*

For bios and contact information, [click here](#).

Better Buildings By Design Conference: February 2-4

Better Buildings by Design, hosted by Efficiency Vermont, is the region's premier design and construction conference, which features interactive learning about building durability, efficiency, and value for both residential and commercial projects. This annual not-for-profit conference brings together top talent in building technology and design from across the country, and helps keep Vermont-area professionals at the forefront of their fields. [Learn More »](#)

State of Vermont Relaunches Incentive Program

The State of Vermont has relaunched its plug-in electric vehicle (EV) incentive program with an additional \$950,000 for eligible new EV purchases made on November 5, 2020 or later. While funds remain, you can receive up to \$4,000 toward an EV purchase or lease, in addition to other incentives you may qualify for. Visit our incentives page to learn about the state, federal, and utility incentives available to you. [Learn More »](#)

Efficiency Vermont: How to Improve Your Business's Indoor Air Quality

Well-maintained HVAC systems are important to a building's indoor air quality. They make the space more comfortable and can improve productivity levels. They also help reduce the risk of virus transmission. [Learn More »](#)

Quality of Place

Implementing ECOS Strategy 2

Town Meeting Day 2021 - VLCT Training & Resources

Town Meeting Day is fast approaching, meaning towns are busy developing budgets and drafting articles and warnings for residents to vote on. The Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) is hosting a **training TODAY, January 13, 2021** from 2 to 3:30 p.m. via Zoom to discuss the proper wording of town meeting articles and warnings. [Learn More & Register »](#)

Funding to Create Better Places -- Applications Due: January 22

The Agency of Commerce and Community Development and the Vermont Community Foundation along with funding partners, the Vermont Arts Council, Preservation Trust of Vermont, and the National Life Group Foundation announced \$90,000 in grant funding to launch **Better Places**, a statewide partnership that will help communities reimagine and reopen public spaces for safe dining, shopping, and recreation, while showcasing the unique sense of place their community offers. Applications are due January 22, 2021. [Learn More & Apply »](#)

Community Leadership In Action: A Vermont Guide to Community Engagement, Project Development, & Resources

The Vermont Council on Rural Development's **Community Leadership in Action Guide** is designed as a starting point with tips and strategies to help new, emerging, and veteran leaders frame local issues and move community and economic development projects forward. [Learn More »](#)

ACCD COVID-19 Recovery Resource Center

To aid Vermonters as we all respond to and recover from the COVID-19 outbreak, ACCD has developed a Recovery Resource Center of available tools including financial assistance programs, unemployment information, and a series of Frequently Asked Questions to help businesses and individuals navigate the resources available in this time of need. [Learn More »](#)

Emergency Management

Implementing ECOS Strategy 2

Tier II Reports Due March 1

If your business or municipality stores hazardous materials on site, including sand and salt, then you may be required to submit a Tier II report by March 1, 2021. This program stems from the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), a complex federal law with a simple purpose to protect lives and property by enabling all segments of the community to have access to timely detailed information about hazardous

Our Communities

[Bolton »](#)
[Buel's Gore »](#)
[Burlington »](#)
[Charlotte »](#)
[Colchester »](#)
[Essex »](#)
[Essex Junction »](#)
[Hinesburg »](#)
[Huntington »](#)
[Jericho »](#)
[Milton »](#)
[Richmond »](#)
[Shelburne »](#)
[South Burlington »](#)
[Underhill »](#)
[Westford »](#)
[Williston »](#)
[Winooski »](#)

material in their community and use that information to plan for potential chemical emergencies. Vermont requests facilities to submit this information electronically using Tier2 Submit. A new version of Tier2 Submit is created around November of each year. The most recent version can be found [here](#). For Vermont-specific information, please click [here](#).

Mandatory Mask Wearing in Vermont

As of August 1, Vermonters are required to wear masks in public spaces, both indoor and outdoor, where physical distancing is not possible. There are some exceptions, including for children under 2 years old and for those who cannot wear a mask for medical reasons. The VT Department of Health offers guidance on when it's important to wear a masks. [Learn More »](#)

Vermont Alert

VT-ALERT is the state system that notifies Vermonters of emergency situations, weather alerts, road information, and more. Register for a free account at www.vtalert.gov.

