

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2009

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Annual Town Meeting Warning	4
Dedication	5-6
Selectboard.....	7-8
Elected Town Officials	9
Appointed Town Officials	10-12
Appointed Full Time Staff.....	13
Town Information	14
State Information	15
Voting District Descriptions	16
Real Estate Appraisal Department.....	17
Community Development Department.....	18-19
Conservation Committee	20
Economic Development Commission.....	21
Energy Committee	22
Essex Community Historical Society	23
Essex Fire Department.....	24
Essex Free Library	25-27
Essex Rescue.....	28
Health Officers.....	29
Memorial Hall Committee	30
Parks and Recreation Department.....	31-32
Police Department.....	33-34
Public Works Department.....	35-36
Town Clerk/Treasurer	37
Trails Committee	38
Town Manager	39-40
Capital Budget	41
Proposed FYE 2010 Budget.....	42-54
Champlain Water District	55-56
Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization	57-58
Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission	59
Chittenden County Transportation Authority	60-61
Chittenden Solid Waste District.....	62-63
Winooski Valley Park District.....	64
Minutes from 2008 Town Meeting.....	65-79
United States Census 2010.....	80-81
Telephone Directory	82

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The Town Meeting will be held on March 1, 2010 at 7:30 PM in the Essex Community Educational Center. Voting by Australian ballot will be held Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at the Essex Community Educational Center and the Essex Middle School, 58 Founders Road from 7:00 AM until 7:00 PM.

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 1, 2010**

THE LEGAL VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF ESSEX IN THE COUNTY OF CHITTENDEN ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED AND WARNED TO MEET AT THE ESSEX COMMUNITY EDUCATIONAL CENTER IN ESSEX JUNCTION, VERMONT ON MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2010 AT 7:30 PM TO TRANSACT THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS AND TO ACT ON THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES.

ARTICLE I. Shall the reports of the Officers be accepted?

ARTICLE II. Shall the Town adopt a budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 as recommended by the Selectboard in the amount of \$9,809,545?

WHEREUPON, AFTER DISPOSITION OF SAID BUSINESS, SAID MEETING SHALL BE ADJOURNED TO THE FOLLOWING DAY, MARCH 2, 2010, FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES TO BE VOTED ON BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT. THE POLLS FOR SAID BALLOT SHALL BE AT THE ESSEX COMMUNITY EDUCATIONAL CENTER, ESSEX JUNCTION AND THE ESSEX MIDDLE SCHOOL, 58 FOUNDERS ROAD, ESSEX AND SHALL BE OPEN FROM 7:00 AM UNTIL 7:00 PM AT WHICH TIME THEY SHALL BE CLOSED.

ARTICLE III. Election of the following:
Moderator, 1 vacancy (1 year term)
Selectboard, 2 vacancies (3 year term)
Water Commissioner, 1 vacancy (3 year term)

Dated at Essex, Vermont this 25th day of January 2010 by the Essex Town Selectboard.

Irene A. Wrenner, Chair

Max G. Levy, Vice Chair

Bruce S. Post, Clerk

Linda K. Myers

David A. Rogerson

Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request to the Town Offices, 878-1341, to assure that the Annual Town Meeting is accessible to all individuals regardless of disability.

DEDICATION

This Annual Report is dedicated to

June Miles Carmichael
April 19, 1938 – March 27, 2009

June Carmichael was born in Montreal, Quebec and lived, worked, loved, and managed Vermont in her involvement with the Town of Essex. As a person, June was loyal, honest, caring and brave. Whatever the situation or political issue, June acted in the best interest of the majority of her constituents. She was an intelligent and compassionate leader who represented individuals or groups in the Town with integrity whether serving Essex, the League of Women Voters or the League of Cities and Towns. June did not miss meetings; she was thoroughly prepared yet observed and listened much more than she spoke. However, when some issue needed her comments, she was clear and concise with her message.

As a Selectman, June was the embodiment of an empathetic political leader. June voted with her heart, conscience and mind and in so doing, guaranteed that the citizens came first. She equally represented all citizens of Essex yet was devoted to the concept of the greatest good for the greatest number. Her detail orientation translated into precise meeting minutes for all meetings at which she attended, error free annual reports, memos and public documents. She was the grammarian's grammarian.

June served on the Town of Essex Planning Commission from 1975 through 1986; the Economic Development Commission from 1986-1987 and the Town of Essex Selectboard from 1987-1999. June was an active member of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns as a League Director and in 1985 was recognized as the Vermont Municipal Person of the Year. She was a member and longstanding treasurer for the Vermont League of Women Voters from 1972 through 2009. She wrote and edited "The Vermont Citizens Guide to Government in Vermont" in 1993 and 2004, a document widely used by libraries, schools, attorneys and others.

Although June is physically absent, her voice, legacy of compassion and clear understanding of her role in a representative democracy, lives on in all of us who knew her. She lead by example, spoke when necessary, and with each vote, placed others first. She avoided the spotlight even when she deserved to be its focus. Her humility was legend; her accomplishments were shared with everyone. She was generous with her praise and kind with her corrective suggestions of change. She will be missed.

SELECTBOARD
Irene A. Wrenner, Chair

Change may be “constant” in our culture, but change doesn’t come easily to most of us, at home or at work. Government institutions, in particular, resist societal fads and fashions, preferring a more methodical pace that ensures public process and access over politics.

The rhythm and structure of governance ring familiar over time, yet the issues have begun to change as we settle into this century. Energy, stormwater and violent crime are among the concerns that loom larger now more than ever, due in part to influences from beyond our town limits. Creative thinking and new processes can be helpful in addressing such issues.

