

VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 8, 2020

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

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Evan Teich, Unified Manager; Sarah Macy, Finance Director/Assistant Manager.

OTHERS PRESENT: Marcus Certa, Kevin Collins, Annie Cooper, Barbara Kaigle, Patrick Kaigle, Roseanne Prestipino, Ken Signorello, Margaret Smith, Mike Sullivan, Irene Wrenner.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES

None at this time.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

As there were no amendments to the agenda, the agenda did not need to be approved.

4. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

a. Comments from public on items not on agenda

Patrick Kaigle spoke about an ongoing concern about garbage trucks dumping and collecting trash in the lot close to his neighborhood, which occurs around 4:30 AM and wakes up many residents. He asked if there was an ordinance in place to prevent such disturbances. Mr. Brown replied that residents should not have to enforce Village ordinances on their own, and Unified Manager Teich said he and his staff would look into and resolve the matter.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Discussion and possible approval of elimination of Town highway tax in conjunction with Village highway budget increase greater than 6% per the memorandum of understanding for Public Works

Finance Director Macy introduced this item, noting that the Village and Town have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Village Highway Budget, and part of that MOU dictates that if there are increases beyond 6% then the Town Selectboard needs to approve it prior to inclusion in its budget. She said that because this particular action requires action by both the Town Selectboard and Village Trustees, the Selectboard discussed this item at its last meeting and came to consensus that they are in support of this move, though they held off on voting to approve it until they see the entirety of the Town budget. She added that the Village Trustees must determine whether to consent to a change in the structure of the Village budget, which would move a piece of the annual rolling stock transfer into the highway operating budget, noting that this would create alignment between the Village and Town budgets. She said that currently there is an annual transfer in the Capital budget for annual rolling stock for the Village, and that the Town's highway tax approximates the annual operating transfer on the Town side, adding that because these changes would shift cost from a subset of the grand list to the entire grand list, the impact on individual taxpayers would be minimal (a \$1.68 increase in the Town, and a \$2.80 decrease in the Village, based on a \$280,000 assessed property value).

49 Mr. Brown said that this shift makes sense, given how much sharing already occurs between the Town
50 and Village, and that they utilize roads in both Town and Village.

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52 George Tyler asked if all rolling stock in the Village is considered part of Public Works, or whether there is
53 rolling stock in other departments. He asked about the implications of moving non-Public Works rolling
54 stock into the Public Works budget. Ms. Macy clarified that the action up for consideration would only
55 move the portion of rolling stock that is attributable to Public Works. Mr. Tyler also noted that the Village
56 builds depreciation into the budget as an expense, allowing the purchase of replacement vehicles in a
57 staggered sequence. Ms. Macy said that the Town and Village approach depreciation similarly in their
58 budgets.

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60 No comments from the public.

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62 **RAJ CHAWLA made a motion, and GEORGE TYLER seconded, that the Trustees approve moving the**
63 **Village Highway Transfer to rolling stock into the FY22 Village Highway Budget. The motion passed 5-0.**

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65 **6. CONSENT ITEMS**

66 **DAN KERIN made a motion, and RAJ CHAWLA seconded, that the Trustees approve the Consent Agenda:**

- 67 **a. Approve minutes: November 23, 2020**
68 **b. Check Warrant #17227—11/30/20; #17228—12/4/20**

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70 **The motion passed 5-0.**

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72 **7. READING FILE:**

- 73 **a. Board member comments:** Mr. Tyler noted that the clock in the bulletin board at the top of
74 Railroad Avenue at the intersection with Main Street is frequently stolen or vandalized and
75 asked whether it could be replaced with a wrought iron insignia or another decoration that
76 may be less prone to vandalism. Mr. Teich said that staff would look into this.
- 77 **b. Chittenden County RPC November newsletter**
- 78 **c. Memo from Evan Teich, Greg Duggan, and Sarah Macy re: Response to letter re: Request**
79 **for Merger Financials**
- 80 **d. Press Release from Ron Hoague re: Vehicle Vandalism and Attempted Arson 12/2/2020:** Mr.
81 Teich said that the Police have arrested several individuals suspected of the vehicle vandalism
82 and attempted arson and will be charging them. He thanked the Police Department and the
83 Town of Williston's Police Department for their coordination and assistance. Mr. Teich also
84 noted that the Town is organizing an online forum with the Chief of Police and CJC
85 (Community Justice Center) to discuss public safety issues, with more information to come
86 soon.
- 87 **e. Troy Austin Request Electronic Signs for Annual Toy Drive**
- 88 **f. Upcoming meeting schedule:** Mr. Brown noted that the Trustees are scheduled to meet on
89 December 22nd, not the 29th. He also thanked Selectboard members Haney, Murray, and
90 Franco for committing to place the merger piece on the Town Meeting ballot.

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92 **8. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- 93 **a. An executive session is not anticipated**

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95 **9. ADJOURN:**

**VILLAGE TRUSTEES
(DRAFT)**

December 8, 2020

96 **DAN KERIN made a motion, and RAJ CHAWLA seconded, that the Trustees adjourn the meeting. The**
97 **motion passed 5-0 at 7:09 PM.**

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100 Respectfully Submitted,
101 Amy Coonradt
102 Recording Secretary

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104 Approved this _____ day of _____, 2020

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106 **(see minutes of this day for corrections, if any)**

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DRAFT