



VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Online & 2 Lincoln St.
Essex Junction, VT 05452
Tuesday, December 14, 2021
6:30 PM

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This meeting will be held both remotely and in person. 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](#).
- **JOIN CALLING:** Join via conference call (*audio only*): (802) 377-3784 | Conference ID: 971 036 652#

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. Upcoming Legislative sessions updates from State Senators and Representatives
 - b. Potential appointment of co-interim Village Managers
 - c. Discuss and edit agreements and MOUs with the Town of Essex in relation to Independence
 - d. Discuss budget schedule for January
6. **CONSENT ITEMS**
 - a. Approve minutes: November 23, 2021
 - b. Consider approval of Densmore Drive Culvert Crossing #2 Replacement Construction Project Contract Awards
 - c. Approve Check Warrants: #17279—11/24/2021; #17280—12/03/2021; #17281—12/10/2021
7. **READING FILE**
 - a. Board member comments
 - b. VT Digger article re: Williston emergency worker shortage
 - c. Upcoming meeting schedule
8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
 - a. An executive session is not anticipated
9. **ADJOURN**

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Certification: 12/10/2021

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**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF MEETING
December 14, 2021**

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Andrew Brown, President; Dan Kerin; Amber Thibeault; George Tyler.

ADMINISTRATION: Evan Teich, Unified Manager; Maureen Gillard, School Age Childcare Director; Wendy Hysko, Library Director; Maguerite Ladd, Assistant Manager; Brad Luck, EJRP Director.

OTHERS PRESENT: Bob Burrows, Thomas Chittenden, Annie Cooper, Karen Dolan, Lori Houghton, Ginny Lyons, Timothy Miller, Greg Morgan, RM, Irene Wrenner.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Andrew Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2. **AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES**

Ms. Ladd noted a late request for recognition of the retiring Executive Director of 211.

3. **APPROVE AGENDA**

DAN KERIN made a motion, seconded by GEORGE TYLER, to amend the agenda to add Business Item 5e, a Proclamation Request. The motion passed 4-0.

4. **PUBLIC TO BE HEARD**

a. Comments from public on items not on the agenda

There were no comments at this time.

5. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

a. Upcoming Legislative sessions updates from State Senators and Representatives
Each representative introduced themselves and spoke about their areas of expertise and interest in the State legislature, as well as legislation of interest to Essex Junction.

Senator Chittenden spoke about his experience on the Transportation Committee. He spoke about additional train service that will be coming online in the spring. He said that he would like to see more coordinated bus, rail, and plane planning (for example, connections from the Vermonter to the airport). He also spoke about using technology to make a use-based assessment on Vermont's roadways (such as a toll). He additionally spoke about looking at kindergarten entrance age, noting that organizations are allowed to choose their own entrance date/age, which puts additional pressure and inconsistencies on the childcare system. He additionally noted that he has been investigating conceal and carry permits. He additionally noted that he has co-sponsored a birth certificate adjustment bill.

Senator Lyons noted that the weighting in education study is an important topic for her. She said that she has concerns about some of its recommendations. She noted that she is looking into the actual cost of English Language Learning (ELL) classes, since it encompasses more than just teaching English. She spoke about the Child Protection Oversight Committee and its investigation into allegations around child abuse at Kern Hattin. She spoke about a bill that was passed to help fund and implement a system for childcare. She also discussed other initiatives around bringing down the cost of health care at the state level. She noted work on extending some of the emergency rules around telehealth, telemedicine, and examining which of them to keep in place permanently. She additionally expressed a commitment to ensuring that Essex Junction's charter is reviewed quickly.

53 Mr. Brown asked whether representatives and senators have questions or concerns regarding the
 54 separation vote and its independent charter. Sen. Lyons noted the negotiations between the Town and
 55 Village around shared services and said she did not have questions. Mr. Brown noted that they have
 56 negotiated the majority of the shared services at this point. Sen. Chittenden said that he would like
 57 more information if the Junction is developing materials for legislative testimony. Rep. Houghton noted
 58 that a draft bill has been written and will be shared in the next several days, adding that there were
 59 some technical changes but no substantive issues have yet arisen. She additionally noted that
 60 redistricting needs to be taken into account with this charter change as well.

