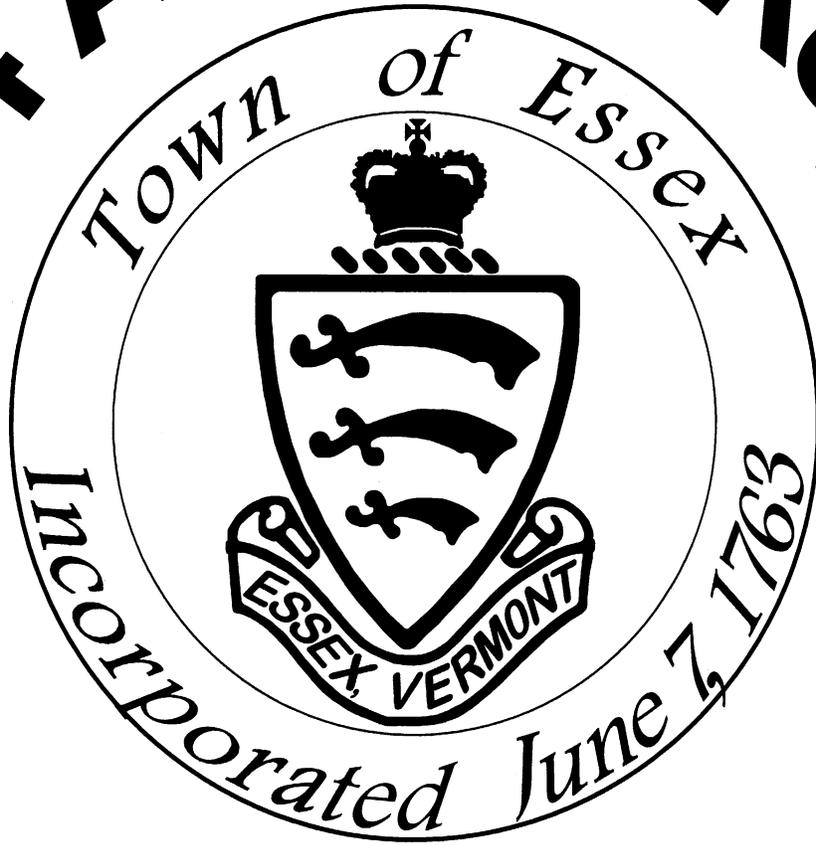


2014 Annual Report



Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2014

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SENIOR VAN

For Essex seniors age 60 and older, the Parks and Recreation Department offers free rides within the Town of Essex (including the Village of Essex Junction). The Senior Vans are equipped with a wheelchair lift and operate Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., and Sunday, 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

Call 878-6940 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 11:45 a.m., Monday through Friday to schedule a ride. You must call the day before your ride is needed.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The Town Meeting will be held on Monday, March 2, 2015 at 7:30 PM in the Essex Community Educational Center. Voting by Australian ballot will be held Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at the Essex Community Educational Center and the Essex Middle School, 58 Founders Road from 7:00 AM until 7:00 PM.

SELECTBOARD
Max G. Levy, Chair

The year has been a productive and rewarding one for the Selectboard.

The economic resilience of the Essex community has been remarkable even as we work our way through a stubborn but positive movement out of a deep recession. For the past six decades the economic core has been anchored by the IBM facility. Concerns over the future of the IBM plant were allayed this fall. We now anticipate that within the next year GlobalFoundaries will be at the helm of the industrial campus that has served the Essex community and the State so well. Indeed good news. Economic development across the town will continue to be a priority for the Selectboard. Recently the Selectboard and the Village Trustees have moved to establish a business rapid response group to enhance the capacity of the municipal manager and the Economic Development Commission to respond to emerging economic development opportunities.

In October we had the pleasure of presenting to the community the new police facility on Maple Street. This new efficient building provides the men and women of the Essex Police Department a home worthy of the high professional standards they exhibit in serving and protecting our community. Our thanks go out to the Essex voters and to those volunteers who devoted many hours to supporting this important addition to Essex. We are pleased to report that the police facility was completed on time and budget, always the best of results in a construction project.

The completion of the new police facility and the relocation of the police department have allowed us to focus our attention of the needed American with Disabilities Act (ADA) code improvements and compliance at the Town office building at 81 Main Street. This building has served as the central office building for the town since 1974. It is tired and sorely needing of repair. In the past the Town staff has reviewed the possibilities of new construction at a different location – turned down by the voters – and demolition and new construction on the current site. Updating and relocating to the Village office building was also considered. A cost effective renovation to meet Americans with Disabilities Act and other building code requirements as well as much needed expansion of vault space for vital Town records has been developed over the current year. An eye toward improving the energy efficiency of the building within available funds is central to the reconstruction. We believe we can accomplish these improvements with funds on hand, including previously approved capital funds, already accumulated records preservation funds, and, pending voter approval, the repurposing of unused funds from the cost under run of the police facilities bond. A question on the repurposing of the police facility bond funds is before you this annual Town Meeting.

The opening of 2015 marks the completion of the second year of the shared municipal manager model for the Town and Village. The success of this model is increasingly apparent. This year we accepted a fine report, the Shared Services Assessment Study Report, on the results of an examination of the opportunities for closer working relationships among Town and Village service providers. The study demonstrated that cooperation is already significant and the ground is fertile for more.

Beyond the shared manager, we have taken and will in the coming year take additional important steps toward the goal of improving the cost effectiveness and efficiency of municipal services. In the current fiscal year we successfully combined tax billing and collections for the Town, Village and School District. The FYE 2016 budget before you at this Town Meeting includes the further consolidation of finance and administration under one municipal roof. Additionally the budget includes the first but important steps toward the consolidation of the delivery of Town and Village public works services. These departments,

while having their own Town and Village “ways” historically, remain responsible for the same core quality services upon which the residents and business rely.

A goal of the Selectboard is to maintain, and where possible, improve our accessibility and communications to residents. During the past year the Selectboard has also adopted new ethics and communication policies. We seek the maximum possible communication with the community. Engaged residents are important to a strong community. The Selectboard continued to work with participants in the Heart & Soul initiative towards that end.

Over the course of the year the Selectboard approved the conversion of street lights to more energy efficient LED fixtures, continued the work on Town Plan amendments to the Resource Preservation District – Industrial (RPD-I, also known as Saxon Hill) as well as the monthly conduct of usual and customary town business.

Your Selectboard is honored to have the privilege of playing a role in community efforts to make Essex a great place to live, work, play and locate businesses. We look forward to another productive year.

ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS

MODERATOR

Steve McQueen Expires 2015

SELECTBOARD

(3-Year Terms)

Max G. Levy, Chair..... Expires 2017
Brad M. Luck, Vice Chair..... Expires 2015
Andrew J. Watts, Clerk Expires 2017
R. Michael Plageman Expires 2016
Irene A. Wrenner..... Expires 2016

CHAMPLAIN WATER DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

(3-Year Term)

Aaron Martin Expires 2016

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

(2-Year Terms)

Jennifer Ashe*, 11 Juniper Ridge Road, Essex Junction, VT 05452 876-7232
Deborah Billado*, 20 Maple Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452..... 879-4225
Kent Booraem*, 56 Forest Road, Essex Junction, VT 05452 878-3395
Diane Clemens*, 15 Williams Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452 878-3536
Linda Costello, 5 Williams Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452 878-5481
Paul Dame, 82B Park Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452 318-7544
Debbie Evans*, 53 Greenfield Road, Essex Junction, VT 05452 878-4317
Ann Gray*, 28 Rosewood Lane, Essex Junction, VT 05452 878-4088
Dawn Hill-Fleury*, 9 Saybrook Road, Essex Junction, VT 05452..... 878-7622
Kathy Hunt*, 38 Prospect Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452 878-8406
Peter Hunt*, 38 Prospect Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452..... 878-8406
Steve McQueen*, 11 Saybrook Road, Essex Junction, VT 05452..... 879-5357
Linda K. Myers*, 51 Forest Road, Essex Junction, VT 05452 878-3514
Dave Rogerson, 17 Prescott Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452 878-4723
Linda Waite-Simpson*, 76 Beech Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452 872-0499

*Performs marriages and civil union ceremonies

APPOINTED TOWN OFFICIALS

**CEMETERY COMMISSION
(3-Year Terms)**

Jody Landon	Expires 2015
Vacant	Expires 2015
Sam Kinghorn	Expires 2016
Frances Kinghorn	Expires 2017
Gary Tomlinson.....	Expires 2017

**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
(3-Year Terms)**

Jaysen Dickinson Chair.....	Expires 2017
Matthew Graf	Expires 2017
Chuck Vile.....	Expires 2017
Darren Schibler	Expires 2017
Sherry Mahady	Expires 2017

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
(3-Year Terms)**

Greg Morgan, Chair	Expires 2015
Elizabeth Poulin	Expires 2016
Robin Lane	Expires 2016
Barbara Higgins.....	Expires 2016
Chris Riani.....	Expires 2017

**ENERGY COMMITTEE
(3-Year Terms)**

Dennis Bouldin.....	Expires 2015
Sue Cook	Expires 2016
Reed Parker, Chair	Expires 2016
Thomas Tailer	Expires 2017
Christian Fayomi.....	Expires 2017
Kara Lenorovitz.....	Expires 2017
Irene A. Wrenner, Ex Officio.....	No Expiration

**LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
(3-Year Terms)**

Scott Moore, Secretary.....	Expires 2015
Kerry Jung	Expires 2016
Sue Ann Kurek.....	Expires 2016
Deborah Evans	Expires 2016
Janet Watts, Treasurer.....	Expires 2016
Bonnie Doble, Chair.....	Expires 2016
Janet Bowker	Expires 2017

**MEMORIAL HALL COMMITTEE
(3-Year Terms)**

Paul Dame	Expires 2015
Jan Ellis-Clements	Expires 2015
Robert Grandchamp.....	Expires 2015
Patrick Scheidel.....	Expires 2016
Karen L.W. Hammer.....	Expires 2016
Vacant.....	Expires 2017
Irene Wrenner.....	Expires 2017

**PLANNING COMMISSION
(4-Year Terms)**

Tom Furland.....	Expires 2015
Dustin R. Bruso.....	Expires 2016
David P. Raphael.....	Expires 2016
Ned Daly.....	Expires 2017
Johnathan Schumacher, Clerk.....	Expires 2017
Joshua Knox.....	Expires 2017
Dijana Kulasic.....	Expires 2018

**TOWN HEALTH OFFICER
(3-Year Terms)**

Jerry Firkey, Health Officer	Expires 2016
Sharon Kelley, Deputy Health Officer	Expires 2016

**TOWN SERVICE OFFICER
(Annual Appointment)**

Jerry Firkey.....	Expires 2016
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**TRAILS COMMITTEE
(3-Year Terms)**

Kevin Macy	Expires 2015
Ruth LeBlanc.....	Expires 2015
Sean Folley.....	Expires 2016
Erin J. McCarthy.....	Expires 2017
Mark Paulsen.....	Expires 2017

**ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
(3-Year Terms)**

Katherine Sonnicks, Chair	Expires 2015
Pam Schirner	Expires 2016
Chris Daniele.....	Expires 2016
Hubert Norton.....	Expires 2017
Mitch Lefevre.....	Expires 2017

OTHER APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Champlain Water District Alternate.....	Vacant
Channel 17/Town Meeting Television Representative	Bruce S. Post
Channel 17/Town Meeting Television Alternate Representative.....	Vacant
Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC)	Jeffrey B. Carr
CCRPC 1 st Alternate	Irene A. Wrenner
CCRPC 2 nd Alternate	Max G. Levy
CCRPC Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)	Dennis Lutz
CCRPC Transportation Advisory Committee Alternate	Jeffrey B. Carr
CCRPC Planning Advisory Committee (PAC).....	K. Dana Hanley
CCRPC Planning Advisory Committee Alternate	Mark Marsh
Chittenden Solid Waste District Representative	Alan Nye
Chittenden Solid Waste District Alternate	Max G. Levy
Chittenden County Transportation Authority Representatives	Marti Powers-Keyes
Essex Rescue Community Advisory Board	Ben Gilliam
Fire Warden.....	Charles J. Cole
Grand Juror.....	Jerry Firkey
Town Tree Warden & Forester	Charlie Vile
Tri-Town Sewer Committee.....	Dennis Lutz & Jeff Carr
Winooski Valley Park District	Tom Malinowski

If you are interested in filling a vacant seat on a Board or Committee, please call the Town Manager's Office at 878-1341 or email manager@essex.org.

APPOINTED FULL-TIME STAFF

ASSESSOR

Randy Viens, Assessor
Terri Sabens, Clerk

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

K. Dana Hanley, Director
Greg Duggan, Planner
Sharon Kelley, Zoning Administrator
Shannon Lunderville, GIS Coordinator
Jennifer Rock, Secretary/Payroll Clerk

FINANCE

Douglas Fisher, Finance Director
Shirley FitzGerald, Water/Sewer Clerk
Carolyn Gauthier, Bookkeeper

LIBRARY

Ann Paietta, Library Director
Caitlin Corless, Assistant Librarian
Kevin Moore, Assistant Librarian
Lorraine Cole-Dolgas, Assistant Librarian

PARKS & RECREATION

Ally Vile, Director
Adriane Schubert, Program Coordinator
Samantha Crocker, Asst. Program Coordinator
Andrea Leo, Secretary
Ken Booker, Parks Maintenance Foreman

POLICE

Bradley LaRose, Chief
Bob LaGrow, Support Services
Kenneth Beaulieu, Lieutenant
Rick Garey, Lieutenant
Robin Hollwedel, Lieutenant
Robert Kissinger, Lieutenant
George Murtie, Lieutenant
Doug Babcock, Sergeant
Robert Estes, Sergeant
Christina Ashley, Corporal
John Dunn, Corporal
Robert Hall, Corporal
Morgan Lawton, Corporal
Kurt Miglinas, Corporal
Diana Miranowicz, Corporal
Ed Piro, Corporal
Michael Wootton, Corporal

POLICE (Cont'd)

Michael Chistolini, Patrol Officer
Paul Courtois, Patrol Officer
Stephen Dunning, Patrol Officer
Andrew Graham, Patrol Officer
Damir Karadza, Patrol Officer
Christopher May, Patrol Officer
Michael Roberto, Patrol Officer
John Ruttenberg, Patrol Officer
Nicholas Van Winkle, Patrol Officer
Karen Hulbert, Dispatcher
Raymond LaCroix, Dispatcher
Peggy McCabe, Dispatcher
Angela Bellizzi, Records Clerk
Michelle Hodgson, BCI Secretary

TOWN CLERK

Cheryl Moomey, Clerk/Treasurer
Mary Melnick, Assistant Clerk
Annie Riley, PT Assistant Clerk

TOWN MANAGER

Patrick C. Scheidel, Town Manager
Brendan S. Keleher, Assistant Town Manager
Rick Garey, MIS Director
Rob Paluba, Network Administrator
Ann Myers, Personnel Asst./Benefits/Sec.

PUBLIC WORKS

Dennis Lutz, Town Engineer/PW Director
Aaron Martin, Asst. Eng./Utilities Director
Annie Costandi, Stormwater Coordinator
Chris Stoddard, Secretary
Loren Ward, PW Superintendent
Jerry Lesage, Mechanic
Eric Barkyoub, Highway Maintenance
Peter Daigle, Highway Maintenance
Robert Miller, Highway Maintenance
Thomas Kabusk, Highway Maintenance
Dan Roberge, Highway Maintenance
Brian Roy, Highway Maintenance
Joseph Tourville, Highway Maintenance
Rick Jones, Highway Maintenance
Robert Whitten, Water & Sewer Foreman
Ernest Oakes, Water & Sewer
Jeremy Giroux, Water & Sewer
Tyler Bortz, Water & Sewer

TOWN INFORMATION

The Town of Essex is governed by the Council-Manager form of government. It has a five member nonpartisan Selectboard which is elected at large and is responsible for determining Town policy. The Chief Executive Officer is the Town Manager who is appointed by the Selectboard and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Town. All residents, whether they live inside or outside the Village of Essex Junction, are residents of the Town and have the right to participate in Town activities, including the election of Town officials. There are several committees appointed by the Selectboard and all residents are encouraged to apply. Appointments are effective July 1, although vacancies sometimes occur during the year. **If you are interested in serving on a Town Committee, please write a letter of interest to: Town Manager, 81 Main Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452 or call 878-1341.** You may also fax us at 878-1353, e-mail us at manager@essex.org or use our Web page www.essex.org.

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 2, 2015..... Town Meeting – 7:30 PM
 March 3, 2015 – Voting by Australian Ballot Polls Open – 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM
 March 16, 2015..... 2nd half of property taxes due
 April 1, 2015..... Dog licenses due
 September 15, 2015..... 1st half of property taxes due
 March 15, 2016..... 2nd half of property taxes due

GENERAL INFORMATION

Population.....19,765
 Registered Voters15,294
 Total Area..... 36 square miles
 Date of Charter June 7, 1763
 2014 Grand List.....\$24,407,209

	Residential	Non-Residential
Town General Tax Rate	.3817	.3817
Education Rate	1.5077	1.5006
Town Capital	.0200	.0200
Town Highway	.0800	.0800
Local Agreement Rate	.0017	.0017
Total Town Tax Rate	1.9911	1.984

MEETINGS

Selectboard 1st and 3rd Monday (and as required) – 7:30 PM
 Planning Commission..... 2nd and 4th Thursday – 6:30 PM
 Zoning Board of Adjustment..... 1st Thursday – 6:00 PM
 Conservation Committee..... 2nd Tuesday – 7:00 PM
 Trails Committee..... 2nd Tuesday – 7:00 PM
 Economic Development Commission 2nd and 4th Thursday – Noon
 Library Board of Trustees As required
 Energy Committee..... 1st and 3rd Tuesday—6:30 PM

All meetings are held at Town Hall, 81 Main Street, unless otherwise specified.

Please check website for time and location.

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

7:30 AM to 4:30 PM
 Monday through Friday

VOTING DISTRICT DESCRIPTIONS

To determine your voting district, use the following list as a guide.

DISTRICT 8-1

Linda Myers and Debbie Evans – Representatives

All of the Town (excluding Districts 8-2 and 8-3)

DISTRICT 8-2

Tim Jerman and Paul Dame – Representatives

All of the Village of Essex Junction

DISTRICT 8-3

Robert Bancroft – Representative

All roads north of the following boundaries:

Jericho Road – North side (250-258)

Weed Road – North side (Even numbers)

Brown's River Road/Route 128 – North side (Even numbers, 2-130, then all numbers)

Towers Road – North side (Odd numbers)

Towers Road Extension – (All numbers)

Old Stage Road – West side (Even numbers 14-140 and then all numbers)

Lost Nation Road – North side (odd numbers)

POLL LOCATIONS

For Town-wide issues, the polling place for District 8-2 voters is the Essex Community Educational Center.

The polling place for Districts 8-1 and 8-3 is the Essex Middle School located on Founders Road.

Note: Due to the 2012 redistricting, a portion of Village voters who are in Census Block 1023 (173-261 Pearl Street) have been moved to Town District "8-1 Village" for state and federal elections only. These voters will vote at the Essex Middle School during state and federal elections. There will be a separate checklist at the Essex Middle School for these voters. For local elections, these voters will vote with the Village at the High School as they have in the past.

REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL
Randy Viens, Assessor

HOMESTEAD DECLARATION REMINDER

You are required to file a Homestead Declaration each and every year for the property you own and reside in, whether or not you qualify for a property tax adjustment.

Use Form HS-122 found on the State of Vermont website: www.vermont.gov as well as form HI-144 which is required in order to receive a property tax adjustment if you meet the income requirements.

There are no date extensions for Homestead Declarations. Filing an extension for income tax does not apply to a Homestead Declaration.

The mission of the Department of Real Estate Appraisal is to provide a legal and fair basis for the taxation of real property as required by the Essex Charter and Vermont Statutes and to furnish to others, access and explanations of the information gathered by the department in the course of its required duties. Due to the nature and ramifications of property assessment, public relations are a very important aspect of this office. Open communication is essential in order to give the public the awareness and understanding of our duties and responsibilities. Please call this office anytime, with any questions or concerns at 878-1345. In addition, the office administers Farm and Open Land tax stabilization contracts, the State Land Use Program and provides statistical reports to other departments and governmental units as well as assisting the tax department in performing the annual equalization process. We also receive from the tax department, virtually year-round, weekly download information for the administration of the Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Adjustment claims.

If you are in the process of either buying or selling a property and would like to see what other similar properties are selling for, you are welcome to come to the Assessor's office and view our sales binders anytime during our business hours.

We remind you that if you have any questions or would like to review your property record card for accuracy, you are welcome to visit our office at 81 Main Street between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The 2014 State Equalization reports have been received. These reports, based on sales ratios (assessed values divided by selling prices), indicates an overall ratio for property in the Town School District of 100.52% and a ratio of 100.27% in the Essex Junction School District.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Dana Hanley, Community Development Director

Highlights of the Community Development Department's efforts and initiatives in 2014 include the following:

Bylaw Amendments - A set of amendments to the Zoning and Subdivision Bylaws remained on hold while the department worked on other initiatives. When reactivated, the amendments will consider several administrative provisions, conservation design subdivision regulations, revised telecommunications provisions, and performance standards for commercial projects.

Stormwater Management – Stormwater mapping issues related to the sewer service core remained ongoing. Future regulatory changes will be required pursuant to federal rules.

Transportation – the Town and Village Bike/Ped plan, in collaboration with the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, was completed. The department secured a \$200,000 grant through the VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program for a sidewalk project on Towers Road.

2016 Town Plan – Work began on amendments to the 2016 Town Plan which will involve adding a flood resilience component, re-formatting, incorporating Heart & Soul values, and providing a statistical update.

Customer Service – The staff provided the public with reliable and efficient customer service throughout 2014. There were no staffing changes. Special efforts were made at community outreach, including a booth at the Five Corners Farmers Market, an evening with food/ beverages and the Planning Commission at the Essex Free Library, and two “open mic” sessions.

Heart & Soul Project – The Community Development staff finished up work with Village residents and the Orton Family Foundation on the two-year \$100,000 planning initiative which involved identifying core values and a vision for the entire community.

Development and Permitting – Development review remained very active. The notable approvals are listed below and a summary of zoning and subdivision activity is provided in the chart on page 17.

- Blackrock Construction, 6 Freeman Woods – a 6,000 sq. ft. office building, 71-bed assisted living facility, 56-bed memory care facility, and 17 townhouses;
- Joe Rotunda and Estate of Leo & Theresa Gauthier, 19 Gauthier Drive – 11,840 sq. ft. building for auto repair shop, office, warehouse and storage space;
- Adam McGinnis & Jeffrey Harton, 1 Market Place - a 25-seat restaurant;
- JAMMR, LLC, 13 Corporate Drive – a 4,800 sq. ft. office building and 4 mini-storage buildings totaling 7,600 sq. ft.;
- A & C Realty, 123 Old Colchester Road – a 20,000 sq. ft. commercial building;
- Richard Church, 284 Colchester Road – a 4,700 sq. ft. warehouse/storage facility; and
- Shaun Patno, 6 David Drive – a 4,000 sq. ft. addition to an existing 6,000 sq. ft. commercial building.

Community Development Services Report

Discretionary Review Activity	Calendar Year	
	2013	2014
Zoning Board of Adjustment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (6) Conditional Use/Amendment • (2) Variance • (0) Unspecified Use • (0) Sign Waiver • (2) Appeal Zoning Administrator's Decision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (4) Conditional Use/Amendment • (1) Variance • (0) Unspecified Use • (0) Sign Waiver • (1) Appeal Zoning Administrator's Decision
Planning Commission	<p><i>Subdivision.....</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (3) Conceptual • (3) Sketch Plan/Preliminary • (5) Final Plan/Amendment • (2) Boundary Adjustment • (13) Consent Agenda • (0) Reconsideration <p><i>Project Review.....</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (7) Site Plan • (10) Site Plan Amendment • (13) Workshops/Site Visit 	<p><i>Subdivision.....</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (0) Conceptual • (6) Sketch Plan/Preliminary • (7) Final Plan/Amendment • (6) Boundary Adjustment • (12) Consent Agenda • (0) Reconsideration <p><i>Project Review.....</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (5) Site Plan • (8) Site Plan Amendment • (16) Workshops/site visit

Total Discretionary Activity	66	66
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Zoning Permit Applications Received	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Accessory Apartment/Apartments	4	6	3	3	2	4
Condo/Townhouse	6	2	12	62	9	4
Congregate Housing	1	0	1	1	0	1
Home Occupation	1	1	3	1	1	3
Miscellaneous & Use Permits	22	19	12	14	15	8
New Commercial/Industrial Building (add/alt)	18	27	40	28	36	33
Residential (add/alt)	69	62	63	80	73	71
Residential Garage	6	13	10	9	11	6
Residential Storage Building	17	16	11	13	11	18
Sign Permit	12	19	14	19	11	21
Single-Family Home	5	8	10	13	7	10
Swimming Pool	4	7	2	4	2	2
Rebuild Dwelling	1	1	2	1	2	3
Renewal of Permit	2	2	2	0	2	1
Subtotal, Permits Issued	168	183	188	247	182	185
Permits Denied	0	0	0	0	0	0
Applications Withdrawn/Voided	0	1	0	0	0	0
Total Zoning Permit Activity	168	184	188	247	182	185

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Jaysen Dickinson, Chair; Matthew Graf, Sherry Mahady,
Darren Schibler, Chuck Vile

The mission of the Essex Conservation Committee is to inventory and study the natural, historic, educational, cultural, scientific, architectural, or archaeological resources of the Town in which the public has an interest. The Committee also advises the Selectboard and Planning Commission on matters relating to the public understanding of local natural resources and conservation needs, development applications and acquisition of lands involving the above resources.

In 2014, the Conservation Committee went through a major turnover in membership. Long-serving members Pete Hess and Brian Cote stepped down, and four new members joined. Amidst the changes, the Committee weighed in on multiple community-wide projects, helped offer invasive species education to the community, and explored ways to support conservation efforts throughout the Town.

