

VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION NEWS

“In the whole world, there is only one Essex Junction”

Issue No. 39

March 2016

Please Come to Annual Meeting **Wednesday, April 6, 2016 at 7 PM** **Essex Community Educational Center**

Essex Junction's general fund budget, which pays for municipal services such as road maintenance, fire department, and library, is decided by an “aye” or “nay” vote from the audience at the Village's Annual Meeting. Every vote counts.

The free pre-Annual Meeting community supper begins at 6:00 p.m. in the Essex High School cafeteria on Wednesday, April 6, 2016. Free childcare begins at 7:00 p.m. Free rides for Seniors, call 878-6940.

State of the Village 2016

By George Tyler, Village President
On behalf of the Essex Junction Board of Trustees

The Trustees are pleased to present the Village community with an FY2017 proposed general fund budget that includes an estimated four percent reduction in the tax rate – and a genuine savings to individual property owners – while maintaining all Village services at their present, high quality levels.

This is the second year in which the Village's tax rate has gone down. The decrease is partly due to reduced maintenance and repair costs in the Village Street Department budget after moving some of those expenditures into Essex Town's Public Works budget as part of the Village-Town shared services initiative. An additional savings was realized this year by growth in the Essex Junction grand list – the total taxable value of the Village municipality. Grand list growth means the Village can raise the same funds as in previous years while levying lower taxes on individual property owners. Overall, the FY2017 proposed general fund budget presented in this report represents an increase over

last year's budget, due mainly to contractual salary increases and increases for essential items such as road salt. However, with the reduction in the tax rate the cost of paying for this budget to the individual property owner has been reduced.

These budgetary facts highlight the Trustees' commitment to level service governance, increased cooperation with the Essex Town government, and the community values expressed through Heart & Soul of Essex, particularly the value of Thoughtful Growth. In May of 2015 the Essex Junction government incorporated into the Village plan the recommendations of the Design 5 Corners Community Planning project which envisions a redeveloped, compact, pedestrian-friendly village center primarily serving the needs of the people of the Village and Town. We know that change is controversial, particularly infill development that displaces familiar buildings and surroundings. But change is also inevitable and, as we've seen with the increased value of the Village grand list, change can provide a positive and sustainable benefit to the local economy.

With the Design 5 Corners project we emphasized public engagement to give community members a real voice in the development process. We embrace continuing improvements in our communication efforts not only as a commitment to Heart & Soul values, but as an essential component of good governance in a time of change and uncertainty. The Essex community faces many challenges in the coming years. The fate of Global Foundries, our largest local employer, is directly linked to the highly volatile global economy. The state government, on which we depend to help offset local costs, is facing serious budgetary shortfalls. Locally, the Village and Town school districts have courageously set a course for unification – a change we in local government embrace, but one which will require a sustained effort by families, faculty, and administrators to build a new, unified public education system that reflects the same commitment to excellence as the systems it's replacing. Facing these challenges together means fostering strong communicative bonds among the

citizens of the Village and Town, and the people they elect to represent them.

The Trustees wish to extend our sincere gratitude to all members of the Essex Junction and Essex Town staffs who have worked hard to make the Village-Town shared services initiative a success. All our Village departments – administration, community development, library, street department, water treatment – operate with the minimum staffing possible, and they do an amazing job. Our Village fire department, staffed entirely by volunteers, is a testament to community service and dedication. Despite the demands on their time and the uncertainty of change, the entire community of Village workers and public servants, and their counterparts in the Town, have maintained an enthusiastic and supportive attitude towards the Trustees' and Essex Town Selectboard's efforts to achieve operational efficiencies by rearranging roles and responsibilities. We asked for their help and resilience. They said yes – and we thank them.

JOIN FRONT PORCH FORUM

If you haven't already, sign up for your neighborhood's e-newsletter today. Hear from your clearly identified nearby neighbors and post messages yourself. No fees, no spam, all local. It won't overflow your inbox. There are five neighborhoods in Essex Junction which have their own forums: Five Corners North, Five Corners South, Fairview Farms, Countryside and Essex West.

After just a few months on FPF, people often report feeling more connected to their neighbors, more tuned in to local goings on and more a part of their community. You'll see postings looking for a contractor, a lost pet, organizing a group yard sale, alerts to suspicious activity, etc. Check it out at www.frontporchforum.com. Online conversations help neighbors connect and build community.

***Water Quality
and storm water info at
smartwaterways.org
and
ccstreamteam.org***



WARNING
VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION ANNUAL MEETING
APRIL 6 & 12, 2016

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 6, 2016 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 12, 2016 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 \$3,953,074 for fiscal year July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, \$2,482,765 of which is to be levied in taxes against the Village Grand List?

ARTICLE 3. Shall the voters approve adding 1 cent to the tax rate to establish a fund for village capital improvement projects designated by the Village Trustees?

ARTICLE 4. Shall the voters approve holding the 2017 Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 5, 2017 to act upon any articles not involving voting by Australian ballot and to reconvene on Tuesday, April 11, 2017 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); one Village Trustee (three year term); two Library Trustees (1 five year term and 1 one year term)?