61
 62 Mr. Brown asked if there are any proposals at the State level to address the housing crisis. Sen.
 63 Chittenden noted that there are two bills that are being worked on, one of which addresses some of
 64 the regulatory complexity of Act 250. Sen. Lyons spoke about the need for zoning at the municipal
 65 level for some municipalities. Mr. Brown asked whether there would be a new attempt at legislation for
 66 a statewide rental registry. Rep. Dolan said that there is a bill that includes some of that legislation.
 67 Sen. Lyons noted the formation of a Vermont Housing Conservation Board.

68
 69 Mr. Tyler noted that South Burlington had attempted to form a regional airport authority several years
 70 ago, and asked whether Sen. Chittenden will be revisiting that issue at either the municipal or State
 71 level. Sen. Chittenden said he is supportive of adding seats on the Airport Commission to Winooski
 72 and other towns, though does not think this is a strong enough measure. He also spoke about a bill
 73 that would have the State conduct a governance study of BTV airport.

74
 75 Mr. Kerin noted his involvement on the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC)
 76 and initiatives to help deal with traffic problems as the county experiences growth. He spoke about the
 77 Junction’s Crescent Connector project, and Sen. Chittenden expressed support for the project. Sen.
 78 Lyons noted that a significant amount of funding will be coming to the Junction for infrastructure
 79 projects, which would mean resources available to tackle some of the traffic and transportation issues
 80 that are priorities for the Junction.

81
 82 b. Potential appointment of co-interim Village Managers
 83 Mr. Brown said that the Junction has been exploring options for when Mr. Teich’s contract expires, and
 84 is looking to appoint Wendy Hysko and Brad Luck as interim co-managers for the Village.

85
 86 Mr. Tyler said that he would like to increase the compensation for the two candidates, and asked the
 87 Board to consider increasing the amount to \$200 per week. He asked if more staff will be taking on
 88 more responsibility, and if other staff should also be compensated more. Mr. Luck said that they are
 89 not anticipating staff taking on additional roles. He said that he and Ms. Hysko have divided
 90 managerial duties and are prepared to serve until a permanent Manager is hired.

91
 92 **DAN KERIN made a motion, seconded by AMBER THIBEAULT, that the Trustees approve of**
 93 **and sign the Employment Agreement for Wendy Hysko and Brad Luck to serve as Co-Interim**
 94 **Village Managers effective February 26, 2022. The motion passed 4-0.**

95
 96 c. Discuss and edit agreements and MOUs with the Town of Essex in relation to Independence
 97 The Trustees spoke briefly about the agreements and MOUs with the Town of Essex.

98
 99 d. Discuss budget schedule for January

100 Ms. Ladd outlined a budget review schedule for the FY23 budget. She noted that there is only one
 101 public hearing (as opposed to the two that were held last year). Mr. Brown asked if the Junction will

102 include a hybrid option for its Annual Meeting. Other Trustees expressed support for a hybrid option,
103 saying that it could increase attendance and participation from the public.

104
105 e. Proclamation Request

106 The Village offers an honorable mention to MaryEllen Mendl for a great career with the United Way,
107 and offers congratulations and gratitude for her service.

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109 6. CONSENT ITEMS

110 a. Approve minutes: November 23, 2021

111 b. Consider approval of Densmore Drive Culvert Crossing #2 Replacement Construction Project
112 Contract Awards

113 c. Approve Check Warrants #17279—11/24/2021; #17280—12/03/2021; #17281—12/10/2021
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115 **AMBER THIBEAULT made a motion, and GEORGE TYLER seconded, to approve the consent**
116 **agenda as presented. The motion passed 4-0.**

117
118 8. READING FILE

119 a. Board member comments: Ms. Thibeault requested an item on a future agenda about the noise
120 ordinance and trash haulers, particularly around the effective date and communication to trash haulers
121 about it.

122 b. VT Digger article re: Williston emergency worker shortage

123 b. Upcoming meeting schedule
124

125 9. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

126 An executive session is not anticipated
127

128 10. ADJOURN

129
130 **DAN KERIN made a motion, and AMBER THIBEAULT seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The**
131 **motion passed 4-0 at 7:51 PM.**

132
133 Respectfully Submitted,
134 Amy Coonradt