Accomplishments include the following:

- Ongoing joint reviews of development proposals with the Essex Trails Committee, during which the committees make many suggestions to better development proposals in the Town.
- Successfully executed an Essex Clean Up Day in September at Indian Brook Reservoir and Pearl Street Park.
- Worked with UVM Extension to bring a Forest Pest First Detectors training on invasive insects to Essex.
- Continued to gather information about how to establish an Essex Town Land Trust, Conservation Fund, Invasive Fund or some combination of funds.
- Met with Chittenden County Forester Keith Thompson to learn about the State of Vermont's Use Value Appraisal program, which provides tax breaks for property owners who actively use their land for agriculture or forestry management.
- Revising the Town Plan for 2016.

Looking toward the future, the Conservation Committee has the following goals for 2015:

- Plan for and educate the public about the impacts of invasive species.
- Continue to explore the concept of an Essex Land Trust, Conservation Fund, Invasive Fund, or all three by gaining public support and action.
- Continue relationships with community organizations that have similar future goals and targeted accomplishments.
- Plan another Clean Up Day.
- Continue to work on the Town Plan for 2016.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

- Commission Members:** Barbara Higgins (Recording Secretary), Robin Lane
Greg Morgan (Chair), Betty Poulin, and Chris Riani
- Commission Advisors:** Greg Duggan, Essex Town Planner; Robin Pierce, Essex Junction
Planning Director; and Curt Carter, Vice-President, Greater Burlington
Industrial Corp. (GBIC)
- Ex-Officio:** Michael Plageman, Selectboard Member, Town of Essex; and
Lori Houghton, Trustee, Village of Essex Junction

Town Revenues and Addition Commercial/Industrial Properties to the Grand List: Adding commercial and industrial to the Town's Grand List is one way Essex Town can keep property taxes under control. For every new \$1 million structure (that's the equivalent of \$10,000 added to the Grand List), the Town collects \$4,800 in tax revenue that does not have to be collected from residents, based on a tax rate of \$0.48.

Game Changing Transition: IBM to GlobalFoundries: Throughout the year, Vermont and Essex were gripped by rumors about the possible purchase of IBM's Microelectronics Division, including the Champlain Valley Innovation and Technology Park in Essex Junction, to GlobalFoundries, a California company with plans to become the world's leading producer of silicon chips. Well before the deal was announced, Essex Town and Essex Junction worked with IBM on site related issues and have emerged as important collaborators with the State of Vermont as the transfer of ownership is completed.

At a press conference on October 20, 2014 called by Governor Shumlin to react to news of the transfer of assets, Essex Selectboard Chair Max Levy stressed the gravity of the situation for employees and impacts on Essex: "There have been rumors going around for a long time — and that uncertainty is rough on the workers at IBM," and he called Essex "ground zero to this deal." Village President George Tyler expressed cautious optimism about the future of the plant in Essex Junction: "It's excellent news that GlobalFoundries intend to keep the plant open. Nevertheless, it is a seismic shift for our community. We have been an IBM community for half a century ... Although it's sad to see IBM leave, we look forward to the opportunity being presented to us by GlobalFoundries." For several years, the EDC has promoted active involvement of Essex officials in economic development issues that impact the Town. The Town's proactive approach to this corporate transition is serving Essex residents well.

Business News – Additions, Subtractions and the Top Employers:

- **Blodgett Oven Company / Market Forge Brand:** Space opened up at the former Huber+Suhner building on Thompson Drive, just as Middleby Corporation (Blodgett's parent company) was purchasing Market Forge of Everett, MA. In July, Middleby moved proprietary Market Forge steam equipment manufacturing, sales and engineering operations into 100,000 sf at the Thompson Drive complex as part of its Blodgett Oven Division.
- In May **United States Department of Homeland Security (USCIS)** opened a 54,000 sf state-of-the-art facility where the Vermont Service Center handles family-based petitions, requests for humanitarian visas, and petitions for entertainers, athletes, and specialty occupations. This remarkable complex was built and is owned by Pizzagalli Properties for USCIS, and thus pays property taxes.
- **Reinhardt Food Services** completed construction on a 137,000 sf building on Thompson Drive. From this specially designed food distribution facility, product is delivered to restaurants across Vermont.

- On the site of “Building 617”, formerly owned by the State of Vermont, **REM Development** has completed construction on 180,000 sf of warehouse / flexible space which is now ready for tenant fit up. Because the building on this site is no longer owned by the State, property taxes are now being paid.
- The former Masonic Temple on Main Street was purchased by **EarthLogic**, a Vermont-based web-design company formerly located in Fort Ethan Allen. Their major rehab of this building has turned a vacant structure into offices for a business that will bring about 10 tech workers into the Village Center.
- **Top Employers in Essex - 2014:** Essex-based companies with more than 60 employees include: IBM Microelectronics (4,000 employees); Green Mountain Coffee Roasters (800); US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) (700); Autumn Harp (248); Revision Military (170); FoodScience of Vermont (155); The Essex Resort & Spa (100); Catamount Color (85); Vermont Systems (85); Harmony Information Systems (80); and Flex-a-Seal (76). These large companies provide employment to over 6,400 Vermonters.

Business Start-Ups and Entrepreneurs: In June, Essex Town, through its EDC, co-sponsored a StartUp Essex gathering that attracted almost 100 enthusiastic supporters of growing entrepreneurial activity in Essex. Attendees heard from leaders in creating local business and in building Vermont’s capacity: Giles Willey (Vermont Systems, the original Essex tech startup), Emir Heco (Heco Engineering), Pam Cowen (Start Up VT), and Lars Torres (Vermont Office of Creative Economy). In September, Caleb Guziak, the Essex High School junior who received a privately funded scholarship that sends an Essex student to the Governor’s Institutes of Vermont’s Entrepreneurship Institute, reported on his week-long experience on the VTC campus. The future of homegrown businesses is bright with several emerging start-ups, including Dodge Ski Boots (carbon-fiber ski boots), Rex’s Outrageous (8 flavors of Road Crew Crunch), The Orange Owl (skin care products) and Heco Engineering (education, prototyping and parts fabrication). And more are in the wings.

Technology Education Expands in Essex: In response to identified needs of the Vermont economy, Essex High School and the Center for Technology-Essex are expanding programs to encourage preparation for technology and high-tech manufacturing careers and potential entrepreneurial activity. This year Essex High School created its STEM Academy (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) to promote science and technology career choices. At CTE, advanced manufacturing is an emerging focus with exciting announcements coming in 2015. Both EHS and CTE now host maker spaces, places where teams of students can develop an idea and build a prototype using the latest technology, including 3-D printers.

Town Plan Revision: The EDC spent several months late in the year crafting five year goals and a sharpened list of Action Priorities to guide economic development activity over the next 5 years. EDC recommends Essex pursue the following four broad goals: #1 – Increase and Diversity Tax Base; #2 – Improve and Invest in Infrastructure; #3 – Foster Enterprises that Create Jobs; #4 – Expand Communication and Outreach. These recommended goals, associated objectives, and action steps will be reviewed as part of Town Plan development in 2015 and are posted on the Town website (essex.org – click on *Doing Business Here / EDC / Resources & Publications*). The EDC welcomes comments and insights.

New Faces, Changes and Continuity at the EDC: In July, the EDC took a double hit. Jerry Firkey, a long-time member of the Commission and former Essex Town Zoning Administrator stepped down to meet family obligations. Jerry provided unique and valuable historic insights that often kept the Commission informed and on track. At the same time, the Commission’s primary staffer and Assistant Town Manager, Trevor Lashua, accepted the Town Administrator position in Hinesburg. The EDC wishes him well, but will miss greatly his guidance, support and depth of knowledge. Essex Junction resident Chris Riani volunteered to serve and was approved by the Selectboard mid-year to fill the

vacancy on the EDC. Chris provides information technology support to the Vermont Air National Guard and hopes to contribute to a vital local economy for his growing young family. Selectman Mike Plageman and Trustee Lori Houghton continue to provide the EDC with direct liaison to the two Boards and Curt Carter, GBIC's Vice President, gives Essex a regular relationship with the Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation.

ENERGY COMMITTEE

Reed Parker, Chair

The mission of the seven-member Energy Committee (EC) is to provide leadership, advocacy, and outreach in the areas of conservation, efficiency, and renewable energy. Below are highlights from 2014...and a look ahead to 2015:

- **Members joining in 2014:** Sue Cook, Christian Fayomi, Kara Lenorovitz; and a thank you to members who stepped down in 2014: We recognize J.C. McCann and Roger Gamache for their commitment and passion towards making Essex a more energy-aware place to live.
- **New Open Meeting Laws**, which took effect July 1, ensure that EC Agendas and Minutes are posted on the Town website in a timely manner. Meetings are held one Wednesday each month. The public is always welcome.
- **Essex Town LED Street lighting:** Efficiency Vermont provided grant funding to cover the cost of upgrading mercury and sodium vapor streetlights to LED technology in the Town-outside-the-Village. This swap-out, which will decrease energy use/cost and improve lighting quality, will likely be completed by mid-2015.
- **Essex Junction LED Street lighting:** EC members are working with Village staff, Efficiency Vermont and Green Mountain Power to convert Village streetlights to LEDs in the year ahead.
- **Updating of the Energy Section for the 2016 Town Plan:** The committee has submitted a draft update of the Energy Chapter for inclusion in the 2016 Town plan with the intention to represent the long-term vision for the town. In alignment with the direction for this updated Town plan, we attempted to make the document slimmer and more user-friendly to aid in accessibility and absorption of its content.
- **Completion of the new Energy Efficient Essex Police Station:** A photovoltaic solar array on the facility's roof is expected to provide enough energy to offset the building's energy use. An electric vehicle (EV) charging station has also been installed.
- **Update and maintenance of the web pages "Home Energy Internet Resources for Essex Residents"** found on the Town web pages following the links: /Local Government/Boards & Committees/Energy Committee. Check them out – great content for the homeowner!
- **Preliminary review of energy-related considerations for 81 Main rehabilitation:** Submitted a formal request to the Selectboard for an energy audit to determine what conservation, efficiency, and renewable measures might be taken in the rehabilitation process. We've also offered creative funding suggestions.
- **Four Committee members attended the Annual Vermont Community Energy & Climate Action Network (VECAN) Conference in Fairlee** where we had the opportunity to cross-pollinate with members of other energy committees from VT and NH and to learn about clean energy and climate action strategies that Vermonters can implement locally — and beyond.

ESSEX COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Eva C. Clough, Co-President
Paula DeMichele, Co-President

An old joke about historians goes like this:

*“How many historians does it take to record a historical event?
Three – one to record the date of the event,
one to start an argument by insisting they have the date wrong,
and one to settle the argument by deciding that everyone will agree to disagree
even if the date is off by a hundred years!”*

There is no argument about the date the Essex Community Historical Society (ECHS) opened its 2014 season with a new series of public programs - the ECHS “Tales & Treasures of Essex” series began with our first Annual Family Day & Museum Open House on June 1, 2014. Held outside on the lawn next to the Essex Free Library on a perfect June afternoon, the event featured Jericho singer/songwriter Derek Burkins, who provided live music for visitors. Families enjoyed taking part in a variety of activities – making balloon dogs with Caitlin Corless from the Essex Free Library, having their faces painted by Ellen Pariseau, and taking tours of the Harriet Farnsworth Powell Historical Museum. Two lucky families won the Door Prize, a \$65 gift basket from Sweet Clover Market, and the Raffle, a \$50 Gift Certificate from Full Circle Gardens of Essex. The celebration ended with cake and ice cream for everyone.

The program series continued in July with a PowerPoint show of the historic photography of W.C. Sawyer by Tim Jerman, and an August program about Abram Stevens, builder of Lincoln Hall, presented by Maureen Lapenski. In September, we celebrated Vermont Archeology Month with a PowerPoint show on “9,000 Years of Essex History” by Brennan Gauthier of VTRANS Archeology Division. October brought our Annual Meeting and a talk by Charlotte historian, Dan Cole, on “Pills & Potions, Liquors & Laudanum: Civil War Medicine.” The final program in November brought a standing ovation to Adam Boyce, Living History Reenactor, who presented an hour of storytelling and fiddle music as “The Old Country Fiddler: Charles Ross Taggart”.

The ECHS Board would like to give special acknowledgment and thanks to the sponsors who made the 2014 “Tales & Treasures of Essex” series possible: TD Bank, Major Sponsor; Fort Ethan Allen Industrial Park, Series Sponsor; and Full Circle Gardens of Essex, Garry’s Barbershop, Phoenix Books, Sweet Clover Market, and West Meadow Farm Gluten Free Bakery, Program Sponsors. The “Tales & Treasures of Essex” series will return on Sunday, June 7, 2015, with our second Annual Family Day & Museum Open House. Our sponsors are already looking forward to supporting the series in 2015.

ECHS presented a display of the works of Essex photographers at the Vermont History Expo at Tunbridge on June 22. Laurie Jordan and Tim Jerman created an exhibit presenting the photography of three nationally known Essex photographers – W.C. Sawyer and Evans Knapp photos, and Betsy Melvin (Artistic Alliance) pictures. In August, the same ECHS exhibit was displayed during Fair Week at the Champlain Valley Fair.

Kathy Dodge, museum volunteer and former board member, created displays for both the Brownell Library and the Essex Free Library featuring items from the Harriet Farnsworth Powell Museum, including unique dolls from the Vermont Toy Factory.

The museum received many generous donations this year: Jim and Polly Larkin: 1953 program booklet from the Essex Women's Club. Lisa Charland: business advertising calendar made by Roscoe Printing, which was still in its mailing roll complete with 3 cent stamps. Jerry Fox: Journal of Industrial Archeology which refers to bricks and Ethan Allen letters by town, and CD copy of an Essex properties original map by John Johnson. Sherry and Hubie Norton: paid for the binding of the 1886 Rann's History of Chittenden County book signed by Dr. Crandall. Thad Wolosinski: photographs from the June 1st Family Day Event. Dark Room Gallery: photograph for the silent auction. Maureen Sexton Labenski: book of Stevens' Genealogy, two charcoal portraits of John and Mary Ellen Stevens, several books about the railroad, Stevens' letters, and other Essex memorabilia. Piper Smith: box full of Evan Knapp's photos. Essex Town Superintendent's Office: School Reports for the Vermont Board of Education (1862 to 1876). Martin Powell, Jr.: an original school bathroom paper dispenser, paper and key.

This past year has seen many changes in the ECHS Board. At the Annual Meeting, Tim Jerman completed his second and final term as board Co-President, and Paula DeMichele was elected to fill that position. Thad Wolosinski became Vice President. The Board said good-bye to Barb Chapin, Kathy Dodge, and Laurie Jordan, all of whom will continue as volunteers. We thank all of them for their dedication and hard work for the museum. And we welcomed a new member, Denise Groll. She brings much-needed expertise in computer technology to ECHS and has created an ECHS Facebook page. In another first for ECHS, our new website is scheduled to be up and functioning by spring 2015.

Two fundraising projects are well under way. The ECHS Board is heading a project to restore the gravestone of Abram Stevens in the Congregational Church Cemetery. Stevens was a co-founder of the Church and the builder of Lincoln Hall and other prominent Essex structures. The cost will run into the thousands and we have already raised \$500. We welcome donations to this fund from Essex residents.

The second project is the first ECHS Annual Giving Campaign. Such campaigns are a staple of nonprofit fundraising operations, and the Board sees a clear need for raising additional funds to underwrite future projects for the museum. One major project already begun is a complete re-evaluation of the structure and arrangement of the exhibits in the Harriet Farnsworth Powell Museum. As we begin 2015, the ECHS Board has undertaken this project by working with the Vermont Historical Society Museum Mentoring Program. This program has brought a VHS staff member to the museum to evaluate the museum exhibits and to aid the ECHS board with two goals: planning a reorganization of permanent museum displays and creating a new space for temporary exhibits which will change each year. The new exhibits for the museum should be ready by the second Annual Family Day & Museum Open House in June 2015, when the ECHS Board will welcome the public back to the museum for its new season!

ESSEX FIRE DEPARTMENT
Charles J. Cole, I, Fire Chief

The 36 volunteer men and women of the Essex Fire Department answered a total of 665 calls for service during this past year. The following is a breakdown of our responses.

TYPE	FY12	FY13	FY14	TYPE	FY12	FY13	FY14
Car Accidents	99	93	57	Chimney Fires	4	5	6
Fire Alarms	82	95	120	Vehicle Fires	8	4	5
Medical Response	431	411	279	Power Lines Down	5	7	13
Brush Fires	6	10	2	Search and Rescue	0	0	0
CO Calls	34	38	10	All Other Calls	28	148	123
Smoke in Building	11	11	11	TOTAL	776	886	665

In addition to responding to the calls listed above, our members collectively attended over 2,800 hours of training throughout the year, while maintaining a separate full time profession and family. Our members are volunteers who get paid an hourly rate only if they are available and respond to a call. **We have NO full time staff and we do not bill separately for our services.** Our funding comes from the regular Town operating budget, and by the fundraising efforts of the Essex Firefighter's Association.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our mutual aid partners, especially the members of the Essex Junction Fire Department, Essex Rescue Squad, Essex Police Department, and our neighboring fire departments for their continued support and professionalism.

The current members of the Essex Fire Department are:

Fire Chief Charles J. COLE

Deputy Chief Phil NOYES, JR.
Captain Cory NOYES
Lieutenant George HENRY
Fire Chaplain Jason ZITER
FF Cody ACKER
FF/EMT Tim FRANCIS
FF John JACOB
FF/EMT Adam LeBLANC
FF/EMT Tom MIDDLETON
FF William REAMS
FF Matt VEILLEUX
Honorary Chief Larry RANSOM

Asst. Chief Michael DePAUL
Captain Dave SHEERAN
Lieutenant Matthew COHEN
Safety Officer Tom RICHARDS
FF/EMT Josh BURLESON
FF Nick HENRY
FF Taylor JOSEPHSON
FF Kendra LOATI
FF JJ OULLETTE
FF Chris STARKEY
Cadet Adam ZITER
Admin. Stacey WALKER

Asst. Chief Curtis POLLARD
Lieutenant Dan HILL, JR.
Lieutenant Matt LaROCK
FF Dave FAY
FF Peter HENRY
FF/EMT Pat KEERAN
FF Tyler MABLE
FF/EMT Yearim PLANTILLAS
FF Mike SWEENEY
Cadet Erik SHORT
Honorary Chief Al FOICE

If you have any questions about anything related to the fire department, please feel free to contact me at: essexfirechief@essexfire.com or by leaving a message at (802) 878-5308 x 1004.

On behalf of the men and women of the Essex Fire Department, we thank you for your continued support.

ESSEX FREE LIBRARY
Ann Paietta, Head Librarian

*“The very existence of libraries affords the best evidence
that we may yet have hope for the future of man”
-- T.S. Eliot*

***COMPARATIVE STATISTICS**

Year	Number of Titles Owned	Total Circulation	ILLs* Loaned to Others	ILLs* Borrowed from Others
2014	35,380	85,220	1,969	231
2004	28,566	113,748	1,294	294
1994	16,335	79,278	450	368

**ILL is short for Inter-Library Loan. “From Others” indicates titles requested for Essex patrons from other libraries.
“To Others” are titles loaned to other libraries for use by their patrons.
When the library converted to VOKAL, the patron database was updated and out-of-towners were removed from this count.
Contact the library any time at essexfreelibrary@essex.org or by phone at 879-0313*

HOURS OPEN

Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 9 to 5 Tuesday and Thursday: 9 to 8 Saturday: 9 to 2

The library follows the Town of Essex holiday schedule except for limited service on these special occasions:

1. Friday and Saturday of the first weekend in June for the Library Trustees and Friends
“Book, Bake and Plant Sale”
2. Saturday of the first weekend of November for the Friends of the Library’s **“Cozy Nook Craft Fair.”**

Proceeds from these two fund-raisers generously enable the library to offer a number of programs and amenities that are not in the operating budget. A hearty thanks to those community members who support the library so generously and creatively!

STAFF EVENTS:

Chantal Cardinal who works Tuesday and Thursday evenings and every other Saturday had a baby in November.

WEB ACCESS: Take a look at the various on-line programs that the library offers. Your library card is more than ever a “cultural credit card.” Links can be found on the library web page for the following:

1. **The Library Catalog** can be viewed from home by searching “Essex Free Library” and clicking on the Online Catalog link in the upper right hand corner. The library is now part of VOKAL – a group of over 50 Vermont libraries accessing Koha – online open source catalog. Patrons are now able to renew their own items, place holds, or see what library owns a title. Friendly reminders of near due materials, hold notices, and overdue notices are also able to be emailed.
2. **VOL -- Vermont On Line** is a partnership with other Vermont public libraries and the Vermont Department of Libraries. It provides access to a variety of Gale databases, including InfoTrac, magazine and newspaper articles, health, job search, language classes and wellness sites. You will find the link on the library’s web page under “related links.” Call the library for the password. as it does change periodically.

3. **“Listen Up Vermont”** provides access to downloadable audio and e-books through the Green Mountain Library Consortium and Overdrive. The link to this site is also on the library’s web page. Over 1,300 Essex patrons checked out 4,674 titles in audio and e-books format during 2014.
4. **The MANGO Language program** allows you to set up language classes in 23 different languages. The program is very easy to use and children who love spending time online can hone their second language skills. Essex residents are the biggest user in the state of this service.
5. **Universal Class** offers over 500 instructor-led online courses. What are you eager to learn?
6. **The Library’s Facebook** page keeps patrons up to date on programs, book suggestions and information.

LIBRARY SERVICES:

1. **Materials Available** – The library circulates books, periodicals, audio book and music CDs, DVDs, puzzles and children’s book/CD kits and DVDs. As previously mentioned, the library is now part of VOKAL. Our patrons are now able to renew and place holds online, see what 57 libraries have available, and have notices sent via email.
2. **Phone Services** – We also welcome phone services for those that wish to call. We are a phone call away to renew books, place holds, initiate Inter-Library Loan (ILL) searches, register for programs and ask reference questions. Always call if you are concerned about an overdue or bill notice you may have received. Attention will be given each morning to messages left after hours.
3. **HEMECARD Privileges** – With your library card Essex residents have access to all Chittenden County libraries (with the exception of the Fletcher Free Library in Burlington). The updating of EFL cards will begin in December. Current cards are purple and will be valid until 12/31/2014. The new cards will be hot pink and expire in 2017.
4. **Copier/Fax/Scanner** – Our copier/printer is available for public use with at a fee of 10 cents per page/ 25 cents for color copies. In addition to copying/printing, patrons are now able to fax or scan their documents.
5. **Meeting Space** – Small not-for-profit groups of up to 12 people may use the activity room when there are no library programs scheduled. Please call to reserve the space in advance. Students wishing to study as a group are also welcome to use this space when available.
6. **Inter-Library Loan** – The library is happy to try to locate titles for patrons that are not in this collection. Libraries throughout the state cooperate by sharing their diverse holdings.
7. **Tax Forms** – The State no longer sends the library tax forms but we continue to offer a variety of Federal tax forms for the public beginning in early January.
8. **Internet Access** – Patrons have access to the Internet from five public workstations located on all three floors. Printing services are available from these workstations.
9. **Tech-Tips** – Patrons may request individual help sessions to learn to about email and Internet searching. Please speak to a librarian to set up a convenient time. In 2015, we will be starting a digital literacy program for seniors thanks to a grant from Heart and Soul.
10. **Museum Passes** – The library has passes from the ECHO Aquarium and Science Center, the State Parks Pass, Vermont Historical Site, the Birds of Vermont Museum, Shelburne Museum, VT History Museum, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, and Shelburne Farms. These passes, available on a “first-come first-served” basis, allow Essex residents to enjoy these popular museums either free or at wonderful savings.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS and RESOURCES:

Adult Programs:

Vermont Author Visits: Local authors such as Grant Corson, Davorka Gosto, and Kim McQueen, have been speaking on a regular basis at the library.

Book Discussion Groups are invited to make use of the multiple copy sets available at the library. Sets may be checked out both to groups or individuals. An updated set list can be found on the library’s web site. We started an evening book discussion group on the last Thursday of the month this summer.

The Noontime Discussion series meets on the 1st Thursday of each month. The literary theme for 2013-14 was women authors through the years. Most memorable titles included *Frankenstein and The Heart is the Lonely Hunter*. These lively discussions last about one hour and new faces are always welcome to join at any point in the series or drop in on the discussion of a favorite title. A limited number of copies are available at the desk.

Children's Programs:

Story times for toddlers and preschoolers are held throughout the school year. Also the library offers Musical Story times which have expanded to every Friday at 10:30 a.m. with Caitlin. In addition, special events, and a few other programs were held on Saturdays throughout the year. We have also introduced a new program where children may read to therapy dogs Zyla and Boo.