Dated this 23rd day of February, 2016

VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

By: Dan Kerin, Vice President
Lori Houghton, Trustee
Andrew Brown, Trustee

ATTEST:
Susan McNamara-Hill, Village Clerk

VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
2 Lincoln Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452-3154

PRST STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
Burlington, VT
05401
Permit #675

ECRWSS

POSTAL PATRON

IMPORTANT DATES FOR VILLAGE RESIDENTS

<u>March 15, 2016</u>	Second installment of property taxes due
<u>April 6, 2016</u>	Community Supper, 6 pm, Essex High School Cafeteria Annual Meeting , 7 pm, Essex High School Auditorium
<u>April 12, 2016</u>	Village Annual Meeting ballot voting 7 am-7 pm, EHS
<u>May 7, 2016</u>	Green Up Day
<u>May 28, 2016</u>	Memorial Day Parade, 10 am
<u>May 31, 2016</u>	Water/sewer bills due
<u>June 3, 2016</u>	Five Corners Farmers' Market opens
<u>July 4, 2016</u>	4 th of July Celebration with fireworks at Maple St. Park
<u>July 16, 2016</u>	15 th Annual Block Party, Railroad Avenue, 5-10 pm
<u>Aug. 29, 2016</u>	Water/sewer bills due
<u>Sept. 15, 2016</u>	First installment of property taxes due
<u>Nov. 30, 2016</u>	Water/sewer bills due

Community Supper Before Annual Meeting, April 6 at 6:00 PM

Join your friends and neighbors for the Community Supper on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 at 6 PM in the Essex High School cafeteria. The supper is free and dessert will be provided. The supper is followed by the Village Annual Meeting in the auditorium at 7 PM. ***Free on-site child care is provided during the meeting.***

2015 Annual Report

The 2015 Village Annual Report will be available at the Annual Meeting or may be picked up at the Village office or the Brownell Library by March 22. It will be also online at www.essexjunction.org. The FYE 15 Audit Report is also available on the Village website or at the Village office.

VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION GENERAL FUND REVENUES

Account	FYE14 Actual	FYE15 Budget	FYE15 Actual	FYE16 Budget	FYE16 Estimated Revenues	FYE17 Proposed Budget
1 Unrestricted Fund Balance	0	35,000	0	35,000	0	35,000
2 Property Taxes	2,811,738	3,011,526	3,037,246	2,564,285	2,564,285	2,482,765
3 State for Pilot & Current Use	2,891	2,500	3,529	2,500	2,173	1,900
4 Essex Town Contribution to Library	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
5 Town Payment for Stormwater	0	0	0	59,500	59,500	59,352
6 Town Payment for Street Dept.	0	0	0	780,070	780,070	1,000,642
7 License & Zoning Fees	89,513	35,000	69,383	50,000	50,000	50,000
8 Whitcomb Farm Solar Pilot	0	0	6,600	5,524	5,524	5,400
9 Miscellaneous Fire Receipts	0	10	20	10	15	20
10 State District Court Fines	2,195	2,000	877	2,000	1,700	500
11 Interest Earnings	2,017	1,500	1,389	2,000	2,000	1,500
12 Parking Space Fees	5,200	4,800	4,800	4,800	4,800	4,800
13 Lincoln Hall Rentals	0	1	0	1	1	1
14 Block Party Donations	1,504	1,500	1,700	1,500	1,500	1,500
15 Misc. Receipts	4,930	2,000	2,740	2,000	500	2,000
16 Miscellaneous Street Receipts	5,073	3,000	3,528	3,000	10,000	3,000
17 Miscellaneous Library Receipts	286	500	706	300	300	400
18 Service Fee - Water	111,336	106,840	106,840	108,760	108,760	113,888
19 Service Fee - WWTP	55,668	53,420	53,420	54,380	54,380	56,944
20 Service Fee - Sanitation	111,336	106,840	106,840	108,760	108,760	113,888
21 Miscellaneous Grants	148,028	0	18,508	0	12,279	0
22 Lost Book Revenue	4,451	0	5,069	0	1,612	0
23 Farmers Market Reimbursement	0	0	1,450	0	2,679	4,574
24 Penalties/Interest Delinq. Taxes	8,049	8,000	383	0	0	0
25 State Highway Aid	113,461	100,000	113,436	0	0	0
26 EJSD Tax Collection Fee	49,896	48,000	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	3,542,572	3,537,437	3,553,464	3,799,390	3,785,838	3,953,074

GENERAL FUND BUDGET SUMMARY

	FYE14 Actual	FYE15 Budget	FYE15 Actual	FYE16 Budget	FYE16 Estimated Expenditures	FYE17 Proposed Budget
GENERAL GOVERNMENT:						
27 Administration	529,832	561,784	546,247	588,773	588,613	603,131
28 Transfers & Misc Expenditures	620,051	649,623	649,623	690,448	690,448	583,585
29 Grant & Non-Budgetary Expenditures	185,022	0	17,974	0	14,191	0
30 Seniors Support	0	7,960	5,934	8,223	13,360	0
31 Fire Department	281,793	298,075	300,351	304,184	303,073	315,342
32 Library	674,880	736,207	692,950	762,775	726,488	776,396
33 Lincoln Hall	51,291	55,057	58,835	44,604	44,016	49,150
34 Community Development	210,712	250,678	224,051	249,937	241,712	251,212
35 Economic Development/Community Eve	76,150	94,838	86,573	87,450	83,910	92,021
36 Street Department	832,124	814,603	809,092	839,570	821,971	1,059,993
Subtotal General Fund	3,461,855	3,468,825	3,391,630	3,575,964	3,527,782	3,730,830
37 Debt Service	0	68,612	68,612	223,426	223,426	222,244
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	3,461,855	3,537,437	3,460,242	3,799,390	3,751,208	3,953,074