Social Community

Implementing ECOS Strategy 2

Vermont Children's Trust Foundation Grants: Applications Due **March 17**

The Vermont Children's Trust Foundation Grants are for primary prevention programs, serving children ages 0-18. These programs strive to reduce the likelihood of juvenile delinquency, truancy, substance use, child abuse and other socially destructive behaviors before intervention by authorities, through strength-based activities in a community-based setting. [Learn More »](#)

Save the Date: Spectrum's Sleep Out: **March 26**

Spectrum Youth & Family Services' 2021 Sleep Out, an event to raise awareness of homelessness, will be virtual. Join Spectrum on Friday, March 26 as they bring ALL Sleep Out participants together: adult and student teams, families, and individuals. More details to come. [Learn More »](#)

Save the Date: Howard Center Annual Conference: **March 30**

Howard Center's annual conference brings together national and international speakers and attendees from the United States and Canada. The conference is designed for a broad audience, including mental health and healthcare providers, educators, clients and families, representatives of state and local government, law enforcement, the judiciary, and the general public. [Learn More »](#)

If you have any questions, feedback, or suggested content for upcoming issues, please contact Emma Vaughn, Communications Manager: evaughn@ccrpcvt.org or (802) 846-4490 x *21.

Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission
 110 West Canal Street, Suite 202 | Winooski, VT 05404
 (802) 846-4490 | connect@ccrpcvt.org
ccrpcvt.org | ecosproject.com

Copyright © 2017. All Rights Reserved.

**HOWARD CENTER COMMUNITY OUTREACH QUARTERLY REPORT FY21
Q1 (July 1st, 2020 – September 30, 2020)**

Total Number Of Services (each service may include multiple calls)	562
Phone	787
Face-to-Face Contacts	208
Unique Client Count	229
% Adult (Unique client count)	93%
Adult	201
Youth (< 18 yrs)	16
Age unknown	12
% Services with Active Designated Agency Enrollment	54%
Active Howard Center Services	265
Not Active Howard Center Services	226
Unknown	71
Referrals to...	461
Behavioral Health Care	151
Social Services (Economic, Housing, Basic Needs)	208
Medical Health Care	35
FCCC	67
Police-Involved Contacts	291
Assisting Police or Co-Response	159
Diverting Police	52
Police Resource Time Saved (hours)	40
Proactive Community Outreach Supports (includes engagement)	459
Outcome to the Emergency Department	44
Medically Necessary (only)	10
Psychiatrically Necessary (only)	17
Both Medically & Psychiatrically Necessary	17
Transportation Means to the ED	
Ambulance	26
Police	15
Outreach Staff Transport	0
Family/Other Transport	3
Level of Distress: Total services where distress rated	309
Maintaining or improvement by pre-post encounter	100%
If distressed, % showing improvement by end of service	37/50 (74%)
Escalating in distress at end of service	0%

