



**TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING**  
**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2017 AT 6:00 PM**  
**ESSEX HIGH SCHOOL - LIBRARY**  
**2 EDUCATIONAL DRIVE, ESSEX JUNCTION, VT 05452**

1. **CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG** [6:10 PM]
  
2. **JOINT MEETING WITH PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE**
  - a. Essex Junction Recreation and Parks Update
  - b. Park Street School
  
3. **ADJOURN**

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**Village of Essex Junction Board of Trustees  
Prudential Committee  
Joint Meeting Minutes  
February 6, 2017  
Essex High School Library  
2 Educational Drive, Essex Junction, VT**

**Present:** George Tyler, Elaine Sopchak and Daniel Kerin (Lori Houghton and Andrew Brown were absent)

**Prudential Committee:** Jason DiRosa, Patrick Murray, Candace Morgan, Michael Smith and Marla Durham

**Administration Present:** Pat Scheidel and Judith DeNova

**Others Present:** Dylan Giambatista, Colin Flanders, Liz Subin, Rob Reardon and Ben Dickie

**Visitors to Be Heard:** None

Michael and George called their respective boards to order at 6:03 p.m.

Marla added that she would like to discuss upcoming retirements and the annual report at the end of the meeting as well

**EJRP/Village Trustees Update:**

- The Prudential Committee (PC) and Village Trustees discussed the agreement between the two around the governance of Essex Junction Recreation and Parks (EJRP)
  - Michael provided an update, stating that there was a vote a few months back to try and join the Essex Junction and Essex Town communities to create a single recreation department, but that vote didn't work out how the study committee had hoped
- The two groups would like to formalize the process and dissolve the current agreement
- George mentioned that the Village has already incorporated EJRP into its next budget
- Michael reminded the group about the two options on the table
  - Allowing EJRP to transfer to the new Essex Westford School District, or
  - Terminate the agreement so that it transfers to the Village
    - The PC supports this option
- Pat talked about the process and said that an agreement has been written, which both sides can sign if they agreed on the wording
  - Judith read the agreement out loud
  - George said that the Trustees would add this as an agenda item to their next meeting on February 14

- Marla asked about the EJRP upcoming audit and how that would work
  - Judith mentioned that the PC will still see the audit for EJRP that goes through June 30, 2017, which will be available this fall
- Marla also asked about if EJRP still needed services from the school district, could that still happen?
  - Judith said it would carry over to the Village and they could contract services
- *There was a motion by Jason to authorize Michael Smith, as the chair of the PC, to sign the memo of agreement presented to terminate the PC's governance of EJRP following the next Village meeting, seconded by Patrick. Motion passed, 5-0.*

**Park Street School:**

- Michael talked about Park Street School and how it currently houses pre-kindergarten for EJRP on the first floor and the ACE Program on the second floor
  - The PC would like to preserve the space for programs that they have always supported and talked about ideas of entering into a long term lease or transferring of the property to keep it within the Village
- George thinks it would be good to not have to approach a third party if any changes were needed to be made
  - It's a historic building and the Village has put money into it in the past because of its historic value/preservation
  - He also highlighted potential improvements that the Village could make
- Patrick asked if the EWSD had any concerns about giving away a building?
  - Marla said that the EWSD Board hasn't talked about it, but Westford had already given away some land, and she believes that it's a mutual understanding that boards have to take care of their individual communities before the boards are finished, but she can't speak for everyone on the EWSD Board
- Marla agreed with George and thinks that the Village would care about it more than any other group, but also agrees to at least keep ACE in its current location for a few more years until they can find a new home
  - George said that the Village could give assurance that they would agree to allow ACE to continue in its current position
- Judith said that she believed that communication with the EWSD Board should take place before anything is signed and out of respect have a PC member attend the next EWSD meeting and explain what they would like to do
- Judith stated that this transfer would have to be part of the annual meeting on April 10
  - She had prepared two different versions of the annual meeting warning for the PC to sign, one with the conveyance of Park Street School to the Village and one without
  - There was discussion around if the Village would have to include this on their upcoming annual meeting warning, which they will look into further
- This topic is on the EWSD agenda for tomorrow and Michael will attend to present the PC's stance

- *Jason motioned to convey Park Street School to the Village Trustees for \$1, to assure that communication takes place with the EWSD Board, and the assurance that the use of space will continue for ACE until it can find a suitable space. Marla seconded. Motion passed, 5-0.*

The Village Trustees adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Ben Dickie