

WARNING
VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION ANNUAL MEETING
APRIL 1 & 14, 2015

The legal voters of the Village of Essex Junction are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Essex Community Educational Center on Educational Drive in the Village of Essex Junction on Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 7:00 PM to act upon any of the following articles not involving voting by Australian ballot, said meeting to be adjourned to reconvene at the Essex Community Educational Center, on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 to vote for Village officers and transact any business involving voting by Australian ballot, said voting by Australian ballot to begin at 7:00 AM and close at 7:00 PM.

ARTICLE 1. Shall the voters act upon the report of the auditor?

ARTICLE 2. Shall the voters approve an annual General Fund Budget in the amount of \$3,799,390 for fiscal year July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, \$2,564,285 of which is to be levied in taxes against the Village Grand List?

ARTICLE 3. Shall the voters approve the transfer of \$75,000 from the General Fund Balance to the Capital Reserve Fund for future capital projects?

ARTICLE 4. Shall the voters approve holding the 2016 Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 to act upon any articles not involving voting by Australian ballot and to reconvene on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 to vote for the Village officers and transact any business involving voting by Australian ballot?

ARTICLE 5. To transact any other business that may lawfully come before the meeting?

BALLOT QUESTIONS

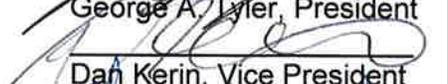
ARTICLE 6. To elect Village officers required by law including: Moderator (one year term); two Village Trustees (three year terms); one Library Trustee (five year term)?

Dated this 24th day of February, 2015

VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

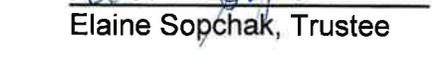
By:


George A. Tyler, President


Dan Kerin, Vice President


Lori Houghton, Trustee


Andrew Brown, Trustee


Elaine Sopchak, Trustee

ATTEST:


Susan McNamara-Hill, Village Clerk

**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
April 1, 2015**

Moderator Steve Eustis welcomed the assemblage to the 123rd Annual Meeting of the Village of Essex Junction. The meeting was broadcast live on Channel 17. The assemblage was led in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Essex Junction High School Chamber Choir sang the Star Spangled Banner. Attendees included:

- Village Board of Trustees - Village President, George Tyler, Village Vice President, Dan Kerin, Trustees, Andrew Brown, Elaine Sopchak, Lori Houghton.
- Village administration - Municipal Manager, Pat Scheidel; Village Assistant Manager & Finance Director, Lauren Morrissette, Village Clerk/Treasurer, Susan McNamara-Hill; Village Community Development Director, Robin Pierce; Administrative Assistant to the Village Manager, Patty Benoit; Assistant Zoning Administrator, Terry Hass; Public Works Superintendent, Rick Jones; Water Quality Superintendent, Jim Jutras; Village Engineer, Rick Hamlin; Village Attorney, Dave Barra; Essex Junction Fire Chief, Chris Gaboriault; Brownell Library Interim Director, Wendy Hysko, Brownell Library Board Chairwoman, Christine Packard.
- Recording Secretary, Marianne Riordan.

Moderator Eustis called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and explained the procedure to be followed.

ARTICLE 1: Shall the voters act upon the report of the auditor?

MOTION by Mary Jo Engel, SECOND by Marla Durham, to approve Article 1 as read.

DISCUSSION: None.

VOTING ON ARTICLE 1: unanimous; motion carried. Article 1 is adopted.

ARTICLE 2: Shall the voters approve the annual General Fund budget in the amount of \$3,799,390 for fiscal year July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 of which \$2,564,285 is to be levied in taxes against the Village Grand List?

MOTION by Marla Durham, SECOND by George Boucher, to approve Article 2 as read.

DISCUSSION: Village President George Tyler highlighted key pieces of the budget:

- **A large portion of the budget reflects the shared service initiative with the town. The street department budget is included in the town budget which reduces the amount that must be raised by the village. The town general fund pays for street maintenance in the village, but the money is given to the village so the village maintains control of the village street department. The town general fund was approved by the voters at the town's annual meeting. Town taxes will go up because there is a larger budget to support. Villagers will see a savings. The tax rate will be the lowest it has been for 10 years (savings of \$124 for the average village home).**

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- This is the first year of pay back of the \$3.3 million bond approved by the voters for infrastructure projects. The term of the bond is 20 years. A large portion of the budget increase is due to the bond pay back.
- Staff and the Trustees continue to seek opportunities to save money with shared services with the town.
- Typical increases in village departments are with salaries and contract obligations. The largest increases are in the public works and library departments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Chris Halpin, School Street, asked about prior arrangements with the street department. George Tyler said the village street department previously was funded by village taxpayers. The town general fund is funded by both village and town taxpayers so villagers were paying for the village street department and the town street department. Town residents outside the village are assessed a highway tax that funds infrastructure. The highway tax was reduced when the village street department budget was incorporated into the town budget.
- Greg Morgan, Grove Street, commented the shared services initiative is a culmination of many years of candidates running for office on the platform of seeking efficiencies and consolidation of services with the town. The village and town have now moved toward efficiencies and it is hoped in the future to see even less increase in property taxes.

