

WARNING
VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION ANNUAL MEETING
APRIL 5 & 11, 2017

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 5, 2017 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 11, 2017 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 \$4,816,309 for fiscal year July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018, \$3,285,170 of which is to be levied in taxes against the Village Grand List?

ARTICLE 3. Shall the voters approve the transfer of \$96,000 from the General Fund Balance to the Capital Reserve Fund for future capital projects?

ARTICLE 4. Shall the voters approve the purchase of the Park Street School property from the Essex Junction School District for \$1?

ARTICLE 5. Shall the voters approve holding the 2018 Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 4, 2018 to act upon any articles not involving voting by Australian ballot and to reconvene on Tuesday, April 10, 2018 to vote for the Village officers and transact any business involving voting by Australian ballot?

ARTICLE 6. To transact any other business that may lawfully come before the meeting?


BALLOT QUESTIONS

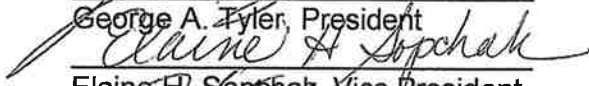
ARTICLE 7. To elect Village officers required by law including: Moderator (one year term); two Village Trustees (three year term); three Library Trustees (1 five year term, 1 three year term and 1 one year term)?

Dated this 28th day of February, 2017

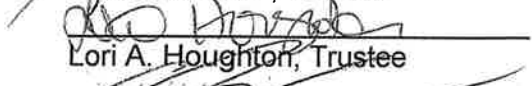
VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

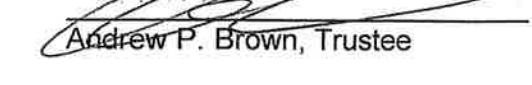
By:


George A. Tyler, President


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
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
April 5, 2017**

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. The high school chorus quartet of Shanti Boyle, Hannah Baker, Tommy Bergeron, and Keegan Fitzgerald sang “The Star Spangled Banner” and “Our Green Mountains”. Attendees included:

- Village Board of Trustees - Village President, George Tyler, Village Vice President, Elaine Sopchak, Trustees, Andrew Brown, Dan Kerin, Lori Houghton.
- Village Administration - Municipal Manager, Pat Scheidel; Village Assistant Manager and Finance Director, Lauren Morrisseau, Village Clerk/Treasurer, Susan McNamara-Hill; Village 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 Director, Wendy Hysko.
- State Representatives – Lori Houghton and Dylan Giambatista.
- Essex Selectboard – Max Levy, Irene Wrenner, Andy Watts, Mike Plagman, Sue Cook.
- Recording Secretary, Marianne Riordan.

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

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

MOTION by Carl Houghton, SECOND by Bob O’Neill, 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 \$4,816,309 for fiscal year July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 of which \$3,285,170 is to be levied in taxes against the Village Grand List?

MOTION by Mary Jo Engel, SECOND by Marla Durham, to approve Article 2 as read.

DISCUSSION: Village President George Tyler highlighted the following:

- The budget is up by \$800,000 over last year due to the transfer of the Recreation Department (EJRP) to the General Fund budget. Total budget with the General Fund and enterprise funds (Wastewater Treatment Plant, Water, Sanitation) is \$12,550,070. Total capital fund spending including the reserve, rolling stock, water, wastewater treatment plant, sanitation, and recreation is \$5,049,866 of which \$2.8 million will come from grants.
- Tax appropriation for the village will decrease 1.05%.

- Challenges to the budget include incorporating the recreation budget, holding the budget to the rate of inflation, further combining of services with the town, increasing the capital reserve by 7.5%, adding 10% to the rolling stock and adding recreation capital expenditures to the budget.
- Cost savings have been realized by combining the following with the town: Public Works, Finance, sharing IT services, and grant procurements.
- Capital projects in the village include the Main Street pedestrian bridge, crescent connector road, Hillcrest sidewalk improvement, Greenwood Avenue drainage, and rolling stock replacement per the schedule.
- FY2017 taxes are made up of school tax (67%), town tax (20%), village tax (10%), and parks & rec tax (3%). The average tax increase for FY17 taxes on an average house in the village is \$8.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Diane Clemens asked about the Greenwood Avenue project. Village Engineer, Rick Hamlin, explained the project is the best cost effective solution. The true solution is to tear up the entire street and resize the pipes.
- Saramichelle Stultz spoke in support of the non-resident fee charged by EJRP.