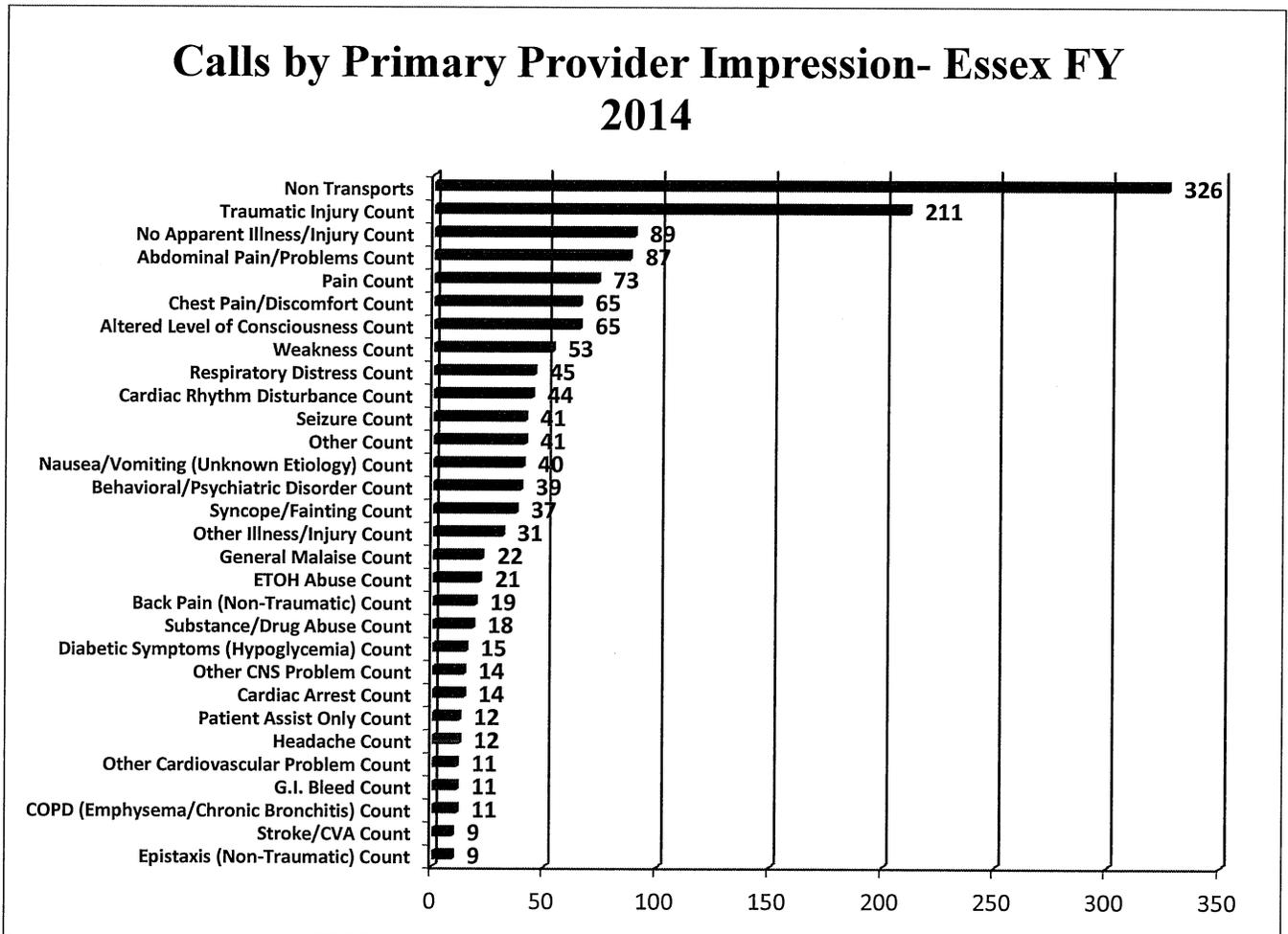
The Summer Reading Program offered an array of programs and reading incentives designed to keep vacationing students visiting the library and reading regularly. In 2014, readers participated in the theme Fizz! Boom! Read! Two hundred and ten children read 1,375 books, a space adventure themed party started the summer off and summer ended, as always, with magical Marko and his no-fail trick of launching a playing card to the ceiling of the Main Reading room. Next time you come in check out the 20 playing cards now on the ceiling.

In addition, family friendly films have been shown in the evening. The library now has an ongoing creative writing club for kids. Also new this year are the Lego club and the Minecraft club in the afternoons. Caitlin and Kevin have taken on these new programs with great enthusiasm. The library also participated in Vermont Reads with the title *Wonder*.

ESSEX RESCUE
Dan Manz, Executive Director

Essex Rescue, Inc. is a private not-for-profit Paramedic-level ambulance service that works in partnership with many other organizations including the Essex and Essex Junction Fire Departments and Essex Police Department to meet the emergency needs of Essex and Essex Junction. We are not affiliated with any town government.

Essex Rescue is pleased to continue providing emergency medical services to all areas of Essex and Essex Junction as well as the town of Underhill, southern Westford and northern Jericho. For the year ending June 30, 2014 Essex Rescue responded to 1835 requests for 9-1-1 emergency service. Of these calls, 1368 were in Essex or Essex Junction. The graph below shows the types of calls Essex Rescue responded to in Essex or Essex Junction during the period 7/1/2013 through 6/30/2014.



Providing high-quality emergency medical care in the out-of-hospital setting on a 24 hour per day basis is both challenging and expensive. We use state-of-the-art vehicles and equipment, and we have some of the most highly trained basic and advanced level personnel in Vermont. We work in conjunction with Fletcher Allen Health Care to deliver fast and effective service to time-sensitive emergencies such as heart attacks, strokes and serious traumatic injuries as well as to less time-sensitive but still significant

emergencies. We strive to deliver the care each patient needs and to do it in ways that are supportive and respectful. Successful out-of-hospital care often means helping to relieve pain, reassuring an anxious parent, explaining what will happen when we get to the hospital or a similar step that goes beyond meeting a clinical need.

The cost of Essex Rescue's operations are over a million dollars annually. In early 2015, we plan to take delivery on a new ambulance that will cost nearly \$200,000. We are able to consistently provide high volume, high quality service through a combination of different supports, financial and otherwise. The most important support we have comes from our 60 uncompensated volunteer members who contribute thousands of hours of time annually to staff our ambulances. Our biggest form of financial support comes from billing for the patient services we provide. We work hard to recover prospectively paid insurance revenues in an effort to minimize the need for tax subsidies from our communities. We are also fortunate to have a high level of participation in our subscription program that brings us important revenue and benefits participants by limiting their out of pocket costs for Essex Rescue's services. As a subscriber, you can pay a \$50 annual fee and then pay nothing else out of pocket for deductible or co-pay expenses. Subscription letters are sent out every November or you can subscribe online at www.essexrescue.org. Many people and organizations in the community are also very generous in making grants or donations throughout the year or in memory of loved ones at a time of death.

As you can see from the graph, nearly 18% of our emergency calls do not result in the transport of a patient to the hospital. In these cases, we are not able to bill health insurers for the cost of the emergency response. The towns we cover provide an annual donation to Essex Rescue, Inc., which offsets a small part of what it costs us to be available around the clock, when and where your community members need emergency medical services.

Essex Rescue is always recruiting new volunteers. We invite you to visit our website at www.essexrescue.org or call us at 802-878-4859 ext. 4 to speak with Colleen Nesto about membership. We are proud of the services we offer and look forward to providing you with more information about the squad at any time. Our primary station is at 1 Educational Drive in Essex Junction, near the Essex High School and our administrative offices are routinely open from 8:00 to 4:30 weekdays if you have questions or would like to see our facility, vehicles and equipment.

HEALTH OFFICER
Jerry L. Firkey, Health Officer
Sharon Kelley, Deputy Health Officer

The Health Officers' mission is to make citizens aware of potential health hazards and to respond to public complaints or requests for assistance in correcting any health violations and/or hazards that exist.

One of the most common complaints is the presence of mold and mildew in rental housing, which is caused by dampness, most common to basements and bathrooms. Tenants can take simple clean-up measures. Preventative measures, such as better ventilation and dehumidifiers should be employed to reduce the potential for mold and mildew to grow.

Landlords and tenants have a resource available to them called **Vermont Tenants, Inc.** Vermont Tenants has produced a handbook describing the responsibilities related to rental housing. You can contact their office by calling 864-0099.

Regular inspections and water testing of the Town and Village swimming pools, as well as the Indian Brook Reservoir swimming area, take place during the swimming season. Regarding Indian Brook Reservoir, the public must always pick up after their animals, including horses. These measures will help to keep the Reservoir safe for swimming and the grounds sanitary for hikers. All animals must be under the control of the owner at all times.

All dogs, cats and ferrets are required to have a rabies shot on a regular basis. Also, dogs must be licensed annually with the Town Clerk (April 1 deadline).

Animal bites continue to be reported and investigated by the Health Officer and Essex Police (Animal Control Officer), and, if applicable, he/she must ensure the animal is properly quarantined, registered with the Town and have proof the animal is current with a rabies vaccination. The **rabies virus** is still quite seriously active among the wild animal kingdom. Remember to stay away from wild animals and report any strange activity to the Police Department. For more information about rabies, call the **Rabies Hotline** at 1-800-472-2437.

The **West Nile Virus** inflicted from mosquitoes is still active in Vermont and requires us to continue to educate the public. **Lyme Disease** inflicted by tick bites can cause serious illness. See the Vermont Health Department website listed below for more information.

Be aware that bed bugs do exist in Chittenden County and a few cases have been reported in Essex. Any questions regarding bed bugs can be directed to your Health Officer by calling 878-1343 or by accessing the Department of Health website listed below.

If anyone has any questions regarding health issues of any kind, or if you have any complaints, questions, or need assistance, please call the following numbers: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays - Community Development Office at 878-1343. Nights, weekends and holidays - Police Department at 878-8331.

Questions regarding items such as asbestos, mold/mildew, Lyme and other diseases and lead paint may be addressed to the State of Vermont Department of Health. You can contact them by calling 863-7200 or accessing their website at www.healthyvermonters.info/.

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Allyson Vile, Director

Department Mission

Advance Parks and Recreation Efforts that Enhance the Quality of Life for the Community of Essex

The Essex Parks and Recreation Department continues to serve the *Community* of Essex through *People* (staff, volunteers), *Parks* (Sand Hill Pool, Indian Brook and neighborhood parks) and *Programs* (senior vans, youth, after-school, adult, and special events). In recent years we have strived to increase our *Publicity* as a way to connect; whether it is a sign outside the building with program reminders, or by quick and informative posts on social media outlets and the website. This has increased our visibility to the public, both residents and non-residents, as a way of increasing program registration or by gaining trust and boosting interest in community awareness.

To carry out our department's mission as we promote connecting the public to a healthier community, we are proud to be one of the largest seasonal employers in Essex. Each summer we employ nearly 60 high school and college students within our pool, parks and recreation programs.

Parks

The Parks and Recreation Department continues its endeavor to protect the public investment in parks and recreation facilities. The goal of the efforts in the parks is to protect and preserve natural resources and to provide neighborhood parks and facilities that are safe, clean and green.

Improvements to the parks in FYE14 included:

- Turf maintenance on athletic fields
- Replaced playground equipment and surfacing at Pearl Street Park
- Reconstructed 1,000 ft. of trail with bridging at Indian Brook Reservoir
- Replaced culverts to lower parking lot at Indian Brook
- Removed hazardous trees at Fort Ethan Allen
- Trail marking reflectors installed on trails at Indian Brook Reservoir through an Eagle Scout project.

Scheduled or completed improvements to the parks for FYE15 include:

- Continue compliance with ADA regulations on paths at parks
- Turf maintenance on athletic fields
- Complete MOU between EPR, ETSD and ETLT organizations regarding field needs and responsibilities
- Continue removal of hazardous trees and certified installation of new trees at Fort Ethan Allen
- Construct a new pavilion at Sand Hill Park

Proposed increases to the FYE16 Parks portion of the budget reflect increases consistent with costs associated with providing an increased level of service in regards to recycling, branding, supervision of park maintenance and users, as well as added playground surfacing at neighborhood parks.

Recreation

Recreation programs are developed to provide the community opportunities to meet their physical, mental and social needs. Through our diverse programs, we continue to educate residents on the benefits of

physical activity, provide the 55+ community with low-cost active and social opportunities, help people build healthy lifestyles and offer programs that provide youth with positive ways to occupy their free time.

Accomplishments in FYE14 include:

- Continued implementation recommended from the Recreation Needs Assessment
- Extended vacation camp care options for children during school breaks
- Increased program variety in our Extended School Program session, as stated as Goal #1 in the Recreation Needs Assessment

Program goals for FYE15 include:

- Increase program registration through internet over 65%
- Update the Subsidy Allocation Policy to reflect local needs
- Update website model to a more current and user-friendly style
- Continue implementation of recommendations from Recreation Needs Assessment
- Increase connections with local businesses and organizations for program sponsorship and involvement

Proposed increases to the FYE16 Recreation portion of the budget reflect increases consistent with costs associated with providing enhanced levels of service throughout our programming demands. The majority of programming expenses are handled through the Program Fund; a self-sustaining fund that does not affect increases on taxpayers.

Pool

Programs offered at the pool provide opportunities to develop lifelong skills, personal development and health, wellness and employment opportunities for young adults in a safe, fun environment.

Accomplishments and/or Improvements to the pool in FYE14 included:

- Updated the Sand Hill Pool flooring inside the facility for a more cohesive, non-slip surface
- Repaired pool pump, motor, strainer and burst piping
- Implemented additional swim lesson classes to accommodate family & individual lifestyles
- Installed a Point of Sale system for increased inventory control

Scheduled or completed improvements for FYE15 include:

- Install safety grating in pool and spray ground filter rooms
- Repair broken spray fixture within spray ground system
- Small upgrades internally at Sand Hill Pool in washrooms and guard room

Proposed increases to the FYE16 Pool portion of the budget reflect increases consistent with costs associated with providing the same or enhanced levels of service. Sand Hill Pool is the host site for the 2015 summer swim league meet and plans for aesthetic updates will be made within budgetary limits.

Senior Vans

The senior vans provide an essential service to the senior community of Essex. The vans allow seniors convenient accessibility for healthcare, wellness and recreation needs. The department hires, trains and

schedules the drivers. The Senior Activities Coordinator hires and schedules the phone volunteers, along with assisting the Director with training sessions.

Accomplishments and/or Improvements in FYE14 included:

- Hired replacement driver while maintaining budgeted hours

Scheduled or completed improvements for FYE15 include:

- Conduct defensive driver training with VLCT
- Hired and trained the part-time Senior Activities Coordinator in late September
- Assisted implementation of new programming and supplies at the Essex Junction Senior Center with the new Activities Coordinator
- Coordinate with CCTA regarding a replacement for the “Green/E3” van

Proposed increases to the FYE16 senior van portion of the budget reflect increases consistent with costs associated with providing the same exceptional level of service.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Bradley J. LaRose
Chief of Police

In September 2014 the police department transferred operations from 81 Main Street to the new facility at 145 Maple Street. The functions of the department had been located in three separate locations, one being rented office space. The migration of all functions took several weeks to complete. Much of the migration was completed at the time of the Open House in late October.

The Open House was very well attended by the public. This was an opportunity for the community to view the results of a multi-year research, planning and construction process. The event was a pleasant one for all those in attendance, including staff. Tours of the facility, or reserving use of the Community Room at the facility, can be scheduled through the Chief's office.

The new police facility is energy efficient with highly technical mechanical and operational systems. These systems will require ongoing preventative and repair maintenance. Service and maintenance contracts for systems such as the HVAC and auxiliary power unit have been budgeted. The building is primarily heated and cooled with electricity. The increased cost of utilities is reflected in the FYE 2016 budget. The actual fixed cost of utilities will be better identified once the facility cycles through all four seasons. The police department budget also covers the utility cost for the storage building on Sand Hill Road.

The FYE2016 police budget includes a new line item identified as IT Care and Maintenance. This additional line will better identify the factors that determine the cost of information technology. Previously, these factors were included in the Telephone, Communications and Information Technology lines. The Information Technology line now identifies the cost of computer replacement and peripherals, and the IT Care and Maintenance line identifies factor such as software support and internet circuit charges.

The Community Justice Center (CJC) continues to function as a system of alternative justice and offers support services for victims of crime. In the past year the CJC has added volunteers, expanded in policy development and created a Citizens Advisory Board. The Director and staff have developed robust programs that have been shared with neighboring communities. The CJC has worked with staff in some schools to develop innovative methods of conflict resolution.

The illegal drug trade has been a major driving force of crime for some time, and will continue to be a major focus of the police department's enforcement efforts. For years, the department has teamed with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies in pursuing the most efficient and effective means of confronting the perennial threat that addiction poses to society. The current opiate epidemic in Vermont is most noteworthy.

Reflecting on how we, as a society, respond to the pressures that impact our security and quality of life is essential. Enforcement is one factor in what must remain a multi-faceted approach to problem-solving. Education, treatment and awareness are some other factors that are critical to our mission. Let us keep these factors in mind as we work together to keep our friends, family and community safe.

FYE 2014 Statistics

REPORTED CRIME ACTIVITY - PERIOD 07/01/13-06/30/14

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
HOMICIDE	1	2	0	0	2
ROBBERIES	1	2	3	4	5
BURGLARIES	56	51	71	73	85
ASSAULTS	69	53	73	84	54
SEX OFFENSES	24	12	24	21	23
DRUG OFFENSES	101	124	140	111	86
LARCENIES	432	508	607	470	488
VANDALISM	230	233	199	162	115
STOLEN VEHICLES	4	6	8	17	4
SUICIDES/ATTEMPTS	6	10	11	9	4
MISSING PERSONS	39	50	29	34	39
BAD CHECKS/FRAUD	66	77	69	91	104
D.U.I.	17	33	32	38	23
COURT CASES	366	324	325	334	327
ACCIDENTS	613	731	635	710	718

There were 5,496 tickets written for traffic and parking violations, of these 869 were Vermont Traffic Citations.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Dennis E. Lutz, P.E.
Town Engineer/Public Works Director

A high priority assignment for Public Works has been the development of a plan to consolidate some of the overall public works functions in both the Village and the Town. A study entitled "An Examination of a Shared Service Delivery Model for the Village of Essex Junction-Town of Essex, Vermont" was commissioned by the Village Trustees and Town Selectboard and completed in June of 2014 by Mary Morris and Jeff Carr. In the section entitled Public Works/Streets-Highways/Storm Water, action steps were suggested to investigate and study both the actual consolidation of services and the financing system for such an option.

Public Works developed a number of alternative ways to consolidate services with two primary options emerging as being the most appropriate. One involves the sharing of storm water permitting/management costs and a second analysis included shared highway services and a future combined Public Works Department. The storm water program consolidation is a natural progression based on both communities holding identical State and Federal storm water permits, the shared watersheds through both communities, development of a permit-required Joint Stream-water Quality Flow Restoration Plan and the need to jointly meet future storm water mandates for improved stream and Lake (Champlain) water quality. A joint Village Trustee-Town Selectboard memorandum of understanding has been developed, in accordance with State law, to consolidate storm water management functions and fund storm water permitting/management under the Town Public Works Department. All residents within the community – Village and Town – would be billed under only one funding source for the identified storm water services.

In a similar manner, a Memorandum of Understanding has been developed to incorporate a portion of the Village Highway budget costs into the Town highway budget, to share some services initially with more added in subsequent years and to phase in the consolidation of shared highway/public works services over a multi-year period. Costs for paving and for equipment replacement would be funded independently within each community. At the time of preparation of this annual report (late December 2014), draft agreements are being developed but are not in final form. It is anticipated that decisions on the storm water cost sharing and on highway/public works issues will be finalized prior to the warning for the annual meeting.

Following is a summary of the projects that were completed as well as the projects that are still at some level of development:

HIGHWAY

Town Projects completed during the past year include asphalt overlay of a portion of Towers Road and Weed Road; cold-planing and overlay of Willoughby Drive, Sydney Drive and Clover Drive; removal of existing paving and asphalt resurfacing of Lida Drive; extensive asphalt surface repairs to Tanglewood Drive; initiation of street light conversion to LED lighting in many areas of the Town; replacement of an emergency generator serving the highway garage complex and fire station; bid and purchase of a replacement frontend loader and Low-pro dump truck (3CY); receipt of a grant award and approval to start design and right-of-way acquisition for a path along Towers road from VT128 to Clover Drive; continued design of a 10-foot wide path along VT2A from Old Colchester Road to Pinecrest Drive; area improvements on a number of gravel town highways; maintenance and winter plowing on 23.16 miles of gravel and 52.27 miles of paved roads with nine permanent highway employees, up to three temporary

employees and one mechanic; and continued savings through low salt use application for winter operations.

Work in Progress: Progress has been made on qualifying a number of projects for potential VTRANS funding as Circumferential Highway Alternative projects; in Phase 2 of the Circ-related work, the VT2A/VT289 Interchange project is in final design with construction expected in late 2016; the VT15/Sand Hill Road intersection and the multi-use 10-foot wide, paved path along VT15 from Susie Wilson Road to Winooski final design stage has been started with construction projected for 2018; in the Phase 3 projects, work will begin on scoping studies as outlined in last year's narrative report; finalization of revised Public Works Specifications is underway with adoption planned for mid 2015.

STORM WATER

Projects completed include compliance with year ten requirements of the current community-wide NPDES Phase II Storm-water Permit; hired Watershed Consulting Associates and Aldrich & Elliot to develop a Flow Restoration Plan required under the permit for Indian and Sunderland Brooks; worked with the Joint Village-Town Stormwater Coordinating Committee to develop an Expired Permit Ordinance that was passed by the Selectboard in August on how to address expired stormwater permits within the Town; worked with the State to devise a Flow Monitoring Plan for future implementation on Indian and Sunderland Brooks; 100% check of all storm-water pipe catch basins and outfalls in the Town; repair of deteriorated storm-water piping and catch basins at various locations; renewing 11-year stormwater permits for non-impaired waterway discharges; cleaning of all catch basins with more than 12 inches of material in the sump; street sweeping of all paved roads twice per year; active participation in regional storm-water education and public participation programs.

Work in Progress: Assessing and meeting the compliance requirements of the new NPDES Phase 2 MS4 Permit and working closely with the Village on joint storm water planning and implementation requirements and other MS4 communities on regional storm water issues.

WATER and SEWER

Projects completed: The Water and Sewer Department continued with the customer meter replacement program with over 1,550 meters installed (47% complete) since starting the program in 2009; completed a study to investigate alternatives to increase water pressure in the west end of the Town and prioritized future system upgrade projects in the area; completed a system wide water model to analyze and address current system deficiencies and access future needs system wide; the system water capacity in the west end of Town was increased with the completion of the Colchester South Tank on Water Tower Hill in Colchester by an inter-local agreement with CWD and other communities; water main flushing of over 60 miles of waterline and 478 fire hydrants, cleaning/maintenance of 41 miles of sewer/force mains and 14 pump stations throughout the Town with a field water/sewer field crew of four employees.

Work in Progress: The Department will continue to replace the existing water metering system on an accelerated schedule; study of alternative rate structures for future water and sewer billings; review completed studies and system wide assessments for both water and sewer in order to prioritize future system needs;

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Projects completed include internal air-quality, related upgrades to the Town Highway garage.

Work In Progress: The Department has assisted the 81Main Street Building Work Group and the Selectboard in development of plans to rehabilitate the Town offices and bring them into compliance with current building and ADA codes.

TOWN CLERK/TREASURER
Cheryl Moomey, Town Clerk and Treasurer

The following is a summary of revenue for the Town Clerk's Office:

Hunting and Fishing Licenses	\$133
Marriage Licenses	\$1,265
Animal Licenses	\$8,517
Liquor and Tobacco Licenses.....	\$4,265
Recording and Land Records	\$127,623
Vault Time.....	\$3,067
Sale of Certified Copies	\$6,145
Green Mountain Passes	\$232
Department of Motor Vehicle Registration Renewals	\$928
Printing & Duplication Services.....	\$14,423

The Clerk's Office recorded 17 volumes of Land Records and 649 Vermont Property Transfer returns for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.

Vital records recorded in the Town of Essex from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014:

Births: 223 Marriages: 160 Deaths: 116

The Annual Town Meeting and election was held on March 3 & 4, 2014.

- Article I: The reports of the Officers were accepted.
- Article II: The budget was adopted for FYE 2015 in the amended amount of \$11,389,119.
- Article III: The following officers were elected by Australian ballot:
 - Moderator: (One-Year Term) Steve McQueen
 - Selectboard: (2 Three-Year Terms) Max G. Levy
 - Andrew J. Watts

Services available at the Town Clerk's Office:

Maintain Cemetery Records	Dog Licenses
Collect Property Taxes	Marriage Licenses
Collect Water & Sewer Payments	Notary Public Service
Fish & Wildlife Licenses*	Register to Vote
Liquor Licenses	Vote by Absentee
Green Mountain Passports	Motor Vehicle Registration Renewals
Genealogy Research	Maintain Vital Records for Town/Village
Record Land Records for Town/Village	

*We are now an official on-line Point of Sale (POS) vendor for most VT Fish and Game Licenses. See our website for more information (www.essex.org) and click on Town Departments and then Town Clerk.

Note: Due to the 2012 redistricting, a portion of Village voters who are in Census Block 1023 (173-261 Pearl Street) have been moved to Town District "8-1 Village" for state and federal elections only. These voters will vote at the Essex Middle School during state and federal elections. There will be a separate checklist at the Essex Middle School for these voters. For local elections, these voters will vote with the Village at the High School as they have in the past.

TOWN MANAGER

Patrick C. Scheidel

*By the agitation of water and silt, and their gradual
accumulation and consolidation . . . the rocks were formed
gradually by the evolution of sediments in water.
Cao Mu Zi (1959)*

The proposed FYE2016 operating budget is submitted to you with the financial resources necessary to meet the expected demand for municipal services and to consolidate the budgets for Town and Village stormwater and highway management. The growth in the Grand List has averaged 1.25% over the past four years: 0.86%, 1.64%, 0.76% and 1.73%. From the last assessment year to the current one, the Grand List value rose 1.73% to \$24,465,578. It is estimated that Grand List growth for FYE2016 will be approximately 1%. Such a steady growth trend may increase with additional economic development initiatives. In fact, our Economic Development Commission is working as diligently as ever to achieve a more diversified tax base by encouraging businesses to come to and remain in Essex. Village redevelopment and reinvestment from GlobalFoundries will certainly help.

Operating Budget Overview

The proposed FYE2016 budget is a responsible financial plan, which continues to consolidate service delivery. Since July 2013, a shared manager has successfully administered both Town and Village municipalities. During the ensuing timeframe, several consolidated service initiatives have been discussed, planned and implemented. For example, a joint stormwater policy committee has been appointed and begun planning Town and Village stormwater permit activity. One tax bill now exists for the Village taxpayers, and one Town-wide collection system has been successfully implemented. A part-time Senior Center Coordinator has begun consolidating Senior Center activities and fundraising. Town and Village municipalities share the costs for this 20-hour per week position. A manager-appointed internal Information Technology group has begun brainstorming potential electronic efficiencies.