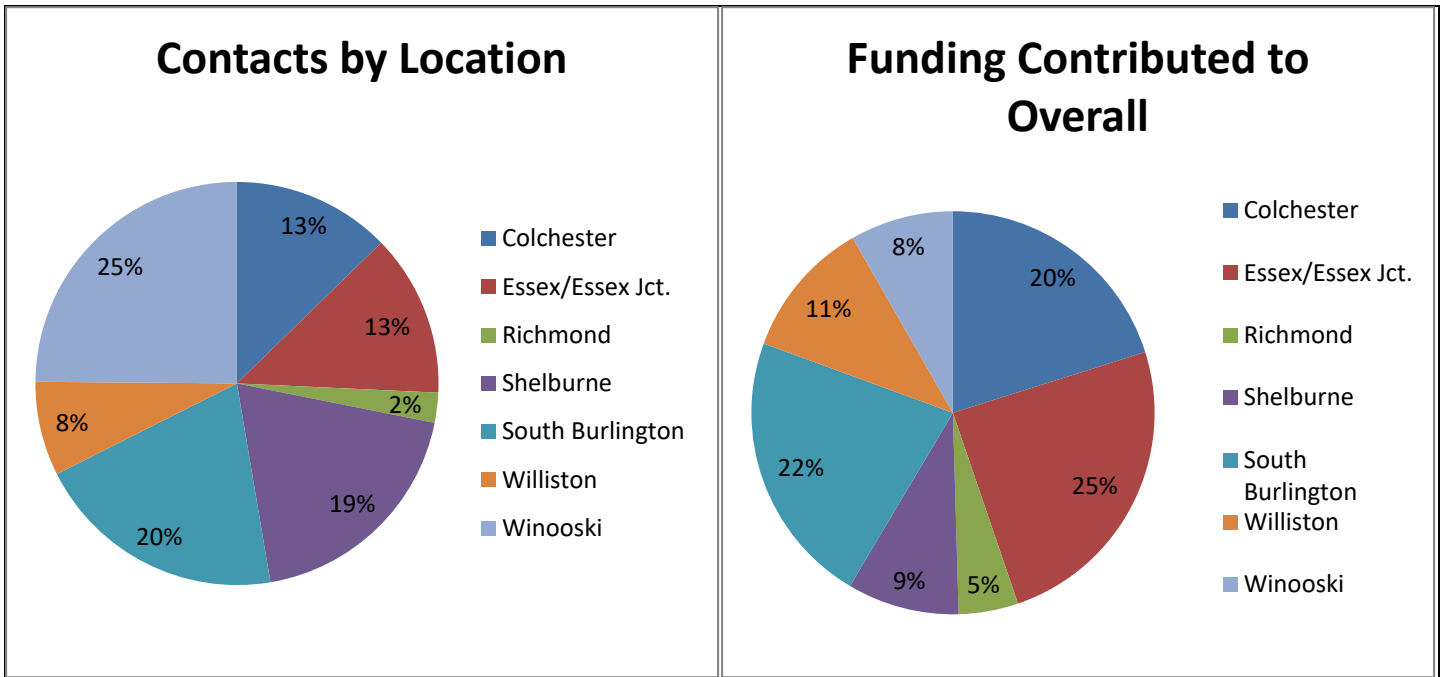
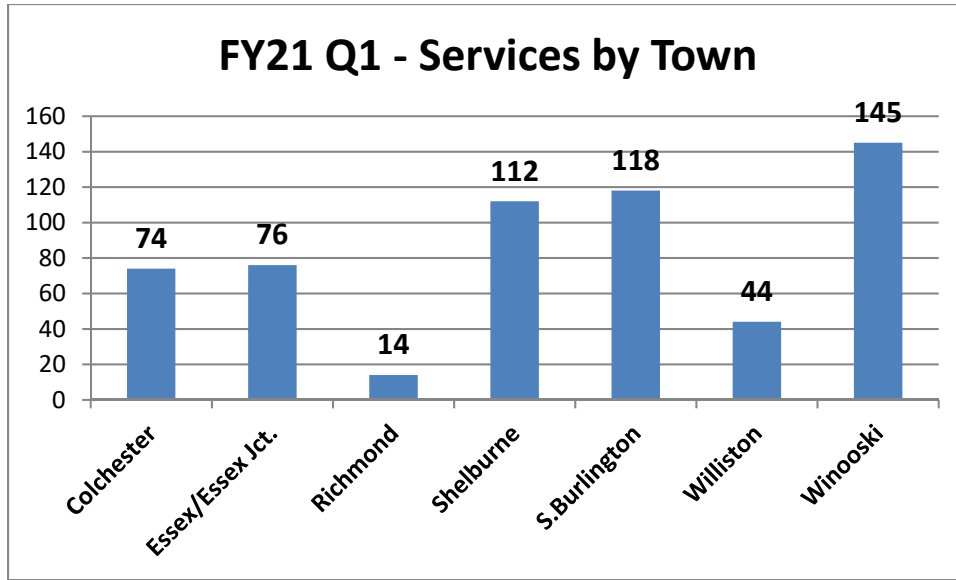
Who Initiated the Call?	
Caller	Total
Client/Community Member (self)	119
Police	298
Providers	40
Community Outreach staff	56
Schools	6
Family/Parent/Guardian/Friend	15
FCCC	11
Other (e.g., DOC, DCF, business)	17

Presenting Concern	
Issues	Total
Emotional/Behavioral/Mental Health Concern	479
Family/Relational Conflict	33
Homeless	6
Substance Use/Abuse	5
Violent/aggressive behaviors	2
Suicidal ideation/behaviors	0
Housing	10
Legal	2
Self-Harm	2
Medical	7
Other or Missing Info	16

*Based on *primary* issue to increase sensitivity

FY21 Q1: Contacts By Town			
Town Served	Total	% of Town Contacts	Percentage of Funding
Colchester	74	13%	20%
Essex/Essex Jct.	76	13%	25%
Richmond	14	2%	5%
Shelburne	112	19%	9%
South Burlington	118	20%	22%
Williston	44	8%	11%
Winooski	145	25%	8%

*Contacts by Town can overlap as services cross town borders





PRSR STD
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit No. 675
 Burlington, VT