There were no further comments.

VOTING ON ARTICLE 2: unanimous; motion carried. Article 2 is adopted.

ARTICLE 3: Shall the voters approve the transfer of \$96,000 from the General Fund balance to the Capital Reserve Fund for future capital projects?

MOTION by Bob O'Neill, SECOND by Richard Smith, to approve Article 3 as read.

DISCUSSION: Village President George Tyler explained the transfer of fund balance is from the present budget.

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

ARTICLE 4: Shall the voters approve the purchase of the Park Street School property from the Essex Junction School District for \$1?

MOTION by Carl Houghton, SECOND by Marla Durham, to approve Article 4 as read.

DISCUSSION: The following comments were made:

- Village President George Tyler explained through the school consolidation the school properties will go into the new school district, but Park Street School is used heavily by the village recreation department so the village will buy the school at a cost of \$1.
- Darryl Stultz asked about estimated expenses and revenues from the school. Marla Durham explained expenses average \$14,800 per year. The village rec department pays the school district \$5,000 per year for

use of the school. The ACE Program will remain at the school for the next couple of years until a new location for the program is found.

- Steve Gragg asked if the money is in the recreation budget. Brad Luck, EJRP, confirmed \$5,000 was included in the budget so net expense for the building is \$9,000. Also, the rec program will take over the space occupied by the ACE Program once that program leaves so there will be more space to potentially generate additional revenue.
- Lori Houghton mentioned the preschool at the school is funded by the parents.

There were no further comments.

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

ARTICLE 5: Shall the voters approve holding the 2018 Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 4, 2018 to act upon any articles not involving voting by Australian ballot and to reconvene on Tuesday, April 10, 2018 to vote for the village officers and transact any business involving voting by Australian ballot?

MOTION by Bob O'Neill, SECOND by Mike Plageman, to approve Article 5 as read.

DISCUSSION: The following comments were made:

- Marla Durham said people have been asking to have all community votes on the same day. Elaine Sopchak said the Essex Governance Group is looking at voting in the village and town to streamline the voting.
- A woman asked about changing the voting date. Elaine Sopchak said to change the voting day involves changing the charter which must be approved by the state legislature. The process to change the voting date at a minimum would take two years.

There were no further comments.

VOTING ON ARTICLE 5: unanimous; motion carried. Article 5 is adopted.

ARTICLE 6: To transact any other business that may lawfully come before the meeting.

Status of Consolidation of Village and Town Services

Consolidated services to date include the Administration (Manager, Administrative Director, Finance Director, Treasurer/Village Clerk, and support staff), Storm Water Committee, and Public Works. Remaining services to consider for consolidation include governance, planning and development, library, fire department, and rec department.

Village Survey

Results of the village survey show:

- Overall people are satisfied with village services, but are concerned with costs.
- There is support of mixed uses (residential and business) in the downtown and support for following the Design Five Corners plan.
- There is support for bonding to rehab the train station if the opportunity becomes available.

- The village character should be maintained. Maximum building height should be four stories in the village.
- Consolidation of services to maintain and achieve efficiencies and tax equity should continue.
- Costs should be managed at every opportunity.
- Traffic and parking should be improved.
- Communicate better and often.

Road and Sidewalk Work in the Village

Route 2A (Park St. and Lincoln St.) and Route 15 (Pearl St. and Main St.) going into Five Corners will be repaved by the state beginning April 17, 2017. There will be information boards set up on the roads with project information.

Prudential Committee

Prudential Committee will continue until the end of 2017. All are urged to attend the Prudential Committee annual meeting and support the sale of Park Street School.

Recreation Governance Study Committee

The work done by volunteers on committees, especially the work done by the recreation governance study committee, was applauded.

Elections


- Two Village Trustees (three year terms)
- Three Library Trustees (one one-year term, one three-year term, and one five-year term)

Adjournment

MOTION by Bob O'Neill, SECOND by Richard Smith, to adjourn the 124th Annual Meeting of the Village of Essex Junction. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 PM. Voting by Australian ballot will take place on April 11, 2017 from 7 AM to 7 PM at Essex Community Educational Center.

ATTEST:



Village Trustee



Village Trustee



Village Clerk