VOTING ON ARTICLE 2: majority of ayes; motion carried. Article 2 is adopted.

ARTICLE 3: Shall the voters approve the transfer of \$75,000 from the General Fund balance to the Capital Reserve Fund for future capital projects?

MOTION by Mike Plageman, SECOND by Marla Durham, to approve Article 3 as read.

DISCUSSION: George Tyler explained the Trustees try to maintain a 10% positive fund balance in the General Fund to cover unexpected costs. The balance this year exceeded 10% so the Trustees felt money should be transferred to capital projects to address the poor condition of roads and sidewalks. In the summer of 2015 Pearl Street, Maple Street, and Park Street will be patch paved then fully repaved by the state in 2016.

VOTING ON ARTICLE 3: unanimous; motion carried. Article 3 is adopted.

ARTICLE 4: Shall the voters approve holding the 2016 Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 to act upon any articles not involving voting by Australian ballot and to reconvene on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 to vote for the village officers and transact any business involving voting by Australian ballot?

MOTION by George Boucher, SECOND by Dorothy Bergendahl, to approve Article 4 as read.

DISCUSSION: None.

VOTING ON ARTICLE 4: unanimous; motion carried. Article 4 is adopted.

ARTICLE 5: To transact any other business that may lawfully come before the meeting.

MOTION by Chris Halpin, SECOND by Glenn Rogers, to allow Julie Campoli to give a presentation on the vision for the village center of Essex Junction and how the village can grow into a more vibrant, walkable village center.

DISCUSSION: None.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

Vision for Village Center

Julie Campoli gave a presentation on thoughtful growth for the village center noting the following;

- Desired design elements for the village center include a central green, pocket parks, buildings lining the street, pedestrianized Main Street, multi-story mixed use buildings, street trees.
- Recommendations include:
 - Filling in the gaps with buildings and activities,
 - Diverting and calming traffic,
 - Connecting spaces with greens and public areas,
 - Parking behind buildings,
 - Connecting buildings to each other.
- The design elements and recommendations will create opportunity for economic activities and places to walk.
- Once the crescent connector roadway is built the space on Main Street can be claimed for program activities.
- Landowners and the public need to be informed and made aware of the vision and advantages of the plan in order to have buy-in.

COMMENTS

Jean Palmer, Jackson Street, asked about using permeable parking surfaces. Julie Campoli said developers need to be encouraged to use these surfaces and have plants and green roofs to absorb water. George Tyler noted the village storm water requirements do not mandate use of pervious surfaces.

Chris Halpin, School Street, expressed hope that some of the initiatives are part of the work on the roads into Five Corners by the state. George Tyler noted the thoughtful growth presentation is a long term vision for the village. The state will be repaving the roads in 2016. It is possible for the village to convert one lane on Park Street to parallel parking to benefit the local merchants.

Dorothy Bergendahl commented the plan implies existing businesses will be relocated. George Tyler reiterated the vision is long term. The village has no plans to purchase businesses. Business owners may see the vision as opportunity to improve their property.

Lynette Corbin Retirement

Marla Durham announced Lynette Corbin is retiring after 30 years of service to the village school district. Candidates for the position must be a village resident.

Elections

- Moderator (one year term)
- Two Village Trustees (three year terms)
- One Library Trustee (five year term)

Adjournment

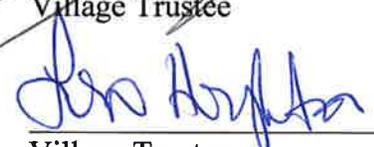
MOTION by Dorothy Bergendahl, SECOND by Andy Kovolos, to adjourn the 123rd Annual Meeting of the Village of Essex Junction. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM. Voting by Australian ballot will take place on April 14, 2015 from 7 AM to 7 PM at Essex Community Educational Center.

Attest:



Village Trustee



Village Trustee



Village Clerk

**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
CERTIFICATION OF RESULTS
ANNUAL ELECTION
APRIL 14, 2015**

Number of Voters on Checklist	7349
Number of Voted Ballots	532
Number of Blank/Spoiled ballots	23
Annual Meeting 4/1	103

Under Article 6 of the Warning:

To elect Village officers required by law including: Moderator (one year term); two Village Trustees (three year terms); one Library Trustees (five year term)?

Office	Name	Number of Votes
Moderator	Steven M. Eustis	475
Trustee (2, 3-year term):	Andrew Brown	429
	Elaine Sopchak	423
Library Trustee (5 yr term)	Linda Costello	496

Attest:



Susan McNamara-Hill, Village Clerk