YOUR

VOTE

VOICE

**Town/Village Merger
 Vote on March 2, 2021**

ECRWSS
 POSTAL CUSTOMER
 RESIDENTIAL ONLY



GREATER ESSEX

For more info, go to: GreaterEssex2020.org



PRSR STD
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit No. 675
 Burlington, VT

YOUR

VOTE

VOICE

**Town/Village Merger
 Vote on March 2, 2021**

ECRWSS
 POSTAL CUSTOMER
 RESIDENTIAL ONLY



GREATER ESSEX

For more info, go to: GreaterEssex2020.org





Make sure you're heard. Town/Village Merger Vote on March 2, 2021

Village residents are citizens of two municipalities, the Village of Essex Junction and the Town of Essex.
The plan of merger must pass in both municipalities for adoption.

Village residents voted on and passed the plan of merger on November 3.
**Village residents should vote on the plan of merger as Town residents
in-person on March 2 or by mail-in ballot**

- Online Public Hearings on the Town Plan of Merger and ballot question will be held:
Feb. 1 and Feb. 16 at 6:30 pm.
- An Informational Meeting will be held on March 1 online at 7:30 pm
- Annual Meeting/Election Day ballot voting by Australian Ballot (paper ballot) held on March 2.

**Mail-in ballots have been approved by the Legislature and
will be sent to all Town voters in February.**

For more information on the Plan of Merger, upcoming meetings and voting, go to www.GreaterEssex2020.org

If you have any questions, please contact Evan Teich, Unified Manager at 878-1341 or eteich@essex.org
or contact your Selectboard or Trustee Representatives.



Make sure you're heard. Town/Village Merger Vote on March 2, 2021

Village residents are citizens of two municipalities, the Village of Essex Junction and the Town of Essex.
The plan of merger must pass in both municipalities for adoption.

Village residents voted on and passed the plan of merger on November 3.
**Village residents should vote on the plan of merger as Town residents
in-person on March 2 or by mail-in ballot**

- Online Public Hearings on the Town Plan of Merger and ballot question will be held:
Feb. 1 and Feb. 16 at 6:30 pm.
- An Informational Meeting will be held on March 1 online at 7:30 pm
- Annual Meeting/Election Day ballot voting by Australian Ballot (paper ballot) held on March 2.

**Mail-in ballots have been approved by the Legislature and
will be sent to all Town voters in February.**

For more information on the Plan of Merger, upcoming meetings and voting, go to www.GreaterEssex2020.org

If you have any questions, please contact Evan Teich, Unified Manager at 878-1341 or eteich@essex.org
or contact your Selectboard or Trustee Representatives.

Memorandum

To: Village Trustees; Town Selectboard; Evan Teich, Unified Manager
From: Sarah Macy, Finance Director/Assistant Manager
Re: Summary of COVID relief grant successes
Date: January 21, 2021

Issue:

The issue is to summarize for the Trustees and Selectboard the COVID related grant initiatives that were undertaken by staff during 2020 and the impact those have had on Town and Village finances.

Discussion:

In addition to the successes you have already heard about with the School Supported Learning Spaces program to provide childcare and remote learning support and the two Out and About events, funding to support COVID response elsewhere in the organization also took place in 2020.

FEMA Grant Funds:

Town received \$41,515.68 in FEMA funds. FEMA funds allowed us to outfit the Emergency Operations Center at the Police Department and to purchase personal protective equipment for emergency responders (Police and Fire employees)

LGGER Grant Funds:

LGGER = Local Government Expense Reimbursement. This was a federal grant that was passed through the state. It matched the FEMA funding (which was paid at 75% of cost) and it supported a broad swath of increased operating costs we incurred as a result of COVID. Jointly, we received almost \$502,000 in grant funding which was paid \$364,089 to the Town and \$137,890 to the Village. Some departments have detailed following the initiatives they undertook but I would summarize here the expenses I saw that were covered by these grant funds

- CARES Act paid sick leave and associated social security taxes and retirement
- Expanded paid FMLA costs and associated social security taxes and retirement
- Costs of assigning staff to administrative leave to split shifts or keep staff distanced.
- Facilities alterations like touchless hand dryers and paper towel dispensers; door locks and intercom systems; fencing when park amenities were closed off
- Construction of permanent outdoor pavilion at Brownell Library
- Outfitting employees with remote work equipment including laptops, monitors, desks, chairs, and computer accessories (mouse, keyboard, headphones, etc.)
- Cleaning services outside our normal contract
- Cleaning supplies for all our facilities
- Masks and personal protective equipment for all employees

Digitization Grant:

Town and Village combined received \$40,000 to digitize land records. This initiative was underway with the new land records system implemented by the Clerk's office in the last few years. These funds allowed us to digitize and publish online many years of records by contracting with the vendor to do so. This grant was rolled out and had to be completed around the same time as the November 2020 election, so the flexibility to contract with the vendor to get those records online enabled us to make this happen.

