

VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION NEWS

"In the whole world, there is only one Essex Junction"

Issue No. 41

March 2018

Please Come to Annual Meeting *Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 7 PM* *Essex High School Auditorium*

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 4, 2018. Free childcare begins at 7:00 p.m. Free rides for Seniors, call 878-6940.

So Long and Thank You to Pat Scheidel

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

We mark the end of an era and bid farewell to a dedicated public servant.

In 2013 the Essex Junction Trustees made a bold proposal to the Essex Town Selectboard to consider allowing Essex Town Manager Pat Scheidel to jointly serve as manager for the Town and Village. The Selectboard made an equally forward-looking response and agreed. But, of course, all of this hinged on Pat's willingness to take on the responsibility of administering two separate governments which haven't always seen eye to eye.

Pat didn't hesitate. In fact, the challenge of bringing the Village and Town under one administrative umbrella delighted him.

Four hectic years later, the two governments and two governing boards, under Pat's thoughtful leadership, have grown closer together than at any other point in the Essex community's modern

history. It hasn't been easy and it hasn't always gone smoothly. But the successes far outweigh the negatives, to the point where the elected leaders of both governments unanimously agreed to replace Pat, upon his previously-announced retirement this year, with another unified manager.

Pat's biggest challenge has been embracing the gradual pace of consolidation we all agreed was necessary to avoid the political jolts that have derailed past consolidation efforts. He understood the need to move gradually, but he also wanted things 'squared away' by his retirement, so that the new municipal manager would more quickly discover 'the paradise' (Pat's words) we've got going for us here in northwestern Vermont.

Pat often says his passion for local government and dedication to public service grew from his early years in municipal management in Illinois, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, and was fully formed when he was recruited to come to Essex 27 years ago by Selectboard Chair Marty Myers. But those who know Pat suspect his commitment to

public service, or 'service above self' (the motto of the Rotary Club, of which Pat has been a member for many years) and his penchant for 'squaring things away' took root when he was a young sailor in the U.S. Navy serving on a battleship off the coast of North Vietnam. There, while doing his duty over weeks and months of long, difficult days, during a war that had by then become unpopular back home, Pat came to grasp the importance of steady, unheralded service.

The majority of Pat's tenure has been with the Town government, but his thoughtful leadership style of maintaining a low profile while encouraging and enabling others to succeed was immediately appreciated by Village staff. With the Essex Town manager about to become the chief administrator for the Village, no one was sure what would happen. Would people's jobs be lost or diminished for the sake of consolidation? Would Village services be cut or the collaborative climate of Village staff be disrupted? From the start, Pat made it clear that in his view the quality of services delivered by Village departments – public works, fire, library, development, environmental, recreation – was a direct reflection of the upbeat, can-do attitude of Village department heads. He appreciated the intangible value of the professionalism they brought to their jobs and how it directly contributed to the quality of municipal services delivered to Village residents. His job as manager, he believed, was not to interfere, but to learn, encourage, support, and, when possible, improve.

The Trustees' experience was similar. Pat learned our way of doing things and gracefully inserted himself into our dialogue and process. He earned our trust with his humor, insight, and wisdom. Exactly as we had hoped, he helped the Trustees and Town Selectboard find common ground by helping each board understand the concerns and challenges the other was facing.

Village and Town consolidation hasn't been 'squared away' yet, and it may take several years more to achieve the reconfiguration of local governance which, we all hope, will continue to provide all Village and Town residents a safe, durable, predictable, and sustainable community in which to raise their families and live their lives in this new century. But Pat Scheidel's willingness to work for two boards and run two governments, at a time in his career when it would have been much easier and safer to say no, has moved both governments across an important threshold of understanding and collaboration. The consolidations we've already achieved under his leadership will provide an enduring foundation for building more.



We say goodbye to Pat Scheidel. We honor him, thank him, and hope that in the years to come, his many accomplishments here in 'paradise' will serve as a source of comfort and pride.



WARNING
VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION ANNUAL MEETING
APRIL 4 & 10, 2018

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 4, 2018 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 10, 2018 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 \$4,954,687 for fiscal year July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, \$3,423,606 of which is to be levied in taxes against the Village Grand List?

ARTICLE 3. Shall the voters approve holding the 2019 Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 3, 2019 to act upon any articles not involving voting by Australian ballot and to reconvene on Tuesday, April 9, 2019 to vote for the Village officers and transact any business involving voting by Australian ballot?

ARTICLE 4. To transact any other business that may lawfully come before the meeting?

BALLOT QUESTIONS

ARTICLE 5. To elect Village officers required by law including: Moderator (one year term); two Village Trustees (three year term); three Library Trustees (1 one year term, 1 four year term, 1 five year term); one School director for the Essex Westford School District #51 (three year term)?

Dated this 27th day of February, 2018

VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

By: Elaine H. Sopchak, Vice President
Daniel S. Kerin, Trustee
Lori A. Houghton, Trustee
Andrew P. Brown, Trustee