Reallocation

This budget contains a reallocation of personnel in order to consolidate finance and administrative services. The proposed adjustments have been designed for a budget-neutral impact. In fact, a slight savings of \$894 is realized. Table 1 (attached) details the financial implications.

Expected, initial efficiencies from the consolidated financial/administrative services include:

- Creating an identical accounting system for processing accounts payable/receivable, payroll, etc.
- Using one check for the Town and Village.
- Providing back-up for personnel.
- Saving from various computer driven processes.
- Reducing/eliminating duplicate procedures.

Consolidation

The proposed FYE2016 budget also contains the funds necessary to consolidate Highway Services delivery, as supported by the Shared Services Assessment Study Report. Discussions about such consolidation were held in joint Selectboard/Trustees' meetings and other legislative meetings and

culminated in three-year agreements that were approved by each Board in January 2015. The impact upon the budget is \$780,000.

This initial consolidation of Highway Services is expected to yield the following outcomes:

- Increase coordination/cooperation between Village and Town staff.
- 3-Year Agreement between Village Trustees and Town Selectboard.
- Incorporate a portion of Village Highway Budget into Town Budget.
- 8-cent Highway Tax reduced to 2.2 cents.
- 3-Year Plan with evaluation and decision in 2018.

For FYE2016, the Selectboard/Trustees, with a nod to the Shared Services Assessment Study Report, decided to share stormwater policy/management; the next step is to organize the stormwater activities. This proposed budget consolidates the finances of the joint stormwater arrangement between the Town and Village. The budget impact, of carrying stormwater costs from prior Village budgets, is \$97,000.

This initial consolidation of Stormwater management is expected to yield the following outcomes:

- Sharing of stormwater permitting and management.
- Town and Village now have identical state and federal permits.
- Increased federal and state regulatory requirements.
- Shared watershed with common water bodies.
- Existing Joint Stormwater Management Committee.
- Maintenance cost of infrastructure to remain in Town and Village budgets.

The proposed budget should be viewed from two perspectives: the budget with and without the consolidated stormwater and highway expenses from the Village. The proposed FYE16 budget without these consolidated services will increase \$313,474 or 2.75% over the current year. The budget including these services increases approximately \$1,198,000 or 10.5% (see Table 2).

Salaries/Benefits

Full-time salaries are budgeted at 3.5%, including such premium pay as longevity and steps. Part-time pay will increase in accordance with state-mandated minimum wage increases. In total, salaries are up 3.78% over the current year. Cost of living is projected to fluctuate between 1% and 2% next year. Benefit cost increases have been a major driver in recent years. However, the FYE2016 budget shows a modest .34% increase in benefits due to reduced costs for health insurance. These reduced costs reflect the move to the State Exchange in 2016 and are based on current rates with a slight increase for 2016. The Selectboard-approved high deductible insurance option for employees has helped control costs as well as increased employee cost sharing. The Town and its staff continue to benefit from this option.

Each year, salaries and benefits cost centers comprise approximately 2/3 of the budget. The proposed FYE2106 budget allocates 62.99% for salary and benefits, for example, and 37.01% for other expenses. Typical operating cost increases, such as for road materials, are expected and budgeted accordingly. Note that over the past four fiscal years, the budgeted percentage of salaries and benefits has decreased, as other operating expenses gained ground as a greater percentage of the entire operating budget:

	FYE 13	FYE 14	FYE 15	FYE 16
Salaries & Benefits	67.07%	66.96%	66.34%	62.99%
Other Expenses	32.93%	33.04%	33.66%	37.01%

Transfers

The proposed FYE2016 budget includes \$314,907 in operating expenses transferred to capital coffers. Included in the transfers-to-capital is a line item begun in FYE2015 for firefighting equipment in the amount of \$16,307. The total transfers, by function, include: Fire: \$116,307; Highway: \$160,000; Parks: \$31,000; Community Development: \$3,600; and Senior Bus: \$4,000.

Revenues

Revenues are projected realistically. Non-tax revenues are expected to increase for the first year in over a decade. Sharing a Municipal Manager with the Village brings income. Interest revenue is down due to declining interest rates.

With the economy slowly improving, Town financial resources will remain strained. Maintaining a healthy fund balance will minimize the negative impacts of the expected level of delinquencies and allow for creating necessary reserves (15% is the goal). While our current surplus is slightly lower than 15%, an amount of \$123,000 of that fund balance will be applied as a FYE16 revenue in order to offset a higher one-time tax increase due to the consolidation of Stormwater and Highway Services.

The Town makes every effort to collect back taxes each year. Although it has been our practice to use tax sales as a last resort, while exploring every avenue possible to allow residents to remain in possession of their residential and business property, a smaller fund balance would force us to become more aggressive in tax collections (via tax sales). Balancing our financial position with taxpayer sensitivity continues to be our goal in tax collection.

Conclusion

The budget line "FYE2016 as proposed – Normal operations" in Table 2 shows what is needed to operate as before, excluding Stormwater and Highway consolidation. Due to the challenge to submit a lean budget, yet effectively manage each department, normal operating expenditures are proposed to increase a modest 2.75% over FYE 2015. Funding for the Farm and Open Land contracts and Veterans' Exemptions require the local agreement rate of \$.0016. All together, these obligations require a General Fund tax increase of \$.0007 on the tax rate, or the equivalent of \$20 for the average residence valued at \$280,000.

The combination of Village Stormwater and Highway expenses has a more complicated effect on taxes. The inclusion of Village Highway expenses in the Town budget serves to increase the Town's General Tax rate, while decreasing the Village General Tax rate (see Table 3). At the same time, Town Highway expenses, which were previously funded through the Town Highway Tax, are also combined and funded through the Town's General Tax rate. The effect of this action will serve to increase the Town's General Tax rate while decreasing the Town's Highway Tax rate. The net effect on taxes:

Net Tax Change	Rate	Amount*
Village Taxpayer	\$0.0037	\$10.00
Outside Village Taxpayer	\$0.0089	\$25.00

*Based on a \$280,000 house.

Capital Budget

The capital budget is proposed at \$3,296,593. The largest item of \$1,975,480 will bring the 81 Main Street building into code compliance. The capital budget for FYE2016 is comprehensively discussed in January and adopted in February. Preventing the deterioration of infrastructure – such as roads, buildings and parks – has been and continues to be one of our primary capital goals. Planning for equipment and vehicle replacement over time has been another central purpose of the capital plan and budget. The funds for meeting all capital projects come from various sources, such as grants, impact fees and a designated two-cent tax rate. Demand always exceeds our ability to pay; consequently, the annual capital spending addresses the “worst first” in terms of approved project expenditures. Extreme weather events, which cause water-damage to infrastructure, will spark consideration of another penny for capital expenditures.

TABLE 1

Proposed Resource Rearrangement

- A. A new position of Director of Administrative Services will be created through the reassignment of the current Finance Director.
- B. The position of Assistant Town Manager will be eliminated and some duties redistributed to another position as described below.
- C. The Town Planner position would be expanded and reclassified to include the responsibilities of carrying out supportive services to the Municipal Manager, such as special project research and supplementing in-office staff capacity. These additional duties have been gradually assigned to the Planner position following the departure of the Assistant Town Manager in the summer 2014.
- D. The Town Manager's Secretary's position has seen a decrease in workweek to four days from five.
- E. A new accounting position will be created in the Town finance department to further replace the accounting and reporting capacity required with the movement of the Finance Director to the new position of Director of Administrative Services.
- F. Ultimately, the Village Assistant Manager/MIS Director/Finance Director will assume the duties of Finance Director for both the Town and Village.

**Administrative Re-Organization Worksheet
Salary Adjustments**

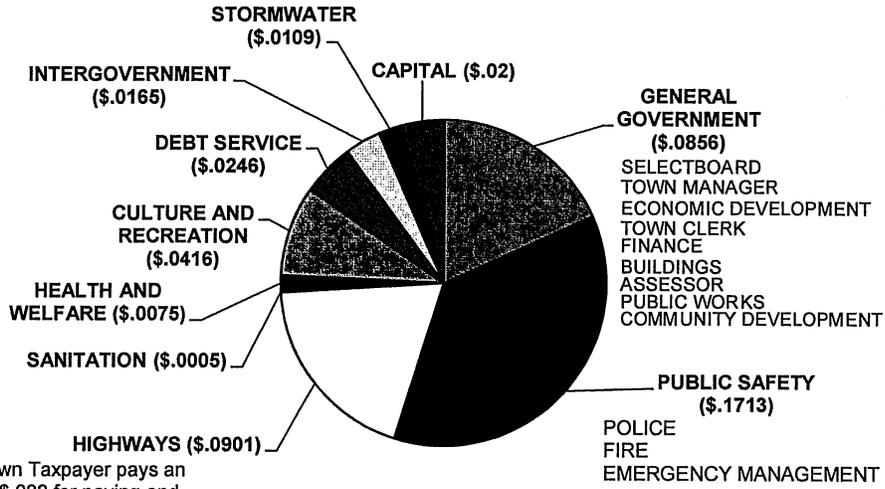
	FYE2015 Salary	FYE2016 Salary	FYE2016 Benefits	Total	Difference
<u>Before</u>					
T.M. Secretary	\$55,078	\$ 57,006	\$33,797	\$ 90,803	
Asst. Manager	\$62,504	\$ 64,692	\$44,527	\$109,219	
Planner	\$53,213	\$ 55,150	\$22,246	\$ 77,396	
Finance Director	\$93,955	\$ 97,243	\$50,589	\$147,832	
				\$425,250	
<u>After</u>					
T.M. Secretary		\$ 45,610	\$31,957	\$ 77,567	(\$ 13,236)
Asst. Manager			0	0	(\$109,219)
Planner		\$ 71,531	\$24,901	\$ 96,432	19,036
Dir. Of Admin. Serv.		\$102,243	\$41,099	\$143,342	(\$ 4,490)
Accountant		\$ 63,000	\$44,015	\$107,015	\$107,015
				\$424,346	
				(\$ 894)	(\$ 894)

TABLE 2			
FYE 2016 TOWN BUDGET	TOTAL AMOUNT	CHANGE FROM FYE 2015	
		AMOUNT	%
FYE 2015 Approved Town Budget	\$11,389,119		
FYE 2016 as proposed - Normal operations	\$11,702,593	\$313,474	2.75%
Village Stormwater Costs Assumed	\$96,975	\$96,975	0.85%
Sub Total Normal operations with Village Stormwater	\$11,799,568	\$410,449	3.60%
Village Highway Costs Assumed	\$780,095	\$780,095	6.85%
Increase in Human Svces for Village Highway	\$7,801	\$7,801	0.07%
Sub Total Village Highway Addition	\$787,896	\$787,896	6.92%
Total FYE 2016 Proposed Budget	\$12,587,464	\$1,198,345	10.52%

TABLE 3					
FYE 2016 TOWN BUDGET	TOTAL AMOUNT <small>(In Millions)</small>	CHANGE FROM FYE 2015			
		AMOUNT <small>(In Millions)</small>	%	TAX RATE	TAXES
FYE 2015 Approved Town Budget	\$11.39				
FYE 2016 Proposed Town General Budget*	\$11.80	\$0.41	3.60%		
Town General Rate				\$0.0070	\$20
Village Highway Costs Assumed	\$0.79	\$0.79	6.92%		
Town Highway Rate				(\$0.0580)	(\$162)
Village General Rate				(\$0.0632)	(\$177)
Town General Rate				\$0.0599	\$167
Total FYE 2016 Proposed Budget	\$12.59	\$1.20	10.52%		
Town Highway Rate				(\$0.0580)	(\$162)
Village General Rate				(\$0.0632)	(\$177)
Town General Rate				\$0.0669	\$187
Net Tax Change for:					
Village Taxpayer				\$0.0037	\$10
Town Outside Village Taxpayer				\$0.0089	\$25
Notes:					
* Proposed FYE2016 budget includes \$97K of Stormwater expenses previously carried in Village budget					
Estimated tax increase of \$20, includes \$11 due to the assumption of Village Stormwater costs					
Assumption of Village Stormwater expenses (\$97K) reduced Village taxes by \$25					
Combining Highway budgets increases Town General tax rate (Paid by all) by \$.0598					
Combining Highway budgets decreases Town Highway tax rate (Paid by Outside Village only) by \$.0580					
Combining Highway budgets decreases Village General tax rate (Paid by Inside Village only) by \$.0632					
Assumptions:					
Estimated tax rates and taxes are based on 1% grand list growth.					
Estimated taxes are based on average residence value of \$280,000					
Non-Tax Revenue includes the use of \$123,000 of Fund Balance					

PROPOSED TOWN BUDGET FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016

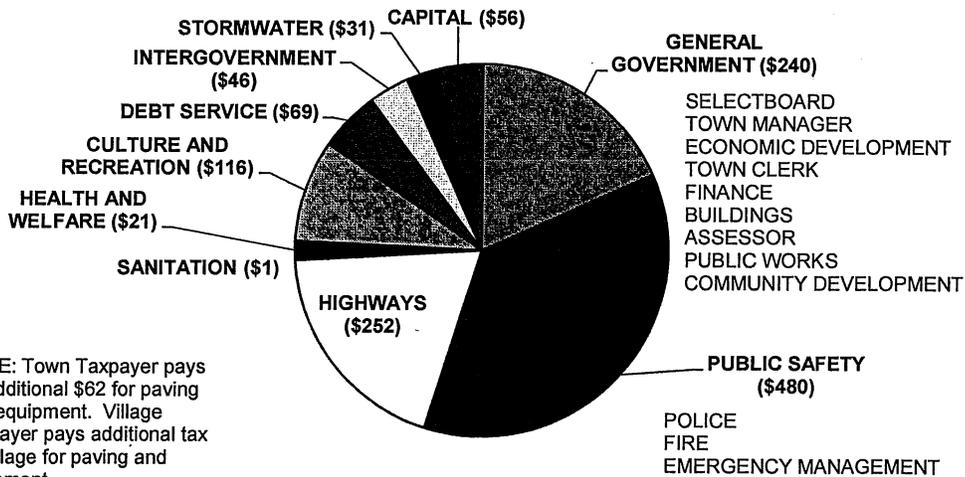
ESTIMATED TAX RATES BY CATEGORY



NOTE: Town Taxpayer pays an additional \$.022 for paving and equipment. Village Taxpayer pays an additional tax to Village for paving and equipment.

TOTAL TAX RATE = \$.4686

ESTIMATED TAXES ON \$280,000 HOME



NOTE: Town Taxpayer pays an additional \$62 for paving and equipment. Village Taxpayer pays additional tax to Village for paving and equipment.

TOTAL TAXES = \$1,312

TOWN OF ESSEX CAPITAL BUDGET AND PROGRAM
FYE 2016 - 2020

PROJECT	TOTAL COST	FYE 6/16	FYE 6/17	FYE 6/18	FYE 6/19	FYE 6/20	POST FYE 6/20
BUILDINGS							
TOWN OFFICES RENOVATION	\$1,445,480	\$1,445,480					\$0
TOWN CLERK VAULT EXPANSION	\$530,000	\$530,000					\$0
TOTAL TOWN OFFICES RENOVATION	\$1,975,480	\$1,975,480					
HIGHWAY GARAGE / TREE FARM IMPROVEMENTS	\$429,000	\$24,500	**	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$324,500
LIBRARY DEFERRED MAINTENANCE & EXPANSION	\$106,000	\$4,000	**				\$102,000
MEMORIAL HALL RENOVATIONS / ADDITION	\$341,000	\$17,000					\$324,000
RECREATION PROGRAM SPACE FEASIBILITY STUDY	\$30,000	\$0		5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
ENERGY RETROFIT OF EXISTING BUILDINGS	\$59,581	\$56,000	**				\$3,581
HISTORIC WATER TOWER	\$220,000	\$0					\$220,000
SUB-TOTAL BUILDINGS	\$5,136,541	\$2,076,980		\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$984,081
HIGHWAYS							
HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS	\$1,494,300	\$426,000		\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$168,300
GRAVEL ROADS	\$224,000	\$20,000		\$24,000	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$108,000
ALLEN MARTIN PARKWAY	\$4,000,000	\$0					\$4,000,000
GENES ROAD BRIDGE	\$159,237	\$53,000		\$53,000			\$0
SUB-TOTAL HIGHWAYS	\$5,877,537	\$499,000		\$302,000	\$302,237	\$249,000	\$4,276,300
WATERLINES							
PINECREST DR TO VILLAGE RT 2A	\$180,000	\$0					\$180,000
DOUGLAS TO WILLOUGHBY	\$228,000	\$0					\$228,000
SAND HILL ROAD PRESSURE REDUCTION	\$230,000	\$0					\$230,000
SUB-TOTAL WATERLINES	\$638,000	\$0					\$638,000
SEWERS							
PAINESVILLE AREA	\$1,340,000	\$0					\$1,340,000
CEMETERY RD	\$75,000	\$0					\$75,000
SUB-TOTAL SEWERS	\$1,415,000	\$0					\$1,415,000
HEAVY EQUIPMENT / VEHICLES							
HIGHWAY - EQUIPMENT/VEHICLES	\$2,100,000	\$30,000		\$167,000	\$409,100	\$190,300	\$49,750
FIRE - EQUIPMENT / VEHICLES	\$1,897,586	\$100,000	**	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$1,397,586
PARKS - EQUIPMENT / VEHICLES	\$235,647	\$46,843		\$64,247	\$13,185	\$0	\$0
SENIOR BUS	\$70,000	\$10,000	**	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$20,000
SUB-TOTAL EQUIPMENT / VEHICLES	\$4,303,233	\$186,843		\$341,247	\$532,285	\$300,300	\$159,750
PARK FACILITIES							
PARK ASSETS REPLACEMENT	\$310,347	\$40,000	**	\$41,553	\$7,057	\$14,939	\$74,546
MILFOIL MITIGATION AT INDIAN BROOK	\$68,000	\$13,000	**	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000
INDIAN BROOK DAM REPAIRS	\$181,000	\$13,000	**	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$116,000
SUB-TOTAL PARKS	\$559,347	\$66,000		\$67,553	\$33,057	\$40,939	\$100,546
PATHS & WALKS							
ROUTE 15 - CIRC TO MINI-GOLF COURSE	\$21,000	\$0					\$21,000
TOWERS RD - FROM 128 TO CLOVER	\$357,770	\$357,770					\$0
GENERAL PATHS AND WALKS	\$300,000	\$20,000	**	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
SUB-TOTAL PATHS & WALKS	\$678,770	\$377,770		\$20,000	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$211,000
STORMWATER							
STATE PERMITS CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS	\$500,000	\$65,000	**	\$65,000	\$65,000	\$65,000	\$65,000
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT							
DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT	\$156,505	\$25,000	**	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$19,264,933	\$3,296,593		\$845,800	\$1,002,579	\$730,239	\$649,296
FUNDING SOURCES							
VEHICLE / EQUIPMENT FUND		\$606,843					
OPERATING FUNDS		\$60,000					
GRANTS STATE / FEDERAL / OTHER		\$467,770					
BOND FUNDS REMAINING FROM POLICE FACILITY		\$800,000					
PREVIOUSLY COMMITTED CAPITAL FUNDS*		\$679,980					
UNDESIGNATED CAPITAL FUNDS		\$482,000					
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS		\$3,296,593					

* Previously Committed Funds include contributions from developers in prior years
** Amounts for these projects include funds to be designated for future expenditures

Expected Adoption: February 23, 2015

PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET SUMMARY FOR FYE 2016

	BUDGET FYE2014	ACTUAL FYE2014	BUDGET FYE2015	ESTIMATED FYE2015	PROPOSED FYE2016
REVENUES - SUMMARY					
PROPERTY TAXES	\$9,751,585	\$9,791,595	\$10,405,368	\$10,405,368	\$11,352,328
LICENSES AND PERMITS	\$49,200	\$59,782	\$56,200	\$56,000	\$58,000
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	\$301,700	\$506,822	\$249,200	\$284,200	\$375,100
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	\$419,800	\$415,046	\$491,350	\$428,350	\$457,035
FINES	\$122,000	\$111,585	\$115,000	\$147,000	\$155,000
MISCELLANEOUS	\$60,001	\$76,257	\$72,001	\$67,001	\$67,001
TOTAL	\$10,704,286	\$10,961,087	\$11,389,119	\$11,387,919	\$12,464,464
FUND BALANCE INCREASE (DECREASE)	\$0	\$429,224	\$0	(\$61,054)	(\$123,000)
TOTAL REVENUE	\$10,704,286	\$10,531,863	\$11,389,119	\$11,448,973	\$12,587,464
EXPENDITURES - SUMMARY					
GENERAL GOVERNMENT					
SELECTBOARD	\$54,398	\$46,774	\$54,444	\$46,805	\$61,294
TOWN MANAGER	\$473,358	\$465,776	\$526,457	\$465,465	\$421,341
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$13,725	\$13,623	\$13,725	\$13,725	\$13,725
ELECTIONS	\$11,000	\$5,050	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$6,000
FINANCE	\$502,483	\$539,607	\$497,473	\$541,548	\$637,135
TAX COLLECTION	\$5,450	\$5,130	\$5,550	\$5,988	\$6,020
LEGAL SERVICES	\$55,000	\$35,685	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000
TOWN CLERK	\$213,553	\$194,227	\$225,773	\$225,773	\$227,785
BUILDINGS AND PLANT	\$339,325	\$307,398	\$346,375	\$341,800	\$327,020
R/E APPRAISAL	\$209,375	\$215,607	\$222,576	\$222,236	\$225,302
PUBLIC WORKS	\$108,939	\$121,448	\$106,888	\$119,135	\$116,042
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	\$400,165	\$390,086	\$426,609	\$428,609	\$432,588
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$2,386,771	\$2,340,411	\$2,500,870	\$2,486,084	\$2,529,252
PUBLIC SAFETY					
POLICE	\$3,770,664	\$3,596,219	\$3,888,800	\$3,928,133	\$4,028,123
FIRE	\$386,978	\$360,412	\$398,645	\$396,565	\$401,040
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	\$45,581	\$45,660	\$48,145	\$48,145	\$50,163
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	\$4,203,223	\$4,002,291	\$4,335,590	\$4,372,843	\$4,479,326
TOWN HIGHWAYS AND STREETS					
TOWN HIGHWAYS AND STREETS	\$1,869,015	\$2,075,278	\$1,953,569	\$1,987,029	\$2,091,226
VILLAGE HIGHWAYS AND STREETS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$780,095
TOTAL HIGHWAYS AND STREETS	\$1,869,015	\$2,075,278	\$1,953,569	\$1,987,029	\$2,871,321
TOWN STORMWATER					
TOWN STORMWATER	\$231,632	\$242,988	\$264,407	\$269,907	\$185,294
VILLAGE STORMWATER	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$96,975
TOTAL STORMWATER	\$231,632	\$242,988	\$264,407	\$269,907	\$282,269
SANITATION					
SANITATION	\$12,500	\$7,409	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$12,500
HEALTH AND WELFARE					
HEALTH AND WELFARE	\$169,740	\$157,129	\$166,126	\$166,126	\$203,493
CULTURE AND RECREATION					
RECREATION - ADMIN	\$301,927	\$265,787	\$299,021	\$299,708	\$315,394
PARKS	\$212,486	\$197,082	\$237,444	\$237,444	\$249,265
POOLS	\$106,187	\$101,410	\$110,498	\$110,498	\$121,398
SENIOR BUS	\$64,612	\$70,762	\$66,318	\$66,318	\$71,356
LIBRARIES	\$381,917	\$307,486	\$385,291	\$385,291	\$398,336
CONSERVATION	\$20,350	\$11,802	\$22,960	\$20,700	\$20,900
TOTAL CULTURE AND RECREATION	\$1,087,479	\$954,329	\$1,121,532	\$1,119,959	\$1,176,649
DEBT SERVICE					
DEBT SERVICE	\$318,186	\$319,106	\$610,900	\$610,900	\$607,488
INTERGOVERNMENTAL					
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	\$425,740	\$432,922	\$423,625	\$423,625	\$425,166
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$10,704,286	\$10,531,863	\$11,389,119	\$11,448,973	\$12,587,464