Essex Police Department:

Protecting our employees was a top priority for the police department. We added more disinfecting capabilities with handheld spraying units used to disinfect the station and the vehicles, purchased upgraded PPE for all members (N95's, face shields, gowns) and increased the number of times our cleaners disinfected bathrooms and common areas.

The PD also serves as the 'emergency logistical supply' for the Town by stocking items such as masks, gloves, disinfectant, and hand sanitizers. We keep a supply for other departments in the case they cannot find an item.

Increased our Emergency Operations Center preparedness by updating radio capabilities. The EOC was opened and prepared to be put into service in March but thankfully not used.

We were concerned about losing dispatch personnel due to COVID and made plans to coordinate with Colchester and Winooski PD to share personnel. We increased capability to move to a remote location by purchasing radio equipment. This made us capable to dispatch from virtually anywhere in the world using an internet connection.

We further wanted to make it possible for executive staff to fully work from anywhere so mobile boxes were created with desk phones and cellular-based broadband access so that they could work remotely from any location.

Portable radios are an important part of infrastructure and having capability to coordinate with other response agencies in an emergency is critical. We added seven dual band capable radios that allow our supervisors to communicate with not only law enforcement, but fire and EMS agencies as well. We did not have this capability outside our vehicles before.

We identified that it was important for officers to work from their vehicles effectively and keep them out on patrol. We were able to install eight mobile data terminals in our vehicles that replace outdated ones.

Essex Free Library:

Due to the grants received, Essex Free Library has been able to continue to efficiently provide library items to the community via curbside services. These grants provided the funds necessary to purchase the paper bags needed for library item pickup. Despite very limited in-person services,

Essex Free was still able to serve the community by circulating nearly 15,000 items between May 2020 and January 2021 via curbside services.

Cleaning products and disposable masks purchased through the grants have also benefited the library. These materials have helped to keep the library sanitized and safer for public use.

The library was also able to install an additional wireless access point that extended the library's Wi-Fi to the parking lot, where patrons can still access the internet even when the library building is closed to the public.

Information Technology Department:

Rolled out laptops with VPN access to network resources for dozens of employees that didn't have the ability to work remotely before.

Installed a new firewall along with a fiber connection at the Recreation Offices in order to accommodate the increased programs and the increase of people using the network resources.

Installed outdoor wireless access point at the Free Library for patrons to access free Internet without having to come indoors.

Cost:

None

Recommendation:

Informational only



VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION TOWN OF ESSEX

Essex Junction, VT 05452

E-mail: manager@essexjunction.org

www.essexjunction.org

Phone: (802) 878-6951

E-mail: manager@essexvt.org

www.essexvt.org

Phone: (802) 878-1341

SERIOUS MISINFORMATION ABOUT MERGER

Last week two Essex residents made a presentation on Town Meeting Television about merger that contained a great deal of misinformation, some very serious. Some of the more serious incorrect statements and assertions are listed below, followed by accurate information that rebuts those false assertions.

1. The presenters assert that Town outside the Village (TOV) residents will see a tax increase on average of \$2,062. **This is absolutely NOT correct.** The merger-based annual tax increase for TOV taxpayers after 12 years will total approximately \$330 for the average property valued at \$280,000. The calculation of the \$330 increase for TOV taxpayers over 12 years was made by the Town and Village Finance Director. It takes into account all factors of both budgets and how taxation in the two municipalities occurs. It is **absolutely false** that total taxes for TOV taxpayers would grow by 2.5 times.
2. The presenters claim that Village residents receive 90% of the taxes they pay to the Town back in the form of services. **This is inaccurate because the claim is based on incomplete and incorrect information.** The presenters did not include the \$1.2 million Town capital budget in their calculations. They also significantly understated the cost of the Town recreation department. The numbers they used to back up this claim were incomplete and misrepresented the taxes Village taxpayers pay.
3. The presenters claim that the Village must retain its debt in merger because of poor negotiation on the part of the Village. They also claim that the Town is violating an Essex precedent that the Village should share its debt with the Town. **Both claims are false.**
4. One presenter claimed that the Essex Westford School District has “no desire” to move their budget vote to March to align with Town Meeting. **This claim is false.** EWSD board members expressed general agreement that they would explore it.