ATTEST:
Susan McNamara-Hill, Village Clerk

VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION GENERAL FUND REVENUES

Account	FYE16 Actual	FYE17 Budget	FYE17 Actual	FYE18 Budget	FYE18 Estimated Revenues	FYE19 Proposed Budget
1 Unrestricted Fund Balance	0	35,000	0	60,000	60,000	35,000
2 Property Taxes	2,564,285	2,482,765	2,480,854	3,285,170	3,285,170	3,423,606
3 State for Pilot & Current Use	2,173	1,900	4,301	2,000	2,000	2,000
4 Essex Town Contribution to Library	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
5 Town Payment for Stormwater	59,500	59,352	59,352	61,460	61,460	64,367
6 Town Payment for Street Dept.	780,070	1,000,642	1,000,642	1,059,989	1,059,989	1,080,759
7 License & Zoning Fees	58,153	50,000	60,184	58,000	58,000	58,000
8 Whitcomb Farm Solar Pilot	5,405	5,400	5,280	5,000	5,000	5,000
9 Miscellaneous Fire Receipts	25	20	0	20	0	20
10 State District Court Fines	1,741	500	1,589	1,000	1,000	1,500
11 Interest Earnings	2,657	1,500	2,225	1,500	2,000	2,000
12 Parking Space Fees	4,800	4,800	4,400	4,800	2,400	2,400
13 Lincoln Hall Rentals	30	1	0	0	0	0
14 Block Party Donations	1,150	1,500	2,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
15 Misc. Receipts	1,630	2,000	2,804	2,000	2,500	2,000
16 Miscellaneous Street Receipts	9,312	3,000	4,091	4,000	4,000	4,000
17 Miscellaneous Library Receipts	683	400	712	500	600	500
18 Parks & Rec Non-resident Fees	0	0	0	22,000	22,000	22,000
19 Service Fee - Water	108,760	113,888	113,888	92,948	92,948	94,014
20 Service Fee - WWTP	54,380	56,944	56,944	46,474	46,474	47,007
21 Service Fee - Sanitation	108,760	113,888	113,888	92,948	92,948	94,014
22 Miscellaneous Grants/Donations	17,725	0	59,562	0	13,917	0
23 Lost Book Revenue	2,381	0	3,046	0	2,000	0
24 Farmers Market Reimbursement	3,479	4,575	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	3,802,099	3,953,074	3,991,262	4,816,309	4,830,906	4,954,687

GENERAL FUND BUDGET SUMMARY

	FYE16 Actual	FYE17 Budget	FYE17 Actual	FYE18 Budget	FYE18 Estimated Expenditures	FYE19 Proposed Budget
GENERAL GOVERNMENT:						
25 Administration	562,235	603,131	626,113	503,502	492,478	487,135
26 Transfers & Misc Expenditures	765,448	583,585	616,585	673,858	673,858	707,075
27 Grant & Non-Budgetary Expenditures	20,763	0	53,068	0	15,917	0
28 Seniors Support	12,347	0	0	0	0	0
29 Fire Department	299,463	315,342	319,214	332,165	355,159	366,864
30 Library	696,980	776,396	736,958	798,291	792,565	795,359
31 Lincoln Hall/Park St. School	44,675	49,150	45,714	50,874	58,435	50,927
32 Community Development	233,331	251,212	221,635	253,271	241,727	253,684
33 Economic Development/Community Eve	70,408	92,021	81,101	92,905	96,633	118,770
34 Street Department	832,516	1,059,993	1,011,390	1,121,449	1,086,221	1,145,126
35 Recreation & Parks	0	0	0	674,728	702,188	711,764
Subtotal General Fund	3,538,166	3,730,830	3,711,778	4,501,043	4,515,181	4,636,704
36 Debt Service	223,426	222,244	199,464	315,266	315,266	317,983
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	3,761,592	3,953,074	3,911,242	4,816,309	4,830,447	4,954,687

**PLEASE DO NOT DISPOSE
OF FURNITURE AND
HOUSEHOLD ITEMS IN THE
PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY**

The Village Public Works Department requests that residents refrain from placing furniture and other household items in the right-of-way. This refers to street corners, greenbelts in front of your home and any other public property, which can interfere with plowing.

Residents have sole responsibility for disposal of unwanted property. If you need information on where to take it, contact the Chittenden Solid Waste District Drop Off Center at 878-3152.

Your cooperation is appreciated!

Five Corners Farmers' Market

The Five Corners Farmers' Market returns for the summer of 2018 to a new day and location! Starting with opening day on May 30th, the Five Corners Farmers' Market & Pop-Up Marketplace will be on Wednesdays 4 p.m.-7:30 p.m. in the parking lot behind Road Res-Q (3 Main Street). This heart-of-the-Village location is convenient and visible to everyone — walkers, cyclists, and commuters — while serving our community with mid-week retail, food shopping, dining and live entertainment. Look for fun, new vendors, musicians and activities while helping to support a vibrant downtown Village. Wednesdays 4-7:30 p.m. May 30-August; 3:30-6:30 p.m. September-Oct 3. See www.5cornersfarmersmarket.com for more info.

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
information at:
rethinkrunoff.org***

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, 2018</u>	Second installment of FY 2018 property taxes due
<u>April 4, 2018</u>	Community Supper, 6 PM, Essex High School Cafeteria Annual Meeting , 7 PM, Essex High School Auditorium
<u>April 10, 2018</u>	Village Annual Meeting ballot voting, 7 AM-7 PM, EHS
<u>April 30, 2018</u>	Water/Sewer bills mailed
<u>May 5, 2018</u>	Green Up Day
<u>May 26, 2018</u>	Memorial Day Parade, 10 AM
<u>May 30, 2018</u>	Five Corners Farmers' Market opens
<u>July 4, 2018</u>	4 th of July Celebration with fireworks at Maple St. Park
<u>July 28, 2018</u>	17 th Annual Block Party/Street Dance, Railroad Avenue
<u>July 31, 2018</u>	Water/Sewer bills mailed
<u>Sept. 17, 2018</u>	First installment of FY 2019 property taxes due
<u>Oct. 31, 2018</u>	Water/Sewer bills mailed
<u>Dec. 7, 2018</u>	9 th Annual Train Hop and Tree Lighting

Community Supper Before Annual Meeting, April 4 at 6:00 PM

Join your friends and neighbors for the Community Supper on Wednesday, April 4, 2018 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.**

2017 Annual Report

The 2017 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 23. It will also be online at www.essexjunction.org. The FYE 17 Audit Report is also available on the Village website or at the Village office.