GENERAL FUND BUDGET DETAIL FOR FYE 6/30/2016

	BUDGET FYE2014	ACTUAL FYE2014	BUDGET FYE2015	ESTIMATED FYE2015	PROPOSED FYE2016
REVENUES - DETAIL					
PROPERTY TAXES					
GENERAL TAX REVENUE	\$8,682,585	\$8,714,903	\$9,323,368	\$9,323,368	\$11,046,328
HIGHWAY TAX REVENUE	\$1,069,000	\$1,076,692	\$1,082,000	\$1,082,000	\$306,000
TOTAL PROPERTY TAXES	\$9,751,585	\$9,791,595	\$10,405,368	\$10,405,368	\$11,352,328
LICENSES AND PERMITS					
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	\$4,000	\$4,265	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
BUILDING STRUCTURES	\$34,000	\$44,442	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$42,000
HUNTING AND FISHING	\$500	\$133	\$500	\$300	\$300
MARRIAGE LICENSES	\$1,500	\$1,265	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
ANIMAL LICENSES	\$7,500	\$8,517	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500
GREEN MTN PASSPORT	\$200	\$232	\$200	\$200	\$200
DMV REGISTRATIONS	\$1,500	\$928	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
TOTAL LICENSES AND PERMITS	\$49,200	\$59,782	\$56,200	\$56,000	\$58,000
INTERGOVERNMENTAL					
STATE AID TO HIGHWAYS	\$136,000	\$142,922	\$143,000	\$143,000	\$243,000
RAILROAD TAX	\$1,900	\$2,242	\$1,900	\$1,900	\$1,900
PILOT REVENUE	\$27,000	\$27,173	\$28,000	\$28,000	\$28,000
CURRENT USE / HOLD HARMLESS	\$22,000	\$24,171	\$23,000	\$23,000	\$23,000
INTERLIBRARY LOAN GRANT	\$0	\$1,514	\$0	\$0	\$1,000
FEMA GRANT - FLOOD	\$0	\$186,136	\$0	\$0	\$0
FEMA GRANT - ICE STORM	\$0	\$5,557	\$0	\$0	\$0
C-O-P-S GRANT	\$74,300	\$72,372	\$10,600	\$10,600	\$0
ACT 60 REVENUE	\$7,700	\$7,733	\$7,700	\$7,700	\$7,700
ACT 68 REVENUE	\$32,800	\$37,002	\$35,000	\$70,000	\$70,500
TOTAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL	\$301,700	\$506,822	\$249,200	\$284,200	\$375,100
CHARGES FOR SERVICES					
PILOT - TAX AGREEMENTS	\$0	\$0	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
MANAGEMENT SERVICES	\$0	\$53,841	\$56,000	\$56,000	\$66,000
USE OF VAULT	\$3,000	\$3,067	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500
RECORDING OF LEGAL DOCS	\$185,000	\$127,623	\$190,000	\$125,000	\$140,000
ZONING HEARING FEES	\$2,000	\$1,175	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
SUBDIVISION FILING FEES	\$6,000	\$8,385	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500
ZONING ORDINANCE PAMPHS	\$100	\$5	\$100	\$100	\$100
C.O. INSPECTIONS	\$7,000	\$9,855	\$6,000	\$7,500	\$8,000
PRINTING / DUPLICATION SVCES	\$13,500	\$14,426	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
SALE PUBLIC WORKS SPECS	\$1,000	\$1,300	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
SALE OF MAPS	\$250	\$261	\$300	\$300	\$300
SALE OF CERTIFIED COPY	\$6,000	\$6,145	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
SALE OF CHECKLISTS	\$0	\$5	\$0	\$0	\$0
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FEE	\$500	\$161	\$500	\$500	\$500
STORMWATER DEBT ASSESSMENT	\$24,450	\$24,437	\$24,450	\$24,450	\$24,450
SPECIAL POLICE SERVICES	\$75,000	\$58,901	\$65,000	\$65,000	\$65,000
ANIMAL CONTROL / SHELTER	\$1,500	\$1,236	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
SWIMMING POOL FEES	\$53,000	\$65,596	\$59,500	\$60,000	\$62,685
FACILITY RENTAL / USE FEES	\$8,500	\$7,845	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$9,000
INDIAN BROOK FEES	\$33,000	\$30,782	\$33,000	\$33,000	\$33,000
TOTAL CHARGES FOR SERVICES	\$419,800	\$415,046	\$491,350	\$428,350	\$457,035

GENERAL FUND BUDGET DETAIL FOR FYE 6/30/2016

	BUDGET FYE2014	ACTUAL FYE2014	BUDGET FYE2015	ESTIMATED FYE2015	PROPOSED FYE2016
FINES					
PENALTIES ON TAXES	\$50,000	\$66,939	\$55,000	\$85,000	\$90,000
INTEREST ON TAXES	\$72,000	\$44,646	\$60,000	\$62,000	\$65,000
TOTAL FINES	\$122,000	\$111,585	\$115,000	\$147,000	\$155,000
MISCELLANEOUS					
INTEREST ON DEPOSITS	\$15,000	\$6,728	\$17,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
RENTS AND ROYALTIES	\$1,001	\$1,091	\$1,001	\$1,001	\$1,001
RECORDS PRESERVATION	\$24,000	\$22,712	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$24,000
SALE OF ASSETS	\$5,000	\$4,434	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
NOT CLASSIFIED	\$15,000	\$41,292	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	\$60,001	\$76,257	\$72,001	\$67,001	\$67,001
TOTAL	\$10,704,286	\$10,961,087	\$11,389,119	\$11,387,919	\$12,464,464
FUND BALANCE INCREASE (USE)	\$0	\$429,224	\$0	(\$61,054)	(\$123,000)
TOTAL REVENUES	\$10,704,286	\$10,531,863	\$11,389,119	\$11,448,973	\$12,587,464

EXPENDITURES - DETAIL

SELECTBOARD

SELECTBOARD SALARIES	\$5,414	\$4,331	\$5,414	\$4,331	\$5,414
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$12,000	\$4,920	\$12,000	\$4,920	\$18,000
SECRETARY	\$6,000	\$6,482	\$6,000	\$6,480	\$6,500
PRINTING/BINDING ORDNS	\$9,500	\$10,067	\$9,750	\$10,100	\$10,100
DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS / VLCT	\$21,484	\$20,974	\$21,280	\$20,974	\$21,280
TOTAL SELECT BOARD	\$54,398	\$46,774	\$54,444	\$46,805	\$61,294

TOWN MANAGER

SALARIES	\$302,342	\$305,816	\$335,024	\$317,000	\$278,905
BENEFITS	\$156,351	\$149,594	\$176,118	\$134,000	\$126,961
REPAIR & MAINTENANCE SVCES	\$200	\$0	\$200	\$0	\$200
ADVERTISING	\$5,000	\$4,188	\$5,000	\$4,200	\$5,000
PRINTING AND BINDING	\$1,200	\$1,839	\$1,200	\$1,750	\$1,360
DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$5,465	\$3,766	\$5,465	\$5,465	\$5,465
OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$650	\$239	\$650	\$250	\$650
TRAVEL	\$2,000	\$215	\$2,650	\$2,650	\$2,650
SUPPLIES	\$150	\$119	\$150	\$150	\$150
TOTAL TOWN MANAGER	\$473,358	\$465,776	\$526,457	\$465,465	\$421,341

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ADVERTISING	\$0	\$30	\$0	\$0	\$0
OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$3,275	\$3,143	\$3,275	\$3,275	\$3,275
G.B.I.C.	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	\$3,450	\$3,450	\$3,450	\$3,450	\$3,450
TOTAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$13,725	\$13,623	\$13,725	\$13,725	\$13,725

GENERAL FUND BUDGET DETAIL FOR FYE 6/30/2016

	BUDGET FYE2014	ACTUAL FYE2014	BUDGET FYE2015	ESTIMATED FYE2015	PROPOSED FYE2016
ELECTIONS					
ELECTIONS / TOWN MEETINGS	\$11,000	\$5,050	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$6,000
TOTAL ELECTIONS	\$11,000	\$5,050	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$6,000
FINANCE					
SALARIES	\$110,108	\$113,205	\$113,133	\$113,133	\$185,434
BENEFITS	\$56,250	\$56,993	\$60,890	\$60,890	\$94,751
AUDIT	\$20,000	\$13,875	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$20,000
REPAIR & MAINTENANCE SVCES	\$31,000	\$39,728	\$31,000	\$31,000	\$31,000
INSURANCE	\$259,500	\$272,356	\$246,500	\$297,500	\$280,000
DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$1,225	\$1,175	\$1,350	\$1,350	\$1,350
OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$3,600	\$535	\$3,600	\$1,800	\$3,600
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	\$20,000	\$40,840	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
TRAVEL	\$300	\$39	\$250	\$125	\$250
GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$500	\$861	\$750	\$750	\$750
TOTAL FINANCE	\$502,483	\$539,607	\$497,473	\$541,548	\$637,135
TAX COLLECTION					
PRINTING AND BINDING	\$2,750	\$2,346	\$2,750	\$2,968	\$3,000
POSTAGE	\$2,700	\$2,784	\$2,800	\$3,020	\$3,020
TOTAL TAX COLLECTION	\$5,450	\$5,130	\$5,550	\$5,988	\$6,020
LEGAL SERVICES					
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$55,000	\$35,685	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000
TOTAL LEGAL SERVICES	\$55,000	\$35,685	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000
TOWN CLERK					
SALARIES	\$137,895	\$123,321	\$147,057	\$147,057	\$149,911
BENEFITS	\$55,858	\$55,940	\$59,016	\$59,016	\$58,174
REPAIR & MAINTENANCE SVCES	\$200	\$0	\$200	\$200	\$200
DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$200	\$35	\$100	\$100	\$100
OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$16,400	\$12,177	\$16,400	\$16,400	\$16,400
GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$3,000	\$2,754	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
TOTAL TOWN CLERK	\$213,553	\$194,227	\$225,773	\$225,773	\$227,785
BUILDINGS AND PLANT					
WATER/SEWER	\$2,170	\$2,204	\$2,335	\$2,335	\$2,380
R & M SERVICES	\$28,800	\$26,379	\$28,800	\$28,000	\$27,800
R & M SUPPLIES	\$4,500	\$3,373	\$4,800	\$4,800	\$4,800
TELEPHONE	\$14,875	\$11,517	\$15,200	\$14,875	\$13,400
POSTAGE	\$18,000	\$13,580	\$17,500	\$17,000	\$17,000
OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$7,900	\$7,448	\$8,190	\$8,190	\$8,260
GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$27,200	\$18,783	\$27,000	\$27,200	\$23,800
ELECTRICITY	\$25,400	\$26,416	\$28,150	\$27,000	\$27,380
HEATING	\$8,700	\$9,069	\$10,400	\$10,400	\$9,500
GASOLINE	\$189,500	\$177,384	\$192,000	\$190,000	\$180,000
MACHINERY	\$10,280	\$10,390	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,700
MEMORIAL HALL REPAIRS	\$2,000	\$855	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
TOTAL BUILDINGS & PLANT	\$339,325	\$307,398	\$346,375	\$341,800	\$327,020

GENERAL FUND BUDGET DETAIL FOR FYE 6/30/2016

	BUDGET FYE2014	ACTUAL FYE2014	BUDGET FYE2015	ESTIMATED FYE2015	PROPOSED FYE2016
REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL					
SALARIES	\$126,671	\$127,903	\$132,049	\$132,049	\$137,128
BENEFITS	\$79,539	\$85,228	\$87,742	\$87,742	\$85,459
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$1,130	\$478	\$630	\$630	\$635
REPAIR & MAINTENANCE SVCES	\$600	\$351	\$600	\$300	\$500
ADVERTISING	\$140	\$77	\$200	\$160	\$200
DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$1,095	\$1,367	\$1,225	\$1,225	\$1,250
TRAVEL	\$100	\$187	\$100	\$100	\$100
GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$100	\$16	\$30	\$30	\$30
TOTAL R/E APPRAISAL	\$209,375	\$215,607	\$222,576	\$222,236	\$225,302
PUBLIC WORKS					
SALARIES	\$64,020	\$76,460	\$66,256	\$78,093	\$73,782
BENEFITS	\$33,049	\$33,486	\$28,762	\$28,762	\$29,405
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$50	\$0	\$50	\$50	\$50
REPAIR & MAINTENANCE SVCES	\$700	\$573	\$500	\$700	\$500
DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$750	\$1,109	\$750	\$750	\$765
OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$3,260	\$3,125	\$3,330	\$3,330	\$3,370
TRAVEL	\$1,480	\$164	\$1,480	\$1,480	\$1,480
GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$300	\$189	\$300	\$300	\$300
MACHINERY	\$4,760	\$5,423	\$4,890	\$5,100	\$5,840
FURNITURE & FIXTURES	\$500	\$889	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER OBJECTS	\$70	\$30	\$70	\$70	\$50
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	\$108,939	\$121,448	\$106,888	\$119,135	\$116,042
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT					
SALARIES	\$234,994	\$231,683	\$243,241	\$243,241	\$255,561
BENEFITS	\$142,406	\$138,926	\$152,303	\$152,303	\$145,127
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$4,000	\$0	\$8,000	\$10,000	\$5,000
R & M SERVICES	\$5,580	\$5,047	\$5,650	\$5,650	\$5,650
ADVERTISING	\$4,200	\$5,981	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$7,000
PRINTING AND BINDING	\$200	\$0	\$200	\$200	\$200
DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$4,035	\$2,401	\$3,450	\$3,450	\$4,250
TRAVEL	\$1,500	\$2,405	\$3,400	\$3,400	\$3,900
GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$850	\$1,243	\$1,765	\$1,765	\$2,300
MACHINERY	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,600
TOTAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	\$400,165	\$390,086	\$426,609	\$428,609	\$432,588
POLICE					
SALARIES	\$2,324,777	\$2,262,085	\$2,394,416	\$2,394,416	\$2,463,460
BENEFITS	\$1,155,630	\$1,031,196	\$1,168,744	\$1,168,744	\$1,196,452
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$13,500	\$16,000	\$16,275	\$17,250	\$17,250
ADVERTISING	\$500	\$95	\$500	\$500	\$500
TELEPHONE	\$29,000	\$23,352	\$28,000	\$28,000	\$22,000
DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$3,600	\$3,275	\$3,600	\$3,400	\$3,400
PRINTING AND BINDING	\$2,500	\$1,986	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500
RENTALS	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	\$22,800	\$36,550	\$38,000	\$38,000	\$10,000
IT SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$42,181
UNIFORMS	\$31,000	\$29,364	\$31,000	\$31,000	\$40,000

GENERAL FUND BUDGET DETAIL FOR FYE 6/30/2016

	BUDGET FYE2014	ACTUAL FYE2014	BUDGET FYE2015	ESTIMATED FYE2015	PROPOSED FYE2016
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POLICE (CONTINUED)

REGISTRATIONS, FEES & LIC	\$125	\$70	\$365	\$310	\$130
TRAVEL	\$7,500	\$4,667	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500
SMALL TOOLS & EQUIPMENT	\$8,000	\$15,808	\$12,500	\$17,000	\$17,000
CRIME PREVENTION	\$5,000	\$4,994	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
POLICE TRAINING	\$10,000	\$11,703	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
POLICE COMMUNICATIONS	\$20,000	\$21,730	\$19,000	\$19,200	\$15,800
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$3,500	\$3,271	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,250
R & M SERVICES - BLDGS	\$5,500	\$5,622	\$15,000	\$29,000	\$29,600
UTILITIES	\$5,500	\$6,041	\$15,900	\$33,000	\$33,600
R & M SVCES - VEH & EQUIP	\$18,000	\$14,905	\$19,000	\$19,000	\$19,000
R & M SUPPLIES-VEH & EQUIP	\$13,000	\$14,844	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000
RENT	\$46,232	\$45,000	\$7,500	\$10,313	\$0
BUYING & MAINT VEHICLES	\$44,000	\$42,661	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$73,500
TOTAL POLICE	\$3,770,664	\$3,596,219	\$3,888,800	\$3,928,133	\$4,028,123

FIRE

SALARIES	\$123,320	\$124,568	\$128,581	\$128,581	\$133,556
BENEFITS	\$9,434	\$22,329	\$28,837	\$28,837	\$26,217
DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$1,740	\$1,331	\$1,740	\$1,500	\$1,830
COMMUNICATIONS	\$3,700	\$2,960	\$3,700	\$3,700	\$3,700
TRAVEL	\$0	\$2,075	\$0	\$0	\$0
GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$5,560	\$3,525	\$5,560	\$5,560	\$5,560
SMALL TOOLS & EQUIPMENT	\$7,250	\$9,744	\$9,250	\$9,250	\$9,250
UNIFORMS	\$19,880	\$8,416	\$19,080	\$19,080	\$19,080
MACHINERY	\$10,750	\$2,217	\$7,390	\$7,000	\$7,390
FIRE PREVENTION	\$4,000	\$1,651	\$4,000	\$2,500	\$3,000
FIRE TRAINING	\$4,450	\$2,320	\$4,950	\$3,000	\$4,600
TRAINING / MEDICAL	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
FIRE COMMUNICATIONS	\$24,629	\$12,143	\$25,100	\$25,100	\$25,100
R & M SERVICES	\$26,250	\$27,931	\$26,250	\$30,000	\$27,250
R & M SUPPLIES	\$850	\$280	\$850	\$400	\$850
R & M SERVICES - BUILDINGS	\$2,250	\$278	\$3,750	\$3,000	\$3,750
R & M SUPPLIES - BUILDINGS	\$1,665	\$397	\$2,050	\$2,050	\$2,050
WATER / GAS	\$7,500	\$7,687	\$7,500	\$7,700	\$7,800
BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
BUILDINGS - OTHER PURCH SVCES	\$1,750	\$560	\$1,750	\$1,000	\$1,750
TRANSFER TO CAPITAL - VEHICLES	\$130,000	\$130,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
TRANSFER TO CAPITAL - EQUIPMENT	\$0	\$0	\$16,307	\$16,307	\$16,307
TOTAL FIRE	\$386,978	\$360,412	\$398,645	\$396,565	\$401,040

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

SALARIES	\$29,258	\$29,823	\$29,706	\$29,706	\$31,883
BENEFITS	\$16,173	\$15,837	\$18,289	\$18,289	\$18,130
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$150	\$0	\$150	\$150	\$150
TOTAL EMERGENCY MGMT	\$45,581	\$45,660	\$48,145	\$48,145	\$50,163

GENERAL FUND BUDGET DETAIL FOR FYE 6/30/2016

	BUDGET FYE2014	ACTUAL FYE2014	BUDGET FYE2015	ESTIMATED FYE2015	PROPOSED FYE2016
HIGHWAYS AND STREETS					
SALARIES	\$594,000	\$550,135	\$610,124	\$610,124	\$663,148
BENEFITS	\$344,400	\$312,300	\$356,230	\$356,230	\$374,921
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$3,200	\$11,583	\$4,800	\$6,000	\$5,000
R & M SVCES - VEHICLES	\$26,000	\$29,769	\$28,000	\$28,000	\$29,000
R & M SUPPLIES - VEHICLES	\$52,000	\$54,770	\$52,000	\$52,500	\$53,000
R & M SVCES - BUILDINGS	\$8,900	\$31,819	\$8,400	\$9,000	\$9,100
R & M SUPPLIES - BUILDINGS	\$2,400	\$5,567	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
RENTAL OF EQUIPMENT	\$650	\$1,288	\$650	\$700	\$750
COMMUNICATIONS	\$3,600	\$3,655	\$5,290	\$5,000	\$4,300
ADVERTISING	\$1,100	\$1,854	\$1,400	\$1,800	\$1,500
DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$1,500	\$2,560	\$1,650	\$2,000	\$1,990
OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$13,200	\$14,233	\$13,800	\$13,800	\$13,000
TRAVEL	\$1,200	\$3,132	\$1,200	\$2,500	\$1,400
TAXES / LICENSES / REGISTNS	\$275	\$410	\$275	\$275	\$350
SMALL TOOLS & EQUIPMENT	\$1,800	\$2,584	\$2,300	\$2,300	\$2,300
UNIFORMS	\$9,200	\$8,059	\$9,200	\$9,000	\$9,000
OP SUPPLIES - BLDGS	\$7,350	\$8,159	\$7,250	\$7,300	\$7,530
OP SUPPLIES - VEHICLES	\$4,500	\$5,666	\$4,500	\$5,100	\$5,100
ELECTRICITY	\$11,000	\$11,703	\$11,400	\$11,800	\$12,000
NATURAL GAS	\$7,200	\$6,726	\$7,200	\$7,000	\$7,100
MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT	\$5,800	\$2,646	\$9,400	\$9,400	\$9,400
VEHICLES TRANSFER TO CAPITAL	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$160,000	\$160,000	\$160,000
FLOOD EXPENSE	\$0	\$207,123	\$0	\$0	\$0
SUMMER CONST - RENTALS	\$9,850	\$16,868	\$8,300	\$7,500	\$13,150
SUMMER CONST - PURCH SVCES	\$191,780	\$149,291	\$192,000	\$192,000	\$201,772
SUMMER CONST - SUPPLIES	\$51,890	\$56,736	\$61,000	\$61,000	\$58,000
TRAFFIC CNTRL - PURCH SVCES	\$10,300	\$10,804	\$10,500	\$10,500	\$11,000
TRAFFIC CNTRL - SUPPLIES	\$10,870	\$7,534	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$11,800
SIDEWALKS AND CROSSWALKS	\$11,000	\$10,109	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$15,000
WINTER MAINT - PURCH SVCES	\$4,000	\$2,400	\$4,000	\$2,700	\$2,700
WINTER MAINT - SUPPLIES	\$167,810	\$207,531	\$164,900	\$184,000	\$189,855
BRIDGES AND VIADUCTS	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
STORM DRAINS - PURCH SVCES	\$35,000	\$59,500	\$48,300	\$60,000	\$89,000
STORM DRAINS - SUPPLIES	\$17,240	\$17,894	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$19,000
ELECTRICITY - STREET LIGHTS	\$108,000	\$110,870	\$116,000	\$116,000	\$105,560
TOTAL TOWN HIGHWAYS & STREETS	\$1,869,015	\$2,075,278	\$1,953,569	\$1,987,029	\$2,091,226
VILLAGE HIGHWAY COSTS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$780,095
TOTAL COMBINED HIGHWAYS AND STREET	\$1,869,015	\$2,075,278	\$1,953,569	\$1,987,029	\$2,871,321
STORMWATER					
SALARIES	\$100,464	\$114,821	\$105,713	\$105,713	\$86,343
BENEFITS	\$54,368	\$56,028	\$55,694	\$55,694	\$32,651
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$15,000	\$1,731	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$15,000
REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	\$20,000	\$41,568	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0
CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES	\$7,000	\$0	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0
FLOW MONITORING / ADVERTISING	\$7,800	\$6,907	\$14,800	\$20,000	\$29,800
OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$10,200	\$5,729	\$5,700	\$5,700	\$8,200
TRAVEL	\$1,300	\$1,673	\$1,300	\$1,600	\$1,200
TAXES / LICENSES / REGISTNS	\$5,800	\$4,831	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$12,100
VEHICLES TRANSFER TO CAPITAL	\$9,700	\$9,700	\$9,700	\$9,700	\$0
TOTAL TOWN STORMWATER	\$231,632	\$242,988	\$264,407	\$269,907	\$185,294
VILLAGE STORMWATER COSTS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$96,975
TOTAL COMBINED STORMWATER	\$231,632	\$242,988	\$264,407	\$269,907	\$282,269

GENERAL FUND BUDGET DETAIL FOR FYE 6/30/2016

	BUDGET FYE2014	ACTUAL FYE2014	BUDGET FYE2015	ESTIMATED FYE2015	PROPOSED FYE2016
SANITATION					
LANDFILL MONITORING	\$12,500	\$7,409	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$12,500
TOTAL SANITATION	\$12,500	\$7,409	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$12,500
HEALTH AND WELFARE					
PUBLIC HEALTH					
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER	\$10,090	\$10,090	\$10,443	\$10,443	\$10,809
DOG CONTROL	\$26,707	\$14,006	\$27,642	\$27,642	\$28,609
ANIMAL CONTROL / SHELTER	\$17,500	\$17,405	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
WELFARE AND OTHER					
HUMAN SERVICE GRANTS	\$106,293	\$105,614	\$113,891	\$113,891	\$125,875
DONATION ESSEX RESCUE	\$5,200	\$5,200	\$7,700	\$7,700	\$31,750
CEMETERIES - PURCH SVCS	\$2,450	\$3,316	\$2,450	\$2,450	\$2,450
E.C. HISTORICAL MUSEUM	\$1,500	\$1,498	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
TOTAL HEALTH AND WELFARE	\$169,740	\$157,129	\$166,126	\$166,126	\$203,493
RECREATION ADMINISTRATION					
SALARIES	\$166,290	\$162,109	\$178,112	\$178,112	\$186,827
BENEFITS	\$116,087	\$88,268	\$106,619	\$106,619	\$114,017
PROFESSIONAL SVCS	\$4,000	\$2,565	\$2,240	\$2,927	\$2,600
COMMUNICATIONS	\$950	\$931	\$950	\$950	\$950
DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$2,500	\$1,082	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
TRAVEL	\$1,100	\$832	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$1,000
MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION	\$11,000	\$10,000	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500
TOTAL RECREATION ADMIN	\$301,927	\$265,787	\$299,021	\$299,708	\$315,394
PARKS					
SALARIES	\$93,542	\$86,482	\$106,740	\$106,740	\$114,021
BENEFITS	\$41,588	\$38,158	\$45,447	\$45,447	\$44,137
REPAIR & MAINTENANCE SVCS	\$7,800	\$7,939	\$10,800	\$10,800	\$12,000
R & M SUPPLIES	\$13,239	\$11,510	\$13,300	\$13,300	\$16,500
COMMUNICATIONS	\$650	\$504	\$700	\$700	\$700
ADVERTISING	\$200	\$0	\$425	\$425	\$425
DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$500	\$450	\$300	\$300	\$300
OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$13,765	\$11,975	\$18,330	\$18,330	\$19,330
TRAVEL	\$100	\$0	\$100	\$100	\$100
GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$4,850	\$4,628	\$4,850	\$4,850	\$5,000
SMALL TOOLS & EQUIPMENT	\$500	\$502	\$500	\$500	\$800
UNIFORMS	\$1,452	\$771	\$1,452	\$1,452	\$1,452
UTILITIES	\$3,300	\$3,163	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500
TRANSFER TO CAPITAL	\$31,000	\$31,000	\$31,000	\$31,000	\$31,000
TOTAL PARKS	\$212,486	\$197,082	\$237,444	\$237,444	\$249,265