Below is more detailed, accurate information that refutes the false claims made by the presenters last week.

1. Under merger, TOV taxes would **NOT increase by over \$2,000.**

The merger plan calls for an average \$25-\$30 per year increase in TOV property taxes for 12 years. The presenters claim that this amount, compounded over 13 years, will result in a total tax increase for the average TOV property of \$2,062, not \$330 in total as has been calculated and presented by the Town Finance Director. **This claim is false and is a serious misrepresentation of the merger plan.**

The Selectboard [presented the merger plan on Town Meeting Television on January 14th](#) and shared the following table that shows the per-year increase expected for the TOV.



VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
TOWN OF ESSEX

Essex Junction, VT 05452

E-mail: manager@essexjunction.org

www.essexjunction.org

Phone: (802) 878-6951

E-mail: manager@essexvt.org

www.essexvt.org

Phone: (802) 878-1341

Annual Merger-Related Tax Changes

\$280,000 Property Value

Town Outside the Village													
Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Ave. over 13 years
\$11	\$24	\$24	\$24	\$24	\$24	\$24	\$24	\$24	\$24	\$24	\$24	\$52	\$25
Village													
(\$20)	(\$35)	(\$34)	(\$34)	(\$34)	(\$34)	(\$34)	(\$35)	(\$34)	(\$35)	(\$35)	(\$34)	(\$73)	(\$36)

Figures based on FY2020 voter-approved revenue. All figures are approximate.

The total change is an increase of approximately \$330 for Town Outside the Village and a decrease of approximately \$470 for the Village.

Below is a demonstration of how the increase will impact a TOV residential property tax bill of \$1,500.00 using the yearly figures from the above table.

	Current tax bill: \$ 1,500.00
Year 1 merger-related increase: \$ 11.00	Year 1 new tax amount: \$ 1,511.00
Year 2 merger-related increase: \$ 24.00	Year 2 new tax amount: \$ 1,535.00
Year 3 merger-related increase: \$ 24.00	Year 3 new tax amount: \$ 1,559.00
Year 4 merger-related increase: \$ 24.00	Year 4 new tax amount: \$ 1,583.00
Year 5 merger-related increase: \$ 24.00	Year 5 new tax amount: \$ 1,607.00
Year 6 merger-related increase: \$ 24.00	Year 6 new tax amount: \$ 1,631.00
Year 7 merger-related increase: \$ 24.00	Year 7 new tax amount: \$ 1,655.00
Year 8 merger-related increase: \$ 24.00	Year 8 new tax amount: \$ 1,679.00
Year 9 merger-related increase: \$ 24.00	Year 9 new tax amount: \$ 1,703.00
Year 10 merger-related increase: \$ 24.00	Year 10 new tax amount: \$ 1,727.00
Year 11 merger-related increase: \$ 24.00	Year 11 new tax amount: \$ 1,751.00
Year 12 merger-related increase: \$ 24.00	Year 12 new tax amount: \$ 1,775.00
Year 13 merger-related increase: \$ 52.00	Year 13 new tax amount: \$ 1,827.00

Total increase after 13 years: \$ 327.00



VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION TOWN OF ESSEX

Essex Junction, VT 05452

E-mail: manager@essexjunction.org

www.essexjunction.org

Phone: (802) 878-6951

E-mail: manager@essexvt.org

www.essexvt.org

Phone: (802) 878-1341

It is clear from the table above that the overall increase to an average TOV property tax bill as a result of merger is just under \$330, NOT over \$2,000. ***This claim by the presenters is not only false and inaccurate but attempts to mislead residents that their taxes are going up significantly and that the Town is hiding the truth.*** The Town has been very clear for many months about the 12-year taxation plan and the figures have been publicly available since last year. The presenters incorrectly claim taxes for TOV taxpayers will go up \$172 a year for 12 years. The Village tax levy in FY20 was about \$3,500,000; divided by 12 years it is \$291,667/year, which, without grand list growth, is a tax increase of about \$30/year. Grand list growth will *lower* that amount.

2. Village residents do NOT receive 90% of the taxes they pay to the town in the form of services.

The presenters shared information about the portion of the Town's property tax revenue that they believe comes from Town residents living in the Village. They correctly state that because a lot of consolidation has already happened, the Village does receive a portion of the taxes they pay to the Town back in services.

