



VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Online
Essex Junction, VT 05452
Monday, August 17, 2020
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: 345 076 344#
- **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. Discussion and potential action to warn a joint meeting with the Town Selectboard for Thursday, August 20 at 6:30 p.m.
 - b. Discussion and potential action to finalize the Village proposed merger charter language
6. **READING FILE**
 - a. Board member comments
 - b. Emails from Vermont Teens for the Future and Andrew Brown re: Black Lives Matter flag for the Five Corners
7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
 - a. An executive session is not anticipated
8. **ADJOURN**

This agenda is available in alternative formats upon request. Meetings of the Trustees, like all programs and activities of the Village of Essex Junction, are accessible to people with disabilities. For information on accessibility or this agenda, call the Unified Manager's office at 878-6951.

Certification: 08/14/2020
Date Posted

J Mitchell
Initials

VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION TRUSTEES

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 17, 2020

TRUSTEES: Andrew Brown, President; Raj Chawla; Dan Kerin; Amber Thibeault; George Tyler

ADMINISTRATION: Evan Teich, Unified Manager

OTHERS PRESENT: Diane Clemens, Annie Cooper, Elaine Haney, Town Meeting TV.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Brown called the meeting of the Village of Essex Junction Board of Trustees to order at 6:30 PM.

AGENDA ADDITIONS AND CHANGES

Mr. Teich requested that three documents be added to the agenda: 1) an email from Vermont Teens for the Future to be added to the reading file regarding posting of Black Lives Matter signage in the Village; 2) a document from Trustee Chawla pertaining to the charter amendment business item containing information regarding how to incorporate the authority of an elected board to regulate tobacco and cannabis products into a municipal charter; 3) a document from Trustee Tyler pertaining to the charter amendment business item containing a summary of proposed revisions to the Essex Town merger charter.

AMBER THIBEAULT made a motion, seconded by DAN KERIN, to add the three document to the appropriate sections of the agenda. The motion passed 5-0.

PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

There were no comments from the public at this time.

BUSINESS ITEMS

- a. Discussion and potential action to warn a joint meeting with the Town Selectboard for Thursday, August 20 at 6:30 p.m.**

Mr. Brown said that a letter he'd sent to Selectboard Chair Haney had proposed that the Selectboard and Trustees hold a special joint meeting on August 20th to discuss the Trustees' recommendations for a merger charter and whether to submit a finalized charter to the Town Clerk on Friday in time to be placed on a ballot in November. Mr. Brown said he wasn't sure if a consensus of the Trustees had actually proposed such a meeting. Mr. Tyler responded that he may have been responsible for the misunderstanding because he and Mr. Brown had jointly composed the letter to Chair Haney and he made have misunderstood the Trustees' intentions. Mr. Chawla said that he would be agreeable to meeting with the Selectboard but suggested that the Trustees table the question until they've completed their revisions of the charter. The Board agreed to table the question.

- b. Discussion and potential action to finalize the Village proposed merger charter language**

Mr. Brown lead the Trustees in the process of reviewing and revising the working version of draft Town of Essex charter, last edited jointly by the Essex Town Selectboard and Essex Junction Trustees at their meeting on June 29, 2020, which would merge the Village of Essex Junction and Town of Essex into a unified community with a single government.

After completing their review and revision, with the assistance of Mr. Teich, Mr. Brown invited comments from members of the public.

Ms. Cooper asked the Trustees if it was possible to merge the budgets of the Town and Village governments with no impact on Town taxpayers who live outside the Village. Mr. Tyler responded that the charter provisions would reduce such impacts but it wasn't possible to merger the two budgets with no tax impact.

Ms. Cooper then expressed concern that instating Town and Village voting wards into the merger charter might reduce the pool of qualified candidates who run for office in the new government.

Mr. Brown then asked the Trustees to revisit the question of meeting with the Selectboard to discuss the Trustees' revisions of the Charter and possibly having both boards jointly put it on the ballot in November. Mr. Tyler asked if a special Trustee meeting for Thursday had been warned. Mr. Teich responded that meeting hadn't been warned but that he would have staff warn the meeting. There was general discussion among the Trustees of whether to only send the revised version of the Charter to the Selectboard for their review or to also send the revised charter to the Town Clerk with a request to place it on the ballot for Village voters in November.

GEORGE TYLER made a motion, seconded by DAN KERIN to send an amended version of the charter to the Essex Town Selectboard for their review at a special meeting on August 20, 2020, and the possible submission of the charter to the Essex Town Clerk to place on a ballot for the November 2020 Elections. The motion passed 5-0.

ANDREW BROWN then made a motion, seconded by DAN KERIN, to warn a special meeting of the Essex Junction Board of Trustees. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Brown then described the recent 'Open and Outside' event sponsored by the Village as a success and thanked all the Trustees and Staff who worked to make it possible. Mr. Chawla agreed with Mr. Brown and added that it was refreshing to hear some live music and witness some community spirit again.

RAJ CHAWLA made a motion, seconded by DAN KERIN, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.