GENERAL FUND BUDGET DETAIL FOR FYE 6/30/2016

	BUDGET FYE2014	ACTUAL FYE2014	BUDGET FYE2015	ESTIMATED FYE2015	PROPOSED FYE2016
SWIMMING POOLS					
SALARIES	\$69,333	\$64,906	\$69,274	\$69,274	\$75,822
BENEFITS	\$5,304	\$4,965	\$5,299	\$5,299	\$5,801
REPAIR & MAINTENANCE SVCES	\$1,500	\$5,589	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$4,500
R & M SUPPLIES	\$750	\$187	\$750	\$750	\$850
COMMUNICATIONS	\$700	\$1,412	\$700	\$700	\$1,200
ADVERTISING	\$200	\$0	\$425	\$425	\$425
DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$1,700
OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$1,000	\$2,882	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$2,000
GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$10,500	\$9,541	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$11,000
SMALL TOOLS & EQUIPMENT	\$3,000	\$511	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
UNIFORMS	\$1,400	\$657	\$1,400	\$1,400	\$1,400
UTILITIES	\$10,000	\$10,760	\$12,700	\$12,700	\$12,700
MACHINERY	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
TOTAL POOLS	\$106,187	\$101,410	\$110,498	\$110,498	\$121,398
SENIOR CITIZEN BUS					
SALARIES	\$47,015	\$44,173	\$48,391	\$48,391	\$50,610
BENEFITS	\$3,597	\$3,380	\$3,702	\$3,702	\$3,871
REPAIR & MAINTENANCE SVCES	\$8,000	\$18,052	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$10,500
COMMUNICATIONS	\$900	\$757	\$900	\$900	\$800
ADVERTISING	\$200	\$0	\$425	\$425	\$425
OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$800	\$373	\$800	\$800	\$800
GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$100	\$27	\$100	\$100	\$350
VEHICLES AND EQUIP TRANS TO CAP	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
TOTAL SENIOR BUS	\$64,612	\$70,762	\$66,318	\$66,318	\$71,356
LIBRARIES					
ESSEX FREE LIBRARY					
SALARIES	\$203,618	\$174,237	\$201,418	\$201,418	\$208,492
BENEFITS	\$98,640	\$55,265	\$104,527	\$104,527	\$110,528
REPAIR & MAINTENANCE SVCES	\$21,115	\$23,692	\$20,460	\$20,460	\$19,756
DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$780	\$280	\$780	\$780	\$830
OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$2,173	\$2,841	\$2,840	\$2,840	\$2,835
TRAVEL	\$250	\$0	\$250	\$250	\$250
GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$5,200	\$2,749	\$4,700	\$4,700	\$4,700
ELECTRICITY	\$4,750	\$6,289	\$4,056	\$4,056	\$4,745
NATURAL GAS	\$2,300	\$2,671	\$2,300	\$2,300	\$2,300
BOOKS AND PERIODICALS	\$26,691	\$24,024	\$27,510	\$27,510	\$27,500
IMPROV OTHER THAN BUILD	\$850	\$0	\$900	\$900	\$800
SPECIAL PROGRAMS	\$550	\$438	\$550	\$550	\$600
TOTAL ESSEX FREE LIBRARY	\$366,917	\$292,486	\$370,291	\$370,291	\$383,336
BROWNELL LIBRARY					
CONTRIBUTION	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
TOTAL BROWNELL LIBRARY	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
TOTAL LIBRARIES	\$381,917	\$307,486	\$385,291	\$385,291	\$398,336

GENERAL FUND BUDGET DETAIL FOR FYE 6/30/2016

	BUDGET FYE2014	ACTUAL FYE2014	BUDGET FYE2015	ESTIMATED FYE2015	PROPOSED FYE2016
CONSERVATION					
TREE CARE	\$19,300	\$10,321	\$20,960	\$19,000	\$19,200
TRANSFER TO W/S - AGRICULTURE	\$1,050	\$1,481	\$2,000	\$1,700	\$1,700
TOTAL CONSERVATION	\$20,350	\$11,802	\$22,960	\$20,700	\$20,900
DEBT SERVICE					
PRINCIPAL					
FIRE TRUCK - PUMPER	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
ARRA - STORMWATER LOAN	\$33,640	\$33,640	\$34,313	\$34,313	\$34,313
POLICE FACILITY BOND	\$0	\$0	\$345,000	\$345,000	\$345,000
INTEREST					
FIRE TRUCK - PUMPER	\$2,653	\$2,609	\$0	\$0	\$0
ARRA - STORMWATER LOAN	\$2,773	\$2,773	\$2,100	\$2,100	\$2,100
POLICE FACILITY BOND	\$161,565	\$193,036	\$229,487	\$229,487	\$226,075
TRANSFER TO CAP RESERVE FUND	\$47,555	\$17,048	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE	\$318,186	\$319,106	\$610,900	\$610,900	\$607,488
INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXPENSE					
COUNTY TAX	\$100,779	\$107,961	\$108,733	\$108,733	\$109,000
CCTA	\$254,181	\$254,181	\$243,230	\$243,230	\$240,610
WINOOSKI VALLEY PARK DIST	\$48,000	\$48,000	\$48,000	\$48,000	\$52,000
C.C.R.P.C.	\$22,780	\$22,780	\$23,662	\$23,662	\$23,556
TOTAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL	\$425,740	\$432,922	\$423,625	\$423,625	\$425,166
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$10,704,286	\$10,531,863	\$11,389,119	\$11,448,973	\$12,587,464

The firm of Kittell, Branagan and Sargent was engaged to audit the financial statements of the Town of Essex for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014. Copies of the audit report, for which they gave an unqualified opinion, are on file at the Town office and can be obtained on the Town website at www.essex.org.

The budget and actual columns for FYE 2014 above are contained, in summary, in the audit report as a supplementary schedule. The schedule is reconciled with results of operations according to GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles). The differences are due mainly to grant and other restricted revenues and expenditures that are not budgetted.

A complete picture of the Town's financial condition and results of operations can only be obtained by reading the whole audit report and the accompanying footnotes and schedules.

RECREATION PROGRAM BUDGET FYE 2016

	BUDGET FYE2014	ACTUAL FYE2014	BUDGET FYE2015	ESTIMATED FYE2015	BUDGET FYE2016
REVENUES - DETAIL					
CHARGES FOR SERVICES					
RECREATION PROGRAM FEES	\$373,000	\$334,854	\$404,500	\$404,500	\$415,000
AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM	\$33,000	\$33,164	\$34,400	\$35,000	\$36,400
HERSHEY TRACK	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
MISCELLANEOUS	\$0	\$7,958	\$0	\$500	\$500
TOTAL CHARGES FOR SERVICES	\$406,000	\$375,976	\$438,900	\$440,000	\$451,900
TOTAL REVENUES					
EXPENDITURES - DETAIL					
RECREATION PROGRAMS					
SALARIES	\$80,930	\$75,562	\$112,555	\$112,555	\$108,172
BENEFITS	\$7,772	\$6,668	\$10,057	\$10,057	\$9,772
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$1,500	\$3,147	\$2,927	\$2,927	\$3,500
COMMUNICATIONS	\$600	\$308	\$700	\$700	\$450
POSTAGE	\$2,600	\$4,510	\$4,300	\$4,300	\$5,000
ADVERTISING	\$500	\$713	\$450	\$450	\$425
PRINTING AND BINDING	\$11,425	\$11,128	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$12,000
DUES/SUBSCRIPTIONS/MEETINGS	\$150	\$1,024	\$900	\$900	\$1,050
OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$240,500	\$212,565	\$245,000	\$245,000	\$245,000
TRAVEL	\$200	\$737	\$200	\$200	\$700
GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$12,000	\$4,025	\$12,200	\$12,000	\$12,200
MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT	\$0	\$2,500	\$0	\$0	\$0
FOOTBALL - ESSEX LEAGUE	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$900
LITTLE LEAGUE / SOFTBALL	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
BABE RUTH LEAGUE	\$475	\$0	\$475	\$475	\$475
HERSHEY TRACK	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
OTHER PROGRAMS	\$0	\$12,529	\$750	\$750	\$0
AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM	\$27,700	\$22,443	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$31,000
TOTAL RECREATION PROGRAMS	\$390,252	\$358,759	\$435,414	\$435,214	\$433,644
NET REVENUE (LOSS)	\$15,748	\$17,217	\$3,486	\$4,786	\$18,256

NOTE: THE FYE 2016 BUDGET WAS ADOPTED BY THE SELECTBOARD ON JANUARY 26, 2015.

TRAILS COMMITTEE
Mark Paulsen, Chair

2014 was an active and constructive year for the Trails Committee. The Heart & Soul program reinforced our community's strong support for trails, sidewalks and bikeways. The Trails Committee participated in Bike Day at the Five Corners Farmers' Market, bringing in a bicycle racing team, a bike repair workshop and a number of commercial sponsors. We accepted a donation to the Town of 44.7 acres of wooded land with trails off the end of Tanglewood Drive. The Essex Bike/Ped Coalition completed its work to identify specific improvements for non-motorized transportation throughout Essex Town including Essex Junction. A new development proposed at Freeman Woods includes new sidewalks and a right-of-way to trails running behind the Lang Farm neighborhood. Max Petrow completed his Eagle Scout project adding signage and trail markings at Indian Brook Reservoir. The committee also participated in the rewriting of the Essex Town Plan.

In September 2000, the Selectboard created the Town Trails Committee as an advisory body to advance the development and maintenance of trails throughout the Town. Our charter tasks us to "assist the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment by providing advisory evaluations pertaining to trails, sidewalks and greenways for applications made to the Commission or Board based on the proposed trails maps in the Town Plan." In carrying out this duty, the Committee is incrementally building and formalizing a network of trails throughout the Town that provide and promote safe, non-motorized connections for recreational and transportation options. The Committee advocates for public benefits of non-motorized trails in concert with the rights and prerogatives of property owners.

A major portion of our work is devoted to reviewing proposed development projects looking for opportunities to build and connect trails in the Town. Working closely with the Conservation Committee, we reviewed many projects and captured some easements and rights-of-way that could lead to future trails. Members of the Trails Committee routinely attend and testify at Planning Commission meetings where development proposals have potential or existing trail elements.

The Trails Committee is currently made up of Mark Paulsen, Chair; Ruth LeBlanc, Kevin Macy, Sean Folley and Eric McCarthy. Town Parks & Recreation Director, Allyson Vile, assists the Trails Committee extensively and Josh Gauthier, Program Director, served as our staff liaison for most of 2014. The Trails Committee meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Offices located at 81 Main Street. We invite and encourage the public to attend these meetings and participate in our trail planning, and creating a vision of Essex trails into the future.

CHAMPLAIN WATER DISTRICT
Tom Bessette, Chair CWD Board of Water Commissioners
Jim Fay, CWD General Manager

Champlain Water District (CWD) is a regional municipal organization supplying drinking water and fire protection to the following (12) municipal water systems: South Burlington, Shelburne, Williston, Essex, Essex Junction, Village of Jericho, Winooski, Milton, Colchester Fire District #1, Colchester Fire District #3, Colchester Town, and the Malletts Bay Water Company since 1973. This past year CWD celebrated our 15th anniversary of continuing to maintain the Partnership for Safe Water Program's Excellence in Water Treatment Award criteria. CWD was the first water supplier in North America to receive the Excellence in Water Treatment Award in 1999, and is presently one of 13 water utilities that have attained this level of water treatment optimization, which signifies continuous performance protective of public health. CWD has maintained this level of excellence through successful submission of a comprehensive annual report that is reviewed for water quality test results, as well as demonstration and documentation of the operational tenacity toward continued quality improvement as required by the Partnership for Safe Water Program. The Partnership for Safe Water program utility membership collectively serves a total population of 85 million people, or nearly two-thirds of the U.S. citizens using surface water as the drinking water source.

Over the past year CWD has steadily continued its efforts toward completion of its Twenty-Year Master Plan reported by Dufresne & Associates in September 2002. This past fiscal year CWD's accomplishments are as follows:

- Continued to manage a long term asset management contract with Utility Services Company Inc. for on-going inspection, maintenance, and rehabilitation of (14) of CWD's welded steel water storage tanks.
- Completed the interior and exterior rehabilitation and recoating of two water storage tanks in South Burlington and Essex.
- Completed the installation of an upgrade to CWD's County-wide security surveillance system.
- Completed the construction for the relocation of a meter vault on the Colchester/Winooski boundary.
- Continued design work on two water transmission main relocation projects dictated by upcoming Vermont Agency of Transportation roadway projects in Colchester.
- As part of our ongoing annual capital program, a deep bed multimedia filter was rebuilt, along with interior pipe reconditioning at the water treatment facility.
- Completed construction of the replacement of two treatment process additive systems at the water treatment facility.
- Completed construction of a mezzanine within CWD's Plant Cold Storage Building for additional inventory storage capacity.
- Continued coordination of expanded water storage at Water Tower Hill for multiple served water systems future needs.
- Continued CWD's replacement program for supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) units that bring in critical county-wide information to the treatment control facility, as well as upgrading specific process control technology for redundancy and reliability reasons.
- Continued investment with Efficiency Vermont to optimize daily energy usage and reduce overall annual electrical costs.
- Continued to serve as the Vermont Training Center for the New England Water Works Association.
- Continued implementation of a long-term asset management database system for all CWD property, plant, and equipment.

- Continued enhancement of emergency response planning via training and collaboration with Vermont Emergency Management and the Department of Homeland Security.
- Continued the documentation process toward executing infrastructure ownership Memoranda of Understanding with all served municipal water systems.

We thank our employees and elected officials for their effort, support, and dedication in allowing CWD to be proactively managed and operated to supply a drinking water product protective of public health. As always, we welcome groups of any size to tour our facility. Please call 864-7454 to arrange a tour, or if you have questions, or need further information on Champlain Water District.

CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Charlie Baker, Executive Director

The Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) is a 29-member board consisting of one delegate from each of the County's 19 municipalities; four at-large members representing the interests of agriculture, environmental conservation, business, housing/socio-economic; and representatives from the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans), Chittenden County Transportation Authority (CCTA), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Burlington International Airport (BIA) and a rail representative.

The CCRPC appreciates the opportunity to work with its municipal members to plan appropriately for the region's future to protect the special quality of life that is shared throughout Chittenden County. The CCRPC is a cooperative regional forum for the development of policies, plans and programs that address regional planning issues and opportunities in Chittenden County. The CCRPC serves as the region's federally designated metropolitan planning organization and is responsible to all citizens of the region to ensure the implementation of the best transportation plan for Chittenden County. The CCRPC also provides technical and planning assistance to its member municipalities and VTrans.

The FY15 CCRPC will invest more than \$5 million in regional land use, transportation, emergency management, energy, natural resources, public engagement, training, and technical assistance. The program leverages \$4.5 million in federal and state investment with \$240,000 in municipal dues and another \$275,000 in local match for specific projects – **a 9:1 return on investment**.

The next pages are divided into two sections: Town of Essex activities and Regional activities.

TOWN OF ESSEX ACTIVITIES

In FY2014, the CCRPC provided the following assistance to the Town of Essex:

- Assistance with Town Plan updates.
- Population forecasts – Provided estimates of future population consistent with past trends and the ECOS growth strategy.
- LEOP – Offered assistance with local emergency operations plan (LEOP) and provided all pertinent emergency planning, training, and grant opportunities.
- Staff assisted with information and details regarding new rules for Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (ERAF) and flood resiliency planning requirements.
- Provided ongoing staff support to the Chittenden County Stream Team (<http://www.ccstreamteam.org>) and Chittenden County Regional Stormwater Education Program (<http://www.smartwaterways.org>) to facilitate multi-municipal cooperation to comply with EPA stormwater permit requirements for Public Participation and Involvement.

The CCRPC provided the following transportation assistance to Essex:

- Traffic Counts
 - Intersections: <http://www.ccrpcvt.org/data/traffic>
 - <http://www.ccrpcvt.org/data/traffic>
 - Bicycle & Pedestrian: <http://www.ccmpo.us/data.bikeped/>

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP – projects included in the State's Four Year Construction Program)

- VT 15 Multiuse Path
 - \$2 million for path from Lime Kiln Road to Susie Wilson Road as part of CIRC Alternatives Phase II
- Alder Brook Culvert (BR2) on VT 117
 - \$1.4 million for culvert replacement
- Susie Wilson Road Corridor and Intersection Improvement Project
 - \$8.5 million CIRC Alternatives Phase III project – funding schedule to be determined
- VT 117/North Williston Road Hazard Mitigation Improvements
 - \$1.9 million CIRC Alternatives Phase III project – funding schedule to be determined
- VT 15 Sidewalk – Old Stage Road to Essex Way
 - \$160,000 CIRC Alternatives Phase III project – funding schedule to be determined
- VT 15/Sand Hill Road Intersection improvements
 - \$1 million for installation of a signal (CIRTC Alt Phase II Implementation Project)
- VT 2A Bike Path – Old Colchester Road to Pinecrest Drive
 - \$229,000 combined VTrans Bike/Ped award and CCRPC Sidewalk Grant Awards
- VT2A/VT289 Intersection
 - \$1.5 million project for traffic signal upgrades and geometric improvements (CIRC Alt Phase I & II)

CIRC Alternatives Planning Related Activities

- North Williston Road Flood Plain Elevation Scoping (Essex/Williston) (CIRC Alt Planning Study)
- VT 15 Commuter Park & Ride Scoping (Essex to Jeffersonville)(CIRC Alt Planning Study)

Transportation Demand Management

- Regional Transportation Demand Management pilot project (Go! Chittenden County) with local and regional transportation partners including:
 - Expansion of TDM services through Campus Area TMA (CATMA) – Project underway
 - Bike commuter workshops and walk/bike site assessments by Local Motion – Project underway

Bicycle/Pedestrian Grants

- Essex/Essex Junction Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan – Project underway

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **ECOS Plan Annual Report** – The ECOS Plan's first annual report came out in January 2014 to report on the progress of achieving the ECOS Plan goals related to Social Community, Natural Systems, Built Environment, and the Economy for the County. The Annual Report can be found at ecosproject.com. The ECOS Plan is the combined Regional Plan, Transportation Plan, and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Chittenden County. A portion of the ECOS data is available at the town level.

Notable accomplishments for Essex include:

- A consistently low drop-out rate of 4.3% which is less than the County drop-out rate as a whole from 2010-12.
- An average of 94% of new homes during 2010-12 were permitted in areas planned for growth.

- **Emergency Management** – The CCRPC assists all municipalities with updating basic emergency operations plans (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/em/>) and staffs Local Emergency Planning Committee 1 (LEPC 1) which consists of representatives from businesses, local government, emergency response organizations and citizen groups of Chittenden County municipalities <http://www.ccrpcvt.org/em/lepc/>.
- **Regional Climate Action Planning** – The CCRPC Board adopted the Chittenden County Regional Climate Action Guide in May 2014 (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/2014/03/climate-action-guide/>). This Guide identifies climate actions that municipalities can take to help achieve State climate goals and includes greenhouse gas (ghg) emissions data for each municipality by the source of emissions. Essex contributes to **6% of the County’s total emissions**. Within Essex, in 2010, **73% of the ghg emissions came from transportation and 21% came from heating buildings and homes**.
- **Transportation Improvement Program** – The Federal Fiscal Year TIP for 2015 through 2018 was adopted by the CCRPC at its July 16, 2014 meeting (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/tip>). The TIP is a prioritized, multi-year list of transportation projects in Chittenden County. To receive federal funds, each transportation project, program or operation must be authorized through the TIP. The FY15-FY18 TIP includes nearly \$240 million in federal dollars for transportation projects within the county.
- **CIRC Highway Alternatives Task Force** – CCRPC staff, VTrans and the “CIRC Communities” (Colchester, Essex, Essex Junction, and Williston) completed a series of projects and planning activities which will aid in meeting the original Purpose and Need of the CIRC Highway Project, which broadly stated are mobility, congestion, transportation demand, safety, livability, and economic development (<http://www.circtaskforce.org/>).
- **Transportation Demand Management** – The CCRPC, along with regional and state partners, launched **Go! Chittenden County**, a one-stop-shop for information and advice about our region’s transportation resources (www.gochittendencounty.org). The CCRPC participated in the 11th annual **Way to Go! Commuter Challenge** (www.waytogovt.org) the week of May 12-16 to encourage alternative transportation (non-single occupant vehicle travel) and demonstrate the environmental and financial benefits. Work also began on updating the regional **Intelligent Transportation System Plan** which describes how to best use telecommunications and computing technology to boost the efficiency of roadway, transit and emergency and maintenance vehicle response systems, and provide timely information on travel options.
- **Diversity & Equity Training** – The CCRPC graduated its first class participants from “Leadership for People of Color,” a leadership development program designed to prepare participants to become more actively involved in the decisions that impact our community. The CCRPC is updating the **Public Participation Plan**, which is focused on diversity and equity, and a public hearing is planned for October 2014.
- **Regional Technical Assistance** – Includes GIS mapping, model municipal plans, bylaw and ordinance revisions, Act 250 application reviews, grant administration, build-out analyses, orthoimagery acquisition, and improving the VT Online Bridge and Culvert Inventory Tool (<http://www.vtculverts.org/>). The CCRPC also provides Transportation Technical Assistance, Scoping, and Corridor Study programs to help individual communities address their transportation issues. Regionally significant projects in FY2014 included: the Railyard Enterprise Project and North Avenue Corridor Study (Burlington); I-89 Exit 17 (Colchester); Exit 12/Grid Streets and VT 2A/Industrial Avenue to James Brown Drive (Williston); VT 116 Corridor Study (Hinesburg) and Park & Ride Planning in Williston, Essex, Jericho, Underhill and Colchester.
- **Education & Training** – The CCRPC providing training on State Designation Programs and Affordable Housing. With local and state partners, the CCRPC hosted the statewide 2014 Walk/Bike Summit in Burlington, attracting more than 200 participants. The CCRPC also continued hosting meetings and online webinars open to municipalities and regional partners

covering topics such as Street Design for Form-Based Codes, Emerald Ash Borer, Innovative Tools to Measure Access to Opportunity, Strategies to Enable Winter Cycling and Walking, American's Changing Demographics, NACTO Urban Design Guide, Green Parking, Sustainable Urban Mobility and Placemaking, VOBCIT/VTCulverts (<http://www.vtculverts.org/>), iPads in Public Works, Public Works Winter Forum and more.

- **Neighbor Rides** – Nationally, one in five seniors ages 65 and older does not drive due to poor health, limited mobility, safety concerns or lack of access to a personal vehicle. Within Chittenden County, research done by UVM medical students found that among seniors who have limited to no access to a personal vehicle, 40% have difficulty getting to important daily activities and 69% sometimes or always delay their medical appointments due to transportation challenges. To help address this issue, the CCRPC is partnering with the United Way of Chittenden County, Champlain Valley Agency on Aging, SSTA, CCTA, Fanny Allen Foundation, FAHC, UVM Center on Aging, and the Department of Vermont Health Access to implement the Neighbor Rides program. Since spring 2013, Neighbor Rides partners have been integrating volunteer drivers into human services transportation to add to the fleet of contracted vans and sedans in order to increase access to transportation for seniors and persons with disabilities by offering a lower-cost mode of transport. (<http://www.unitedwaycc.org/volunteer./neighbor-rides-2/>)

Town of Essex Representatives to CCRPC

- CCRPC Representative – Jeff Carr
- CCRPC Alternate – Irene Wrenner
- Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) – Dennis Lutz
- Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) – Dana Hanley

For further information about the CCRPC please visit <http://www.ccrpcvt.org/> or contact CCRPC Executive Director, Charlie Baker, cbaker@ccrpcvt.org, 802-846-4490 x23.

CHITTENDEN COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
Karen Walton, General Manager

Throughout FYE2013, the Chittenden County Transportation Authority (CCTA) has continued to provide valuable public transportation services to Burlington and the greater Burlington area. In FYE14, services included local fixed-route bus service; inter-regional commuter service; supermarket and school tripper shuttles; and contracted ADA paratransit service for individuals who are unable to ride fixed-route service.

In FYE14, a 13-member Board of Commissioners governed CCTA with two Commissioners representing Burlington and one Commissioner from Essex, Hinesburg, Milton, Shelburne, South Burlington, Winooski, Williston, Washington County, Franklin County, Lamoille County and Grand Isle County.

The annual FYE2013 operating expenses for CCTA's urban service area were \$15,351,830. The revenue sources to meet those expenses are:

- 43.5% Federal Funds
- 21.67% Local Funds
- 17.07% Passenger Fares
- 1.31% Miscellaneous Revenue
- 16.12% State Funds
- 0.32% Miscellaneous Purchase of Service

Ridership:

CCTA provided 2,536,033 fixed route trips in FYE2014. The Montpelier LINK Express route performed well in FYE14, experiencing a 10% ridership gain. The average system-wide daily ridership increased to 9,847 passengers per weekday.

Improved Passenger Amenities:

Downtown Burlington Station: The Downtown Burlington Station continued to make progress on numerous fronts. Project design reached the 60% level of design development in FYE14 and negotiations progressed with both the City of Burlington (related to the easement for the use of St. Paul Street and adjacent areas) and with the State of Vermont related to the Memorandum of Understanding for the Zampieri Building.

Bus passenger Shelters: 16 CIRC Alternative shelters, located in Williston, Colchester and Essex, were installed and completed in FYE14. Additional passenger shelters were installed on Pine Street at the Howard Center, on Maple Tree Place in Williston, and at Burlington College.

High Efficiency LED Lighting: Continuing its efforts to reduce energy consumption, CCTA upgraded all of the exterior lighting at its Burlington headquarters to high efficiency LED fixtures. In FYE15, additional exterior fixtures will be added to extend coverage and increase lighting levels in the parking area.

Operational Improvements:

In FYE14, the following trainings were performed with urban staff: Diversity training; Driver Safety, Bus Emergency Evacuation Training; Mobility Device Training; Smith Driving System Training; Counterterrorism Training, International Bus Training; and, Customer Service.

By phone: 802-864-CCTA (864-2282); By email: info@cctaride.org; or online: www.cctaride.org

CHITTENDEN SOLID WASTE DISTRICT
Thomas Moreau, General Manager

ADMINISTRATION:

CSWD owns and oversees 10 solid waste or recycling facilities in Chittenden County for its 18 member municipalities. A Board of Commissioners, who sets policy and oversees financial matters, governs CSWD. One Commissioner is appointed by each member community.

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' OFFICERS include: Chair Paul Stabler of South Burlington; Vice Chair Michelle DaVia of Westford, and Secretary/Treasurer Alan Nye of Essex. **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS** include Paul Stabler, of South Burlington, Michelle DaVia of Westford, Alan Nye of Essex, Craig Abrahams of Williston, and Chapin Spencer of Burlington. **CSWD GENERAL MANAGER** is Thomas Moreau.