TOV residents receive 100% of the taxes they pay to the Town back in services. Unless Village residents also receive 100% of the taxes they pay to the Town in services from the Town, any percentage less than 100% is inequitable.

Several Town departments do not provide full services to the Village or are not sized to address the 21,000+ residents of the entire Town. Here are some examples:

- The Town Community Development Department serves only the TOV.
- The Town's Recreation Department staffing and facilities are undersized for a community of 21,000 people, requiring the Village to provide recreation services for itself.
- In FY22 the Town's 2-cent capital tax will generate nearly \$532,000, but that revenue is spent primarily in the TOV.

The presenters' claim is based only on the General Fund portion of the budget. They did not refer at all to the Capital Fund. The Town charges a 2-cent capital tax on all properties and uses the funds collected for construction projects and other infrastructure needs. However, in FY22, as in past years, the Town will spend the majority of that budget on projects located outside of the Village, even though Town residents inside the Village fund those projects with their tax dollars. ***The presenters failed to mention this significant budget and therefore underrepresented the total amount of taxes Town residents inside the Village pay.***

The Town's 2-cent capital tax will raise approximately \$532,000 in FY22. Town residents who live in the Village pay 42% of the total capital funds collected each year (or \$223,347 in FY22) through this capital tax, which is a separate line item on the tax bill.

In FY22 the budgeted amount for the capital fund is \$1,225,830. The estimated spending of capital funds for FY22 is \$1,479,856.

The Town capital plan currently has 73 total projects on it. Of these, 13 projects are specific to the water and sewer enterprise fund which are funded by those rate payers only and do not leverage any tax dollars. Of the



VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION TOWN OF ESSEX

Essex Junction, VT 05452

E-mail: manager@essexjunction.org

www.essexjunction.org

Phone: (802) 878-6951

E-mail: manager@essexvt.org

www.essexvt.org

Phone: (802) 878-1341

60 projects eligible for tax funding, ten projects are paid for with developer impact fees.. The remaining 50 projects are located in the Town outside the Village. This means that 83% of the projects that the Village pays for as Town taxpayers are not located within the borders of the Village.

The Town does not pay for any of the capital projects that are located inside the Village. Those projects are funded entirely through the Village budget (\$760,730 of their \$3,500,000 budget).

However, the Town and Village stormwater plans are consolidated, and there are 3 stormwater projects in the Town capital plan that are located in the Village. These are paid for by grant funds, with the Town paying the grant match. There are zero funds related to these grants planned to be spent in FY22.

There are 5 non-stormwater projects in the Town capital plan that are shared by the Town and Village. They include:

- Building improvements at the Tree Farm (\$11K in FY22)
- Records preservation (no expense in FY22)
- Building Facilities Needs Study (no expense in FY22)
- Police Department equipment (\$15K in FY22)
- Senior vans (no expense in FY22)

Based on this list, the Town is planning to spend a total of \$26,000 of estimated FY22 capital spending on non-stormwater related capital projects in the Village. None of the projects listed is related to construction.

To be clear, the Village definitely receives a portion of the Town taxes they pay back from the Town in the form of services, and over the past seven years that gap has been narrowed through consolidation. But to get the complete and accurate picture you must consider *both* the General Fund and Capital Fund together. ***The presenters did not present complete information and therefore their claim is inaccurate and misleading.***

In addition, the presenters mistakenly claim the Town recreation department costs “about \$600,000.” They then based subsequent calculations on this incorrect amount.

This mistake may be attributable to the fact that the Town recreation budget is spread out over 4 different line items (Park, Pool, Recreation Admin, and Senior Activities). It also has 2 separate line items for capital. Nowhere in the Town budget are these figures added together to show taxpayers the total cost of Town recreation in FY20, which was \$989,082. Actually, the Town General Fund recreation budget in FY20 was 29% higher than the Village General Fund recreation budget, which is listed as a single budget line item of \$769,483 in the Village’s FY20 budget. This is an excellent example of how having a single, unified budget under merger would provide more transparency. If there were just one, clear budget, taxpayers would see accurate representations of where their tax dollars are going. That’s what we mean when we say merger will help make us more transparent. ***The presenters’ calculations and conclusions are significantly inaccurate and therefore misleading.***



VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION TOWN OF ESSEX

Essex Junction, VT 05452

E-mail: manager@essexjunction.org

www.essexjunction.org

Phone: (802) 878-6951

E-mail: manager@essexvt.org

www.essexvt.org

Phone: (802) 878-1341

3. The Village cannot, by law, share its remaining debt with the Town.

The presenters claim that the Village must retain its debt in merger because of poor negotiation on the part of the Village. **This statement is completely false.** By state law, a bond (debt) can only be taxed to the voters that approved that bond. TOV voters did not vote on the Village's road construction bond, so therefore they are not legally obligated to pay for it. The Village must repay the debt in full, which is why the merger plan contains a Debt Repayment District—to legally prevent the TOV from paying off that bond, which has 12 years left, and cannot be prepaid.

