

**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
BOND VOTE FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS
MINUTES OF MEETING**

April 2, 2014

Immediately following the village annual meeting Trustee Andrew Brown gave a presentation on the proposed \$3.3 million bond vote to fund the following five priority infrastructure projects from the capital plan:

- School Street water and sewer line
- Maple Street culvert by Shawn's Way
- Briar Lane road reconstruction and sidewalk
- Hillcrest and North Hillcrest drainage
- Main Street enclosed drainage from the bridge to the top of the hill (former McEwing property)

The bond will allow the five projects to move off the capital project list. The remaining projects on the list will move up in priority. The amount from the general fund paid into the capital fund for projects on the list is not sufficient for all the work that must be done so bonding is recommended. The bond will be repaid by taxes. Payment per taxpayer the first year is \$18.64 (interest only). Payment the second year for principal and interest is \$57.62. The amount decreases each year thereafter. Every year the infrastructure projects are delayed increases cost and risk of failure. Other options to bonding include a dedicated tax for projects or increasing the tax rate.

COMMENTS

Steve Eustis spoke in support of the bond and urged doing all the needed work so the project does not end up back on the capital project list.

Jeff Goodrich asked if the underperforming drainage pipe on Maple Street involves Shawn's Way and if the culvert existed prior to Shawn's Way. George Tyler confirmed both existed before Shawn's Way.

Linda McKenna asked if capital needs with road infrastructure have been anticipated with regard to the development planned at Five Corners. Andrew Brown said the bond vote only covers the five priority projects listed.

George Dunbar, III, noted the bond vote is the first in 20 years for the village. Going forward an amount should be added to the capital budget that is a true reflection of what is needed for capital projects. The village struggles to maintain what is here yet continues to take on new sections of road (Route 15, crescent connector). The charter requires estimating operating cost. The village did receive grant money for some of the projects, but there is capital expense and maintenance in the future. George Tyler noted there are 47 miles of road in the village and total extra paved surface of the crescent connector is a fraction of that mileage. The crescent connector and multi-use path projects use outside funding and are economic development opportunities, but there are more costs as well.

There were no further comments. The information meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.