FINANCES:

The unaudited FY14 General Fund expenditures were \$8.31 million and the revenues were \$9.23 million. This represents a \$63,000 decrease in expenditures (0.9%) and an \$834,000 (9.9%) increase in revenues compared with the FY13 General Fund operating results. The primary factor in the expenditure decrease is the lower costs associated with persistent herbicides in Green Mountain Compost (GMC) products in FY14 as compared with FY13. These lower costs were partially offset by cost increases in several other programs, most notably the Drop-Off Centers (DOC) and the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). Of the \$834,000 revenue increase for FY14 over the prior year, \$530,000 is Solid Waste Management Fee revenues. While the tonnage of material subject to this fee increased only 1% over FY13, the revenue is up almost 20%, because the per-ton rate was increased from \$22.06 to \$27.00 effective September 1, 2013 (two months after the start of FY14). Also, DOC revenues were \$190,000 higher (11%) in FY14 vs. FY13, primarily due to tip fee rate increases that went into effect at the start of FY14.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES/EVENTS:

In FY14, CSWD's major initiatives were: 1) to continue to work on the Consolidated Collection proposal that weighs the advantages and disadvantages of municipal contracts for trash collection in Chittenden County and hold public information meetings with citizens and our member communities; 2) to work in the Vermont Legislature towards the passage of Act 175 that mandates the recycling of certain construction and demolition materials that have established markets and meet minimum tonnage and proximity to facilities requirements; 3) to assist in the passage of a battery product stewardship bill by the Vermont Legislature that will facilitate the recycling of these items throughout the state; 4) to complete work on a consultant study evaluating residential curbside collection of organics in terms of economic and environmental impacts for various scenarios; 5) to oversee a contract to upgrade the equipment at our Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and to negotiate a revised operations contract; 6) to implement a higher solid waste management fee (5-year projection) due to lower trash volumes subject to our fee; 7) to prepare a succession plan for a new General Manager due in early 2016; and 8) to initiate a new 5-year strategic plan.

ONGOING OPERATIONS:

DROP-OFF CENTERS located in Burlington, Essex, South Burlington, Milton, Williston, Richmond, and Hinesburg are available to District members who prefer to self-haul their trash and recyclables. Drop-Off Centers collected 3,116 tons of recyclables, a decrease of 0.38% from FY13, and 6,326 tons of household trash during FY14, a 0.11% increase from FY13.

The **MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY** in Williston is owned by CSWD and privately operated by Casella Waste Management. In FY14, 40,465 tons of recyclables were collected, sorted, baled, and shipped to markets. This represents a 1.43% increase from the previous year. The average sale price for materials was \$93.75 per ton, which is a 1.96% decrease over last year's average.

The **ENVIRONMENTAL DEPOT** and the **ROVER** are CSWD's hazardous waste collection facilities for residents and businesses. In FY14, 9,435 households and 670 businesses brought in 605,817 pounds of waste that were collected and processed at these facilities. This included 63,390 pounds (6,339 gallons) of latex paint re-blended and sold as "Local Color", 8,082 pounds of leftover products given away through the "Hazbin" reuse program, and 128,000 pounds (12,800 gallons) of latex paint processed for recycling in Canada and Illinois.

FY14 was a good year for CSWD's **COMPOST** facility. Spring 2014 marked the first time in over a year that bulk compost was available for sale to the public following the discovery of persistent herbicides in compost in 2012. Customers reported great results from growing in the new batches of compost and topsoil. Staff continued their efforts to research and educate around the presence of persistent herbicides in commercial composts everywhere. Ongoing testing and recipe modifications have translated into abundant saleable very high quality material. FY14 marked the launch of bag-your-own compost which extends the convenience of purchasing compost to customers with smaller gardens and no means of hauling large volumes. Compost inputs have continued to increase steadily as awareness around compost continues to spread and large generators are mandated to divert materials through Vermont's new Universal Recycling law. FY15 will mark a return of compost to garden centers as well as a return of the complete bagged product line. A total of 9,684 tons of material was accepted for composting in FY14 which included 3,629 tons of diverted food.

CSWD brokered 13,784 wet tons of sewage sludge for our member communities in FY14, which is 1.7% more material than last year. Most of the sewage sludge generated from the Essex Junction WWTF was landfilled over FY14 due to a plant upgrade. The City of South Burlington's thermo-meso anaerobic digestion, 2PAD system, generated class "A" product which was distributed to local farms for land application, beneficial reuse, starting in October FY14. CSWD entered a 5-year contract with Casella Organics to send at minimum 78% of the sludge brokered by the district to a beneficial reuse facility called Grasslands, located in Chateaugay, NY. The **BIOSOLIDS** program is also looking at a sludge characterization study to optimize the beneficial reuse of the districts material for the future of the program.

MARKETING:

CSWD participated in a state-wide working group that developed symbols and language for communicating Act 148 mandates consistently statewide. The group was made up of Solid Waste Management (SWM) entity staff, ANR staff, and interested stakeholders, including some haulers. ● We turned our attention to upgrading our event waste reduction toolkit to include more clear information, better tools, and fresh ways of getting people interested in putting on waste-free events. ● Every two years we send out an encyclopedic booklet detailing how to best dispose of recyclables, compostables, reusables and trash. The 2014-2016 books went out at the end of June 2014. ● We focused on how to revive the Green Mountain Compost brand after a two-year hiatus on the heels of the discovery that persistent herbicides had found their way into our compost. Those two years were spent working with state and federal regulators, the chemical industry, and experts from around the country to set up a firewall of sorts to prevent a reoccurrence. Our transparent treatment of the issue has helped maintain our customers' trust. Our new protocols, testing, and on-site growth trials have yielded compost that we can stand behind with confidence, leaving us well positioned to reenter the market in Fall 2014. ● Our part-time Web & Marketing Specialist position became full-time, which led our current specialist, Veronika

Travis, to depart so she could focus more fully on her career path as a pastor. We wish her well as we crack into over a hundred resumes to find the best fit for the position.

A variety of **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS** and tools are available to assist residents, schools, municipalities, organizations, and businesses to reduce and properly manage their wastes. The CSWD Hotline (872-8111); Website: (www.cswd.net), e-newsletter, presentations, technical assistance, displays, workshops, facility tours, informational brochures, recycling bins and compost collectors (9,100 distributed), signage, discount compost bins, special event container loans, and grants (\$8,500 awarded) are part of this positive community outreach.

Thousands of employees, residents, students, and others were impacted by CSWD's business, school and youth, and community outreach programs.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT efforts, which have dual goals of reducing the amount of waste generated and landfilled along with making programs more convenient and cost-effective, focused on recycling and composting incentives and collection, trash collection systems, and markets for recyclables.

CSWD provides funding and staff time to support GREEN UP DAY efforts in Chittenden County. In May, 38 tons of litter, 2,648 tires, and 6.5 cubic yards of scrap metal was collected. CSWD covered the \$6,200 cost for recycling the tires and waived its fee on disposed litter. CSWD also contributed \$4,050 to Green Up Vermont on behalf of its member municipalities for bags, posters, and promotion. The **COMMUNITY CLEAN UP FUND** helps members keep their communities clean and litter free throughout the year. \$4,600 was expended by CSWD's member municipalities.

WINOOSKI VALLEY PARK DISTRICT
Nick Warner, Executive Director

The Winooski Valley Park District's mission is to plan, acquire, and manage lands and waters within the boundaries of its member municipalities for purposes of conservation, preservation of natural areas, establishment of parks, and resource-based education and recreation. The WVPD's system of natural areas offers over 13 miles of shoreline and 25 miles of trails throughout the Winooski River Valley. In Essex, this includes a portion of Colchester Pond Natural Area, Essex Overlook and Woodside Natural Area. The Town of Essex has been a supporting member for 42 years and Tom Malinowski is Essex's representative. Please visit www.wvpd.org to view trail maps and to learn more, or stop by the WVPD's headquarters at the Ethan Allen Homestead in Burlington.

Here are few highlights from the past year:

- **Park Acquisitions and Improvements:** The WVPD is planning a small parking area and trail system for its newest land acquisition, the Wolcott Family Natural Area. We hope to receive Land and Water Conservation Funds to help develop the access to this parcel. In addition, many improvements were made to the WVPD's other parks including: an expansion to the community gardens at the Ethan Allen Homestead; puncheon footbridges installed at Muddy Brook Wetland Reserve; major trail renovations to the Salmon Hole Riverwalk Trail; energy efficiency upgrades to WVPD Caretaker houses and offices; a new 24' bridge at Woodside Park; and a culvert was replaced at Old Mill Park.
- **Environmental Education:** The WVPD's educator met with 1,639 people including 1,081 children (together with people from all of the WVPD's member towns), and hosted numerous new events consisting of a "Signs of Spring" hike, a Community Yard Sale, and SOLE Camp (Sustainable Outdoor Leadership and Education Camp). The WVPD's "Halloween at the Homestead" attracted 93 visitors in its third year and over 50 people attended the opening hike at the new Muddy Brook Wetland Reserve! The WVPD also had 302 students/leaders at our 28th Annual Conservation Field Day.
- **Financial Sustainability:** The WVPD staff worked hard to bring in additional funding to help keep costs low for member towns. This year, the WVPD received grants from the Department of Environmental Conservation to hire a greeter at Colchester Pond to help monitor for invasives and another to help develop a district-wide preparedness plan for the arrival of the Emerald Ash Borer. The WVPD partnered with the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) and VTrans and received three weeks of labor from the VYCC to build bridges and re-route the Riverwalk Trail. A Recreational Trails Grant was submitted to the state for trail improvements at Woodside Natural Area and was recommended for \$17,000 of funding. This work will take place next summer.
- **Activities for Residents and Tourists:** The WVPD's 18 regional parks offer nature trails, scenic overlooks, picnic facilities, cross-country skiing trails, canoe and kayak launches, fishing access, and public garden plots. Volunteers from local schools and community organizations contributed nearly 1,000 hours of labor to various WVPD parks and completed projects including painting the Allen House, raking the drainage at the Donahue Sea Caves, splitting wood and removing invasives. The Ethan Allen Homestead Museum – one of the WVPD's partner organizations – provided tours of Ethan and Fanny Allen's 1787 restored farmhouse to 4,239 children and adults.

- **Programs Offered by Others at WVPD Parks:** The WVPD provides a fantastic location for local groups to offer outdoor programs. Many school groups, summer camps, and scouts visit the WVPD's parks as part of their curriculum. The Burlington Area Community Gardens, the Vermont Community Garden Network, and New Farms for New Americans lead educational gardening programs at the WVPD's Ethan Allen Homestead. The WVPD was also happy to participate in the Amazing Parks Challenge in cooperation with the Champlain Valley Recreation Association and the Global Youth Service Day with the City of Winooski.

Children need natural areas to stay in touch with the local landscapes that sustain them. In turn, natural areas need management that assure people and wildlife can peacefully coexist. The WVPD offers 18 natural areas embedded within the most developed county in Vermont. Each year Essex's support makes it possible for thousands of Vermonters and tourists to explore our ecologically diverse system of natural areas.

**TOWN OF ESSEX
TOWN MEETING MINUTES
March 3, 2014**

SELECTBOARD: Linda Myers, Chair; Dave Rogerson, Michael Plageman, Irene Wrenner, Brad Luck.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Patrick Scheidel, Town Manager; Cheryl Moomey, Town Clerk; Brad LaRose, Police Chief; Dennis Lutz, Town Engineer/Public Works Director; Ann Paietta, Library Director; Allison Vile, Parks and Recreation Director; Doug Fisher, Finance Director; Bill Ellis, Town Attorney; Charles Cole, Fire Chief; Randy Viens, Town Assessor; Dana Hanley, Community Development Director.

MODERATOR: Steve McQueen.

Mr. McQueen introduced himself as Town Moderator at 7:30 p.m. Mr. McQueen called attention to the State Representatives present: Linda Myers, Deb Evans, Tim Jerman and Linda Waite-Simpson. Mr. McQueen called attention to State Senator Mike Sirotkin. He was appointed to fill the rest of the term for former Senator Sally Fox, who served Essex for many years as State Representative and State Senator. Mr. McQueen called attention to the Village Trustees present: George Tyler, Dan Kerin, Andrew Brown and Elaine Sopchak. Mr. McQueen noted that Martha Heath, a State Representative, was not present as she was attending the Westford Town Meeting.

Next, Mr. McQueen pointed out the location of Senator Bill Doyle's 2014 Town Meeting Day Survey.

At 7:35 p.m., Mr. McQueen called the 2014 Essex Town Meeting to order. He led the assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Next, Mr. McQueen asked the public to join him in a moment of silence for those who had given the ultimate sacrifice for the community, whether serving in the Armed Forces of the United States or serving the community as police officers, firefighters or rescue workers.

Next, Mr. McQueen explained the Robert's Rules of Order governing the Essex Town Meeting. The public had no questions regarding the rules.

Next, Mr. McQueen introduced the Essex Selectboard (SB) Chair, Linda Myers, who in turn introduced those people sitting at the head table.

PAULA DUKE MOVED AND ALAN NYE SECONDED A MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES BY REQUIRING A MAJORITY VOTE TO AUTHORIZE A PAPER BALLOT FOR THIS MEETING.

Mr. George Dunbar raised a point of order. He believed that this motion stood in contrast to both the Charter of the Town of Essex and the laws of the State of Vermont. He believed that suspending parliamentary rules requires not only a 2/3 vote, but also previous notice to the

assembly.

Mr. McQueen stated that, as Moderator, it is his decision that the motion is an appropriate motion to be made before the Town Meeting to suspend the rules as previously approved by the Town and State Statute. He explained that the motion on the floor was to suspend the rules, which requires 2/3 majority vote of the body before requesting a paper ballot. Mr. McQueen further explained that the current rule is that seven people can request a paper ballot. The motion is to suspend that rule and require a majority vote to request a paper ballot. In order to suspend the rules, 2/3 must approve the suspension of the rule. There were no questions on the motion.

Mr. McQueen asked “all those in favor of the motion please signify by saying aye, all those opposed, nay.”

THE MOTION PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE I: SHALL THE REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS BE ACCEPTED?

DAVID KEENAN MOVED AND PAULA DUKE SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE ARTICLE 1.

Ms. Myers pointed out the following pages in the Reports of the Officers that had errors: the Table of Contents, which had incorrect page numbers, page 12, which was missing the name “Bruce Post” as the Essex Representative to the Channel 17 Board and page 35, which had an incorrect number of drug offenses. The number of drug offenses should be “111” and a corrected version of the Table of Contents should have been provided to everyone upon arrival.

Mr. John Gazley, a recent resident of Essex, was concerned about the liability of unused vacation and sick time that totaled \$148,000 at the end of 2013, the delinquent taxes that totaled \$422,000 at the end of 2013, the 400 emergency medical response calls by the Essex Fire Department (EFD) and what will happen to all the estimates when IBM closes. Mr. Gazley confirmed for Ms. Myers that he was referring to the Auditor’s Report on the Town website. Ms. Myers deferred to the Finance Director, Mr. Fisher. Mr. Fisher explained that there is a large unfunded liability. The Town’s practice is to try to put off hiring for open positions to cover the expense for that liability before filling the position. He reported that a couple of years ago, the SB designated \$100,000 of Fund Balance to be put aside for retirement, which is in the Auditor’s financial report. Mr. Gazley pointed out that there was still \$422,000 in delinquent taxes, and Mr. Fisher agreed. Mr. Fisher pointed out that in 2013, there was about \$350,000 more in delinquent taxes over this year. Therefore, the Town has done a good job of bringing that number down. He explained that the Town is also trying to recognize the economic climate and work with delinquent taxpayers with payment plans. The last thing the Town wants to do is kick anyone out of their homes. With regard to the 400 medical emergency response calls from the fire department, Mr. Scheidel explained that the EFD responds to all emergency calls, and many of them are medical. Essex Rescue and Essex Junction may also respond, and Town firefighters are trained for an intermediate medical level. With regard to the unfunded pension liability, Mr. Scheidel explained that this included compensated absences, but also vacation and sick time. If, and only if, an employee retires from the Town of Essex, and has the Town Manager’s approval

for retirement, then that employee is eligible for 100 days of sick time. The Town is required to account for all sick time. However, it is a little misleading to say that there is all this liability because in the case of a retirement, only up to 100 days will be recognized financially. He gave the example of the former Police Chief, Mr. Leo Nadeau, who had accrued 2,500 sick days, since he was with the Town for 40 years, and who never took a sick day.

Mr. Gazley, having moved to Essex two years ago, asked what the chances were of merging the Town and Village and how long it would take. Mr. Scheidel explained that a shared manager position was the first effort in 42 years between the Town and the Village. The Town administration and the Village administration are contemplating being one administration and this has some financial benefits for each community. He explained that the discussion of merger has been going on since 1984, and nobody could answer how long it would take.

Mr. Tim Miller, with regards to the 411 emergency medical response calls, explained that the Town and Village fire departments operate differently. The Town will respond any time Essex Rescue is dispatched. The Village will respond with an apparatus and/or an emergency medical technician (EMT) in a personal vehicle only if the ambulance service is out on another call, a secondary ambulance has been requested or the rescue service specifically asks for the Village Fire Department. He couldn't speak specifically to the 411 response calls that bring the total cost to \$886,000 for the year, and he didn't know if Essex Rescue helped to offset costs to the Town Fire Department, but stated that even the Village Fire Department responds to some emergency medical calls.

There were no further questions.

Mr. McQueen asked "all those in favor of approving Article 1 please signify by saying aye, all those opposed, nay".

THE MOTION PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE II: SHALL THE TOWN ADOPT A BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2014 TO JUNE 30, 2015 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECTBOARD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,389, 119?

PAULA DUKE MOVED AND PAUL DAME SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE ARTICLE II.

Ms. Myers made the following statement:

"The SB is presenting to you tonight a Fiscal Year 2015 budget that we again feel is a responsible document that attempts to take into consideration the fiscal problems of our residents in Essex and the fiscal needs of our Town municipal government.

But this budget is different than the other budgets we have presented to you recently. That is because this is actually two budgets. One budget is the 2015 general fund budget that we present to you every year. But the other budget is the one that was approved by the voters of the Town of

Essex two years ago when you approved by a 2 to 1 vote, a bond vote for the new Essex Police Facility, which is currently under construction.

The overall budget of \$11,389,119 is a \$684,833 increase over last year's budget, a 6.4% increase. That number surely gets a "wow" from every resident of the Town. But you have to take a look at the two budgets as I just noted. The increase in the General Fund budget for the Town of Essex for 2015, which means the funds expected by residents to operate the Town in the manner that people wish it be operated totals \$392,119, a 3.6% increase over the current budget, which is in line with the budgets we have offered to everyone here over the past several years. The remainder of the budget increase, \$292,714, which is an additional 2.8% increase over the current budget, is the first full payment, principle and interest, on the Police Facility bond that passed in 2012. When someone takes out a loan, as the Town did for the Police Facility, the time comes for the loan to be paid. 2015 is the first year for the full payment of that loan.

This total budget, if approved tonight as warned, will mean an increase in the municipal tax rate of 2.51 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation of your home. An average home in Essex is valued at \$280,000 and the tax increase total will be approximately \$70 for the year, less than \$6 a month. This projection of \$70 is based on ½ percent increase in the grand list. That's a very, very careful look at the grand list that they have taken. If the grand list is greater than ½ percent, the amount per home could be less.

But let's look at that \$70. \$36 of the \$70 is due to what they call the General Fund. That's the money to run the Town of Essex for the coming year and \$34 is due to the Police Facility debt. For those of you who have asked, we originally estimated that the first payment per home for the Police Facility debt would be \$29. Bond interest rates went up a little bit by the amount of \$5, so that is the \$34 that is noted here. Let me also point out that as with any loan that you have taken out, the first year is the most and each year progressively, the payment goes down. That is what they told everyone when you all voted for the bond vote and that is what they will continue to say and that's how it will play out.

The debt service cost on the bond accounts for 43% of this budget, which is just the debt service on the bond, while salaries and benefits account for 40%. So the fact of the matter is the debt for the bond is greater than the salaries and benefits in this budget. And salaries and benefits account for 65% of the budget. Salary increases are budgeted at 3.5% and as, I have said and you've heard me say many times before, municipal government at its core is people serving people, and over my 13 years as a member of the Essex SB, I have realized that we have some of the finest people in local government serving this community.

What are the other cost drivers in the budget, the 17% remaining? You've got the bond, you've got the salaries and benefits and you've got 17% left. So we are paying costs for gasoline, and road materials have increased. The unfunded state and federal mandates, such as stormwater regulations, add to the increases in the budget. We have included two new positions in this budget – an Information Technology (IT) technician who was hired for ½ a year in last year's budget and will be full time this year, as well as a part-time Senior Coordinator who will combine and oversee the senior activities in the Town. If you want to see the other cost drivers, look at pages 46 through 54 in the Town Annual Report to get the General Fund budget details.

So, how do we stack up to the other towns in Chittenden County? In comparing our proposed budget to those of the 13 towns in Chittenden County, based on the 3.6% general fund budget, Essex is in the middle of the budget increases requested this year. It's seventh out of 13.

The Selectboard, in a unanimous vote, approved this budget, and we ask that you concur."

Mr. George Dunbar wanted to clarify whether there was any indication in the budget for the allotment that he was asking for the last three years. Ms. Myers replied that there was \$50,000 in the fire department budget as part of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) that the Town of Essex and the Village signed to purchase a new fire truck.

GEORGE DUNBAR MOVED AND BILL BIXBY SECONDED A MOTION TO INCREASE THE BUDGET BY \$50,000.

Mr. Dunbar added that he would like the \$50,000 to go towards the purchase of the ladder truck by the Village. He felt that the relationship is a little backwards when a subset of a community purchases a million dollar piece of equipment that is used more often in the Town, outside the Village, than inside the Village. He urged the voters to support an additional \$50,000 for a total contribution thus far to be \$350,000 towards the million dollar piece of equipment. He added that in correspondence with the Village Fire Chief, he learned that the new ladder truck has been used for 95 calls within the Town of Essex this year. 35 of those calls were in the Village and 60 were in the Town, outside the Village. He asked for support from the voters to add additional dollars for the purchase of the ladder truck.

Mr. Ron Lawrence thought that there was a repayment schedule negotiated between the Town and the Village on this issue, which Ms. Myers confirmed. Mr. Lawrence urged the voters not to support the motion to add to the negotiation that was already put together by the Town and the Village.

Mr. Miller, who was a member of the Essex Junction Fire Department (EJFD), expressed that, the EJFD appreciated the money that the Town has put towards the ladder truck, but it is not really necessary. The contribution from the Town as far as the purchase of the ladder truck is fantastic, but the truck is paid for, is in service and has everything that it needs. An additional \$50,000 is a nice gesture, but is not necessary. He enjoys the long drive on the back of the truck going to Town calls, and speaking as a firefighter, where the ladder truck goes makes no difference. Sometimes the ladder truck goes to other communities, but EJFD is not looking for money from those other communities. He stated, "It goes around, that's what it's there for, that's what mutual aid is there for and that's what they rely on with their brothers and sisters in the fire service field."

Mr. Carl Wermer disagreed with Mr. Miller because he thought that when sharing resources between the Village and the Town, the Village is part of the Town, not part of Winooski or Colchester. He felt that, in this context, the costs should be distributed equally.

Chief Cole thanked Mr. Miller for his words and thanked Mr. Dunbar for bringing up this matter.

He explained that the agreement was made back before the truck was purchased and at the time the old ladder truck needed to be replaced. The old ladder truck had a different response protocol. The Trustees and SB met at length and "hammered out" an agreement that was signed and has been in place for years. The new truck is fully paid for and fully in operation and has responded to 60 calls in the Town of Essex since it has been in service in the last ten months. The reason is that the truck is located near Five Corners and Town calls are far away. The Town response protocols call for the truck to be on the road for fire alarms for commercial buildings or multi-family buildings until or unless otherwise determined. The Village doesn't respond at every first alarm assignment because its buildings are close to the fire station. First the Village determines if the call is a false alarm or mechanical issue as opposed to a real fire. He understands that protocol because it doesn't make sense to roll the truck out and then turn it back around. The Town keeps a truck running in case it's a real fire. However, with that said, the new ladder truck is much larger and heavier, and its response protocols are different. 25% of the roads in the Town of Essex are dirt roads. The new ladder truck will not respond to dirt roads and that protocol was set by the Village Fire Chief. The Town has had fires on dirt roads and calls when the new ladder truck has not responded, once when it was specifically requested. The Town pays money per the agreement, which he supports. However, he believed that, to continue adding money to this agreement when the Town has no control over that truck was not in the best interest of the Town taxpayers. There are 441 single family homes, three multi-family homes and three mobile homes, 11 farm buildings and five commercial properties, and if you live in any of those, the new truck will not show up if your home catches on fire. In those situations, he must call Colchester or Williston. Chief Cole expressed that he was not here to incite anyone because the Village and Town fire departments have a good working relationship, which was there before he became Chief and will be there when he is gone. Chief Cole stated that he loved all of his brothers and sisters in the fire service, but that this issue was a business decision, and if the Town was going to spend money, it should know what it is spending money on.

Ms. Sharon Zukowski thought that everyone has made a good point that the agreement was already made a couple of years ago. Williston wouldn't request \$50,000 for responding to the Town's fires. Voters would be aghast at that, and she felt that this was happening every time with the budget. The Town is paying for another \$50,000 for an agreement that was already made.

Ms. Myers stated that the MOU was a good agreement from the very beginning. The communities spent a long time dotting every "i" and crossing every "t" to make sure that the Trustees and the SB completely understood what they were doing and felt that it was in the best interest of the entire Town of Essex. She appreciates Mr. Dunbar's request, but she also understands the comments from Mr. Miller and the Fire Chief, so she asked that the voters vote against this amendment.

Mr. Miller, with regard to the new ladder truck, explained that it was a 105 foot aerial device that replaced a 75 foot aerial device. The decision not to take it on dirt roads was a weight issue. The vehicle was 72,500 pounds and to try to get it to operate on a dirt road would be more trouble than bargained for. That decision was not made hastily by the Village nor did the Village take this issue lightly. The decision is based on the capacity of the road to allow the truck to be in operation.