The presenters also claim there is an Essex precedent that shows the Village should share its debt with the Town. They are referring to the former Village of Essex Center, which was formed in 1949 as a water and fire district, and dissolved in 1973 when the Chittenden Water District was formed. (Learn more about this district [here](#).) When this village was dissolved, the Town of Essex assumed its debt of \$48,000 by act of the Vermont Legislature. The Town assumed this debt as part of the dissolution of a utility that would be continued at a regional level, which is completely different from absorbing the debt of an entire municipality. **Stating that the Town is not following precedent by not taking on the Village's debt is inaccurate and misleading.**

4. The EWSD will consider moving its budget vote from April to March.

One presenter claims that the Essex Westford School District told Selectboard members at a recent meeting that they have "no desire" to move their budget vote to March to align with Town Meeting. **This claim is false.** In fact, a co-chair of the EWSD board has, since that meeting, confirmed that the consensus of their board is that changing their budget vote from April to March to align with the Essex budget vote if merger is approved is a good idea and their board will discuss it.

Go to the source for the facts.

It is imperative that Essex voters receive accurate information to help make a critical decision about whether to vote in favor of merger. The Town Selectboard and Village Board of Trustees have worked together, along with one of the presenters, over the past seven-plus years to bring our community closer together. We painstakingly developed a Plan of Merger that allowed for a thoughtful, gradual equalization of the tax burden to a level of an average of between \$25 and \$30 a year. Essex's elected officials would **never** consider a tax hike of \$2,000+ and we would **never** try to hide it. It is very unfortunate that two anti-merger voters are misrepresenting merger in such a blatantly false and misleading way.

We urge all voters to read the materials on this website to understand the facts. We encourage you to ask questions of Selectboard members, Village Trustees, and Town and Village staff to get the information you need to make an informed decision. We also urge you to think critically about the information you see online or hear from sources that are not directly connected to the Town.



**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
TOWN OF ESSEX**

Essex Junction, VT 05452

E-mail: manager@essexjunction.org

www.essexjunction.org

Phone: (802) 878-6951

E-mail: manager@essexvt.org

www.essexvt.org

Phone: (802) 878-1341

Please watch the [video presentation of merger provided by the Selectboard](#). Please attend the public hearings on February 1st and 16th at 6:30pm online. Please attend the informational Town Meeting on March 1st at 7:30pm.

Above all, please think for yourself. Do not let others try to sway you with false and misleading information. Go to the source for the facts, and then make your own decision.

Elaine Haney, Chair, Town of Essex Selectboard, ehaney@essex.org

Pat Murray, Vice-Chair, Town of Essex Selectboard, pmurray@essex.org


Andrew Brown, President, Village of Essex Junction, abrown@essexjunction.org

George Tyler, Vice President, Village of Essex Junction, gt Tyler@essexjunction.org

MEETING SCHEDULES

1/21/2021

DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD ONLINE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETINGS 	VILLAGE TRUSTEES MEETINGS 	JOINT MEETINGS  
January 22, 2021 – 12:00 PM	SB Special	Tammy
January 25, 2021—6:30 PM	JT Special	Cathy
January 26, 2021—6:30 PM	VB Regular	Amy
January 28, 2021 – 6:30 PM	SB Special	Darby
February 1, 2021—6:30 PM	SB Regular	Darby
February 9, 2021—6:30 PM	VB Regular	Cathy
February 16, 2021—6:30 PM	SB Regular	Darby
February 22, 2021—6:30 PM	JT Special	Amy
February 23, 2021—6:30 PM	VB Regular	Cathy
March 1, 2021—7:30 PM	Town Annual Meeting	Cathy
March 9, 2021—6:30 PM	VB Regular	Cathy
March 15, 2021—6:30 PM	SB Regular	Cathy
March 22, 2021—6:30 PM	JT Special	Cathy
March 23, 2021—6:30 PM	VB Regular	Cathy
April 5, 2021—6:30 PM	SB Regular	Cathy
April 7, 2021—7:00 PM	Village Annual Meeting	Cathy