Mr. Dunbar, with regard to the relationship between the Village and the Town, stated that the Village is a part of the Town of Essex, and Village residents pay taxes to the Town. He understood that there is an agreement in place, but asked, with the need for the ladder truck, why didn't the SB purchase it based on 18,000 residents instead of the Village buying it based on 8,000 residents? He felt that was where the equity issue came in and urged the community to vote in favor of the additional \$50,000.

Mr. Ed Daudelin was in favor of the amendment to Article II because, as a Village taxpayer, he felt that he was being discriminated against. The Town uses the fire truck 60 calls during the year, which is twice as many times as the Village. Therefore, he asked, why not split the cost down the middle since the Town is using the truck more than the Village? He felt that with a million dollar piece of equipment, the cost should be split equally. He added that this is why the Village and the Town are so against merging. Mr. McQueen reminded Mr. Daudelin to speak to the motion only. Mr. Daudelin was in favor of the increase of \$50,000 for the fire truck.

Mr. Tim Kemerer, having only moved back to Essex last year, asked for someone to summarize the MOU between the Village and the Town. Ms. Myers stated that the MOU, which is the agreement between the Town SB and the Village Trustees, states that the Town of Essex would pay \$200,000 towards the cost of the fire truck to be paid in four installments of \$50,000 each year. With regards to comparing response calls, Ms. Myers felt that it should not be based on the number of times a truck responds, but by the number of people who are saved or the number of homes which are saved. The bottom line for Ms. Myers is that when the fire alarm rings, someone is there to respond, whether it's the 100 foot ladder truck or the EMT. She guessed everyone in this room is thankful for what happens when the fire alarm goes off.

Mr. Scheidel added that the \$50,000 that is currently in the budget is the third of four payments. He explained that he was at the MOU meetings and they did not talk about runs or service delivery as quantified by who responds to what. The people at the meeting talked about the value of the truck serving the entire community. At that time, the Village was replacing its ladder truck. The Town did not have a ladder truck and during the course of the conversations, the Town asked to buy the old Village ladder truck, but it was sold to another needy department. He explained that the delivery of the services and how they are funded is not based on frequency of use. He felt that it was very much like a homeowner's insurance policy. Premiums are paid, much like taxes and you hope you don't need it, but it's available in the event that you do need it. The Town does not guarantee that it will be everywhere to deliver all the services that may be demanded at any given time. However, it does guarantee that the tax money will be used for an array of services for which citizens can draw upon, and the Town will do its best to provide those services. Public services are funded based upon the total cost to deliver the services, and in this case, the total cost was \$850,000. He added that the MOU was the first effort between the two administrations to finance capital equipment at that length and cost, and he thought the experiment had worked very nicely.

Mr. Raj Chawla commended the Trustees and the SB for working together to come up with this agreement. He thought that the insurance example was interesting, but only if you are paying 50% of the premium. The Village is paying 68% of the premium and not using the truck as

much. The reality is that the truck is being used more in the Town, and he thought revisiting the payments was appropriate.

CHUCK KEELER MOVED AND PAUL DAME SECONDED A MOTION TO CALL THE QUESTION.

Mr. McQueen stated that calling the question means that they will cease debate on the question and that the vote requires 2/3 majority and is non-debatable.

Mr. McQueen asked “all those in favor of calling the question please signify by saying aye, all those opposed, nay”.

THE MOTION PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. McQueen asked “all those in favor of the amendment to Article II to increase the budget by \$50,000, please signify by saying aye, all those opposed, nay”.

A PUBLIC MEMBER REQUESTED DIVISION.

Mr. McQueen asked those in favor to remain standing while the Board of Civil Authority (BCA) made a count. Next, he asked those opposed to remain standing while the BCA made a count.

Mr. McQueen reported the results being 56 in favor of the motion to amend Article II and 187 being opposed. **THE MOTION FAILED.**

Mr. McQueen asked if anyone would like to speak to Article II as warned in the amount of \$11,389,119.

Mr. Dick Boera noted that one of the few significant increases was on page 47, in line 110, Town Manager Salaries. He wondered if that increase was due to the IT position or a 10% raise for the Town Manager. Ms. Myers stated that the increase was not for the Town Manager, but for the IT position. Mr. Scheidel confirmed for Mr. Boera that the salary for the IT position was \$50,000. With regard to page 53, Library, Mr. Boera asked, what happened in 2013 when there was an overrun of \$50,000 in salaries? Ms. Myers explained that the head librarian retired, and she had sick days and accumulated vacation due when she retired. Mr. Boera was surprised that the amount was \$55,000. Ms. Myers replied that there were two librarians that retired at that time, and there was \$55,000 in salary due to them in vacation and sick time. Mr. Boera thought that was a lot of money and that it should be pointed out or explained when that happens.

Ms. Zukowski explained that she was going to say that the salaries were way too high, but instead wanted to express that she would have given that librarian \$5,000 more. Both librarians were an asset to the community, and they did not take vacation time.

Mr. Don Miller referred to the yellow handout answering multiple questions. With regard to question 10, the Town did a magnificent job ending up with a fund balance, which can be difficult to do. However, the recommendation is to have a fund balance of 5% to 15% of the

operating budget. He noted that the Town felt that it was at 13% and nearing the recommended amount. However, the recommended amount is 5% to 15%, not 15%. He asked, how much is the Town's money at risk that it needs to put aside for the rainy day or the "what if?" He asked, is it time to say that the Town is at the point that it could pull back some because it has never had to use it or that 10% might be enough? He thought that this issue could lead to a motion if the Town has more than enough. He asked, when will it stop, is the Town going all the way to 15% and is it really necessary?

Ms. Myers replied that recommendations are given to the Town as to what it should have in case of an emergency. She appreciates that the Town has never had an emergency, but that money will only keep the Town going for seven weeks. If a major disaster should occur, and people can't pay taxes because of the emergency, the Town has less than two months of money to keep the Town going. She reported that the members received the Auditor's Report at the last SB meeting, and the auditors were very happy with how the Town was using its money. She knew that people think a fund balance should be used differently, but often times at the State level, fund balance money is used to pay everyday bills of the State of Vermont. Then the State comes upon a situation where it doesn't have the money to pay for those everyday events. She is very careful about what she wants the Town to keep in its Fund Balance so that if something really bad happens, the Town would be able to take care of the people in this community. Mr. Scheidel added that, in the budget each and every year at this meeting, there is no contingency fund worked into the budget. The 5% to 15% recommendation for a fund balance presumes that there is a contingency fund in the budget, which is treated as an operating expense from year to year. The Town has chosen not to do that.

Mr. Brian Beckage expressed that, given the financial climate where people are getting laid off and not getting raises, to continue having a 3.6% raise in the budget was not sustainable over time. He would be very happy to get a 3.6% raise in his salary. He worried about his family's ability to continue to afford the taxes in this community and they have considered leaving. He felt that when financial times are very difficult, these types of budget increases are not sustainable, and he was concerned about that over the long run.

Ms. Myers, in response, explained that the majority of the employees in the Town were union employees. The Town is in a contract with these employees, and it would be very untoward for the Town to break that contract. Mr. Scheidel confirmed with Ms. Myers that the Town will begin new contract negotiations soon and that the salary increases in this budget were negotiated four years ago. She reminded the public that the increase also included the addition of the IT Technician and the part-time Senior Coordinator.

Ms. Zukowski added that one of the issues is that the Town negotiates with the union before the budget vote and negotiates a 4% to 10% raise, frozen in the budget. Then every year, the Town says that it's not fair because it's given the union "x" amount. The Town Manager negotiates these raises every four years, and if the Town is going to freeze the salaries, it has almost no option because it's not fair to the other employees. She believes that the Town has a stellar staff, but she did a great job, too. She hasn't raised her rates in five years, but she still does a good job.

ALAN NYE MOVED AND PAULA DUKE SECONDED A MOTION TO CALL THE

QUESTION.

Mr. McQueen stated that calling the question means that they will cease debate on the question and that the vote requires 2/3 majority and is non-debatable.

Mr. McQueen asked “all those in favor of calling the question please signify by saying aye, all those opposed, nay”.

THE MOTION PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. McQueen asked “all those in favor of the amendment to Article II as warned in the amount of \$11,389,119, please signify by saying aye, all those opposed, nay”.

THE MOTION PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE III: PUBLIC TO BE HEARD.

Mr. Dick Boera thanked the SB for including an Article III: Public to Be Heard, which he believed were the four most important words in the Report. In most Town budgets, there is a place for complaints or comments, and it’s a good time to sound off. He didn’t think the extra 15 minutes it would take to complete this Article were a waste, and he thanked the members very much for this opportunity.

Mr. George Tyler stated that 13 years ago, the Town lost a very capable and dedicated public servant, Mr. Marty Myers. He was a friend and those of us who knew him knew how capable he was. At the time, Ms. Myers overcame her grief and stepped in and filled Mr. Myers shoes, and for 13 years, she has filled those shoes admirably. Mr. Tyler thanked Ms. Myers on behalf of the community. The community gave her a standing ovation.

Ms. Myers thanked everyone for their support for her and this Town for the past 13 years. She also wanted to thank everyone for her husband who served this town for 17 years and was not able to stand here and say thank you. She stated for her husband and herself, he loved this Town, she loved this Town and they say “thank you.”

Mr. Paul Dame stated that he was rising on behalf of his fellow residents to honor the years of service from outgoing Chair Myers and while most other SB candidates sought the office, in Ms. Myers’ case, the office sought her. Ms. Myers’ service to the Town began in the wake of her husband’s passing. At that time, it would have been very easy for her to retreat from public life, and he wanted to thank her for deciding to serve the Town at that time and for the years that followed. She has set a high standard for public service, and his fellow residents and he were fortunate and grateful for the legacy that she is leaving behind on the SB. He and other residents are planning a special event to honor her service to the community, and he would like to extend an invitation to all fellow residents and anyone else, including former residents and former employees, who also benefited from Ms. Myers’ leadership and service to this Town. The event is on Tuesday night, March 25th at the Grange Hall and will be a time to celebrate the long hours and the positive impact Ms. Myers has made to the Town. He added that if you can’t make it to

please feel free to share any stories. Details about this event will be put on Facebook and Front Porch Forum, and he thanked Ms. Myers again for her service to the Town.

Mr. John Fitz Gerald stated that the reason he voted against the Town Reports is first because the Essex Rescue was in the Report as part of the Town. Essex Rescue is a not-for-profit organization, and it gets a lot of money from insurance companies and goes before the SB like the rest of the non-profits to ask for money. Second, a few years ago, Mr. Bruce Post raised a point about the Pinecrest sidewalk, which is very narrow and is 516 of his steps left to complete all of the way from Lowe's to Route 2A. He believed that it was time to finish the sidewalk so people can get out of the ditch while walking down Pinecrest Drive, which is one of the most important roads in Essex.

Mr. Mark Banks noticed that there was an increase in drug-related crimes in Vermont overall and in Essex. He would like to have people be aware of what is going on around them, and if they see something unusual with a neighbor's house or something that raises their eyebrows to call the police. Essex is not immune to the same things happening in the rest of the nation.

Ms. Zukowski commented that she was totally opposed to the Town Plan changes with Saxon Hill. She added that someone brought up a point about the sewer and water system. Essex had a lot of old pipes, such as in her neighborhood, and many of them are asbestos-lined. She didn't see anywhere in the budget that this issue is being considered. She thought that this was something the Town should consider in its budget as she thought it would be a big cost in not too short of a time away.

Mr. Andrew Boutin has been hearing for the last 15 years that IBM will be closing. He was not sure how close IBM was to closing, but the Town has obviously built up its programs. He wondered, once IBM does leave, and all these programs are still running, and IBM is not paying anymore, what is going to happen? He asked, how long is it going to take to wind it down to appropriate levels?

Mr. Boera just voted on an \$11 million dollar budget and felt that there were some good comments, but he was surprised that there weren't more. He wanted to remind people that there is another budget coming up and its 25% of this budget, and yet last year, there were three people from the public that attended the school budget meeting to question the budget. The year before that, there were four people. He hoped that the School Board will be privileged to give its explanation of the school budget to a larger group this year. The School Board deserves it, they work hard and questions don't embarrass them any more than the SB. The SB has answers and the School Board has answers. He thought the people owed it to themselves and to the School Board to turn out to those meetings.

Ms. Lynn Johnson encouraged the public to vote "no" on the amendment to the Town Plan. She had real concerns with the fact that there is nothing actually written, and she didn't trust that situation.

Mr. Robert Bates thanked the SB for including this article this year. He thought that it was in the best tradition of grassroots democracy and is the tradition for most Town Meetings. He stated

that there were about 250 people that go to this meeting, but that there were 14,500 registered voters in the Town of Essex. He stated that something was wrong when a majority of 250 people can approve this kind of money. He supported tonight's budget, but his concern was how the Town goes about deciding how much it spends. He explained that there have been several discussions over the last couple of years, informally amongst citizens including himself, to see if they could come up with a better way. Mr. Jerry Lasky was not suggesting an Australian ballot because then the Town would have to give up this meeting. However, there might be a way to include this experience, with an initial approval of a budget figure that the SB could present and amend and then hold a final vote by Australian ballot "down the road." He suggested that the vote occur at the same time as the school budget vote so it's all on one day. He understood that a Charter change might be needed, but didn't want to get stuck in formality. He asked people to watch Front Porch Forum postings because in the spirit of Heart and Soul, he wanted to know how the Town could improve involvement at Town Meeting. He is in favor of getting more voters involved in the process.

Mr. Barry Nelson, with regards to participation at Town Meeting, felt that the answer to that question is structural in that Essex Junction, like any place on earth, has a long history of building, people and industry, and all of it cost money to keep going. Everyone is interested in having services and what is going on in the Town. He didn't believe people were apathetic, but that it was structural. He didn't feel that they could change much and it's hard to turn a locomotive around when it's already gone downhill. However, he wasn't saying that they were going uphill or downhill, but there's too much social momentum for people to be "creative" around changing the budget. However, he thought that they trust in the people who they elect, and those people have to look at the "handwriting on the wall," which is what the SB tries to do. In general, he didn't think that the people in Essex Junction were necessarily more or less apathetic than anybody else.

Ms. Pat Crocker, with regards to the Saxon Hill issue and the amendment to the Town Plan, asked for clarification on both sides of the issue. She received a flyer at her door and was told that there were factual errors on that flyer. She also understood that the flyer went to every single household in the Junction and the Town. She was concerned that, if there was information that is not factual on the flyer, residents are voting on the issue based on that one little flyer. She stated that it is very concerning to her that something like that could be distributed on that large of a scale and not be accurate. She asked for someone to speak to this concern.

Ms. Myers noted that the amendment to the Town Plan was to change the zoning in the Saxon Hill area. She agreed that there was a document that was passed around and that it contained some misinformation. She thought that the Town staff has responded to that flyer through Front Porch Forum and the Town website, and she felt that it would not be in the best interest of the this meeting to debate what is or is not on that flyer. As a SB member and citizen, she was in favor of the Town Plan amendment. She reported that the SB voted 4-1 in favor of letting the public decide, and it opted not to take a position on the amendment itself. She suggested that if people had some specific questions about the Town Plan amendment, the Chair of the Planning Commission (PC) and other members of the PC could speak to that. However, there were 27 open public meetings over the course of the past two years to discuss this issue, and if something hasn't been said, then, at this point in time, she didn't know if there was anything more that

could be said. The SB welcomed comments, but was not going to take a position on the issue of the flyer and the misinformation.

Mr. McQueen stated that in order to understand Article V that is on the ballot for tomorrow, the Chair of the PC was available for information only. He stated that the SB could not take a position on this issue one way or the other.

Mr. Raj Chawla asked if the flyer being discussed was distributed by Ms. Wrenner and whether it had factual errors. He asked, could you identify the errors and why a SB member was distributing a pamphlet with factual errors? He understood that the vote is “yes” or “no” to allow this amendment for changes to the Town Plan, and it seemed to him that if the residents vote “yes” then a discussion will begin on specific changes. However, it seems to him that those specifics have already been negotiated. He asked if the residents vote in favor, will there be more meetings to determine what the landowner will be able to do in that area? He also asked, why were there 27 meetings and negotiations if it is not “set in stone?” He was also curious about the flyer.

Mr. McQueen invited the Chair of the PC to explain Article V’s purpose and what its impact would be in the process.

Mr. Dustin Brusco stated that the details of the proposal are available to all residents through the Town website. He was not going to go into detail because it is too much to do in a few moments. He explained that there is a summary of a proposal and a very well documented Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) prepared by staff. All of the questions put before them through the course of all the public meetings have been addressed with answers in the available documentation. Mr. Brusco explained that in responding to someone this morning, he summarized his opinion that the issue was “Town ownership versus Town access.” All of the other components, such as roads, cost, infrastructure, etc., would be developed once the Town owns this parcel. The zoning and usage have not been laid out yet. The PC has been asked to answer questions like, what is the housing going to cost versus industrial development? Staff has repeatedly dug in and come up with the “what if” options. The number of houses proposed is the worst case scenario or the best scenario depending on your opinion. However, it is the maximum build up. The Town does not have the zoning established nor the zoning language because that is the next step. The amendment to the Town Plan would allow the Town to consider residential, but without the amendment, the Town could not even consider it. The infrastructure, the costs for a park, etc. is all to be determined by the community. The PC would determine a forestry and recreation management plan, if this issue passes. With regards to the inaccuracies in the flyer, Mr. Brusco explained that he was going to refer to Commissioner Raphael, but just decided against it. Instead, he asked residents to look at the information posted on the website that is factual and not opinionated. The Town was asking everyone to form their own opinion on the issue as well as an opinion on who should have been involved with the flyer.

Mr. Raz Chawla wondered, if the vote passes and details are discussed presumably with the landowner, and if the landowner doesn’t like it, would the Town be back to litigation again? With 27 meetings, Mr. Chawla couldn’t picture what kind of choices the Town would have based on the landowner’s propensity to drag the Town through this process.

Mr. Brusio respected Mr. Chawla's concern and agreed that those are pieces that would have to be mapped out, but the Town couldn't do that until it was enabled to do that through this amendment.

Ms. Zukowski commented that saying that one opinion is misinformation and his (Mr. Brusio's) opinion is accurate is taking a stand. As for the worst case scenario, she stated that this Town Plan change allows for that. Maybe it won't happen, but to change the Town Plan with this amendment the worst case scenario will be permitted. Voting "no," the worst case scenario can't happen.

Ms. Priscilla Kimberly was one of the Friends of Saxon Hill (FOSH) and was involved with writing and distributing the flyer. The misinformation that she understood was that the term "lawsuit" should have been "appeal" since it was an appeal to the Environmental Court. She noted that the FOSH used "lawsuit" because at almost every single PC meeting, it was called a "lawsuit" by Mr. Burke, Mr. Brusio, Mr. Raphael and Ms. Hanley. She was sorry that FOSH used the wrong terminology on the flyer, but it was given to them and they were told that certain things couldn't be talked about because of the lawsuit. Ms. Kimberly stated that the flyer didn't say that 115 houses to 165 condominiums were going to be built, it said they can be built. With this amendment, 63 acres of industrial land will become residential land in the sewer core and that many houses can be built. She understood only 20 a year could be built, but it could reach the maximum numbers. Ms. Kimberly was opposed to having residential in that part of the Town. Historically, the residents want it as recreation, conservation and industrial development.

Mr. Ed Von Sitas felt that the discussion has covered a lot of territory, including the rehashing of the fire truck issue. He didn't ask for money for the parade because he already put it in the budget. He heard opinions over Saxon Hill and old pipes, but the one thing that has been going through his mind and something he heard in the hallway is about the future of Essex. He noted that Mr. Bobby Miller is putting up 242,000 square feet of office and buildings in Essex Center, and Mr. Miller doesn't build things just to build things. Mr. Von Sitas stated that he has never heard a word about new business in Essex and what the Town does to promote the Town and the Village to get people to come here with their businesses to help the community grow. He commented that no matter what the budget is, it didn't matter if the Town was not trying to encourage people to get to Essex. He felt that Essex needs to think of its future.

Ms. Myers referred to page 21 of the Town Annual Report that showed a report from the Economic Development Commission (EDC). She stated that the EDC is working very hard to bring business to Essex and the report tells the public what is going on and what the EDC is planning to do. She did not think the Town was sitting back and waiting to see what happens. It is working towards trying to make sure that this Town remains vibrant.

Mr. David Burke asked the public to please take a look at the Town website and the information. He stated that a "no" essentially means "status quo" and that the Town and the landowner get to argue for the next 100 years whether people can go on someone's private property. He stated that "yes" people probably can go on the private land on the original trails that were the fire lanes. However, most of the people that go there do not want to be on the flat fire lanes, they want to go

on all the illegal trails that have been built on the property. A “yes” vote means that the Town owns the property and that there are no more arguments.

Ms. Wrenner commented that she could go on at length defending all kinds of things. She stated that communication has been a challenge for the Town of Essex. It doesn't have a communications director nor a communications department. She stated that she worked very hard to make sure that people understood issues. She stated that she worked very hard for six months trying to get her arms around what is involved in this Town Plan amendment that is proposed. What she discovered was that on the Town website, which she believed should be absolutely neutral information, there was a long list of benefits to this proposal, but there was no list of downsides. There was an estimate for many months of the revenue potential if the proposal passed and the development went through as expected, but there were no expenses. Staff was asked over and over by herself and by a number of citizens to have a balanced picture of what this amendment would mean. Therefore, after she gave staff her input and asked for a balanced picture on the Town website, and that did not appear, she offered her help to a group of citizens who had come for years in droves to public meetings and were told over and over again “take it or leave it, this is what the landowner is offering. Thank you for the input, but it can't be changed.” Therefore, Ms. Wrenner explained that she chose to help those citizens communicate as briefly and accurately as possible what is in this proposal and while the FOSH flyer is slightly negative, she was hoping it would counterbalance the slightly positive spin she has seen on the Town Website. She stated that all she is interested in is a fair fight. She stated, please come out and vote, please read everything you can get your hands on and decide for yourselves according to your own values, what you believe is best for the future of Essex.

Mr. Jerry Lasky supported Ms. Wrenner's comments. He noted that there have been 27 meetings and during that time a good 200 people have showed up and almost unanimously have been opposed. With regards to a PC meeting that was taped by Channel 17, he recalled a PC member asking Mr. Brusio for an explanation of a previous meeting. According to Mr. Lasky, Mr. Brusio stated that the people were articulate and that he didn't hear any support for the proposal. The member asked what the PC should do, and Mr. Brusio responded that the PC should go to the SB and ask if it feels something should be done and if the people are speaking against this issue whether the PC should listen to them. Mr. Lasky stated that not everyone goes to the meetings, but 200 people have gone, educated themselves and consistently spoke against the issue. Unfortunately, this item is put on the ballot, and most people don't dig deeply into it, and it will slip through, which will be a tremendous loss to the community. He explained that there is a deed with an easement that a minimum of 60% of the land should be for recreation and conservation. Unfortunately the Town does not enforce that, but that is a legal agreement. The people who are educated about this issue have specifically spoken against it and that should mean something. He hoped that this issue doesn't just slip by.

Mr. Kemerer knew that Mr. Scheidel had been doing two jobs and he thanked him for covering the Town and the Village as he knew that it couldn't be easy. He encouraged both Boards to assess how that has gone, to keep going with that and to see what other things they could do to go in that direction, which he supported. He also stated that he was not sure if the SB had adopted a code of conduct or a code of ethics, and if not, he encouraged it to do so. It is his understanding from being on boards that the best way to work on boards is to make a decision as

a board and then all members support that decision, and he would really like to see that happen with the SB.

AT 9:30 P.M., ALAN NYE MOVED AND PAUL DAME SECONDED A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING UNTIL 7:00 A.M. THE FOLLOWING DAY, MARCH 4, 2014.

There was no discussion on the motion.

Mr. McQueen asked “all those in favor of the motion please signify by saying aye, all those opposed, nay.”

THE MOTION PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Respectfully submitted,

Saramichelle Stultz
Recording Secretary

Approved this 17th day of March 2014.

(See minutes of this date for corrections, if any).

R. Michael Plageman, Clerk, Selectboard

(THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE NEXT SELECTBOARD MEETING)

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Fire (Outside Village)	911	878-4300 (Administrative)
(Inside Village)	911	878-3315 (Administrative)
Police	911	878-8331 (Administrative)
Ambulance	911	878-4859 (Administrative)

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY OF TOWN SERVICES

<u>For Information Regarding</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>Number</u>
Bicycle Registration	Police Department	878-1333
Birth & Death Certificates	Town Clerk	879-0413
Building & Zoning Permits	Zoning Administrator	878-1343
Burning Permits	Police Department	878-1333
Chittenden Central School District	Superintendent	878-1370
Detectives	Police Department	879-4923
Dog Complaints	Police Department	878-1333
Elections (Town & General)	Town Clerk	879-0413
Essex Town School District	Superintendent	878-8168
Health Complaints	Community Development	878-1343
Library	Essex Free Library	879-0313
Licenses (Hunting, Fishing, Marriage, Dog)	Town Clerk	879-0413
Planning & Subdivisions	Community Development	878-1343
Public Works/Streets	Public Works	878-1344
Town Parks & Recreation	Parks & Recreation	878-1342
Recycling/Drop Off Center	Chittenden Solid Waste District	872-8100
Senior Center Bus	Senior Center	878-6940
Swimming	Parks & Recreation	878-1342
Tax Maps/Assessments	Assessor/Real Estate Appraisal	878-1345
Tax Collections	Finance	878-1359
Town of Essex	Town Manager	878-1341
Village of Essex Junction	Village Manager	878-6944
Village Parks & Recreation	Park & Recreation	878-1375
Voting Registration	Town Clerk	879-0413
Water/Sewer Services	Public Works	878-1344
E-Mail Address	<u>Manager@essex.org</u>	
Web Site	<u>www.essex.org</u>	

NOTE: The police department is now located at 145 Maple Street, Essex Junction.

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