The challenge is to communicate effectively, making sure citizens are informed as new issues demand our attention. A corresponding challenge is to find new ways to obtain citizen input, even as society seems to encourage more physical isolation, not less. Have you suggestions for ways to improve attendance at town meetings? Ways to improve communication to or from town hall? If so, please let the Selectboard or Town Manager know.

Below is a summary of the Selectboard’s activity this year.

Budget – The Selectboard had to reduce the FYE10 budget after it wasn’t fully-funded by Town Meeting attendees. Among the cuts made: a police cruiser, a sidewalk plow, a vacant traffic control officer position, hours of operation and programmable thermostats at the library, overtime payments, winter sand purchases, staff training, building cleaning services, repaving of roads, and Christmas tree pickup. The local option tax was voted down at Town Meeting, limiting expected revenue to familiar sources.

Water – This summer, the Selectboard approved our Public Works Director’s application for \$300,000 in federal stimulus funds to repair the Alder Brook Pump Station. This fall, the Selectboard and voters, in turn, approved an application for \$225,000 in stimulus funds to address stormwater projects in Perkins Bend and the Town Center. Our waterways will be cleaner if our latest grant request is approved.

Energy – The Selectboard approved the application for \$50,000 in federal stimulus funds. The Town has since received the funding for four energy-related projects, each of which will save money, immediately and into the future:

1. Retrofit non-LED traffic lights with LEDs;
2. Insulate Town highway garage;
3. Replace fire station boiler; and
4. Retrofit Mercury Vapor and High Pressure Sodium streetlights with LED streetlights.

Transportation – The Selectboard approved development of a site plan and grant application for a 19-car Park-and-Ride facility near the Circ exit on Route 2A, which will be fully funded with federal money. The Selectboard also approved a proposed redesign of the Essex entrance to Fort Ethan Allen. A new traffic light will allow CCTA buses to save 700 hours and \$50,000 in fuel costs by eliminating redundancy on their most popular route. The Selectboard was surprised to learn that adding a traffic light will allow better traffic flow, once the lights in that corridor are coordinated, which they currently are not.

Affordable Housing – At Town Meadow’s grand opening in June, the Selectboard celebrated with Cathedral Square Corporation and residents of this energy-efficient, affordable senior housing community, which is a great first step toward meeting the high demand for affordable housing in Essex.

Public Safety – Our Police Department has seen an increase in the number and severity of crimes. The Police Chief has asked that the Selectboard approve a variety of purchases in order to improve public safety, many of which will be paid for with money recovered from drug enforcement activities rather than from taxes. Capital funds were allocated to study the current requirements of our Police Department as well as to develop potential alternative layouts (and costs) of a facility that would meet their needs.

In September, the Selectboard appointed seven people to a Firearms Discharge Ordinance Task Force and asked them to examine the firearms discharge ordinance to see if changes should be made. In December, this task force made more than a dozen recommendations. Due to time constraints faced by all Selectboards during budget season, in preparation for Town Meeting, the board will review the exceptional work of this task force in the near future.

Economic Development – One consistent Essex goal is the diversification of our economic base. This year the Selectboard hired a Maryland-based consultant to craft an economic vision and strategic plan for our future. The board believed every resident should have a voice in the process. The first public brainstorming session was held in November, with a second participatory meeting planned for this winter.

The Selectboard members applauded the expansion of Revision Eyewear and the relocation of Autumn Harp to the Saxon Hill Industrial Park. Bringing more business to town fulfills our longstanding goal of diversifying the tax base, as well as bringing much-needed jobs to the area.

Proposed Telecom Tower – FairPoint Communications’ request to the Public Service Board (PSB) to site a telecommunications tower on Bixby Hill Road raised the issue of how towers should be regulated in Essex. The Selectboard and Planning Commission wrote to the PSB to oppose this particular location for a tower. The Planning Commission is reviewing an ordinance that may allow for the regulation of telecom facilities. The ultimate goal is to ensure that residents have access to 21st century technologies and that the lives of public safety personnel are protected by similar access, while maintaining the aesthetic character of the community.

Post Office – This fall, the Town received notice that the United States Postal Service may sell its Essex Way building. The Selectboard notified our Congressmen that this is unacceptable to town residents. The Village branch simply doesn’t have the capacity to serve everyone, nor is it convenient for all of our citizens. The Board will continue to work to prevent this facility from landing on the formal proposed closure list.

Communication – Several members of the Selectboard and town staff have added Front Porch Forum to the tools with which they communicate: e-mail briefs, the Selectboard Shorts column in the Essex Reporter, and broadcasts of meetings on Channel 17. Videotapes of meetings are accessible via the Internet at cctv.org. Links to recent meetings are featured on the Town's homepage at essex.org.

The Selectboard thanks our hard-working Town staff as well as the many residents of the Town and Village who volunteer their time and talents to make our community a wonderful place to live, work and play. We are proud to serve with you!

ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS

MODERATOR

Steve Eustis Expires 2010

**SELECTBOARD
(3-Year Terms)**

Irene A. Wrenner, Chair Expires 2010
Max Levy, Vice Chair Expires 2010
Bruce S. Post, Clerk Expires 2012
Linda K. Myers Expires 2011
David A. Rogerson Expires 2011

**CHAMPLAIN WATER DISTRICT COMMISSIONER
(3-Year Term)**

Bernard Lemieux Expires 2010

**JUSTICES OF THE PEACE
(2-Year Terms)**

Deborah Billado, 20 Maple Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452 879-4225
Robert Chaffee*, 7 Walnut Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452 878-4813
Diane Clemens*, 15 Williams Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452 878-3536
Linda Costello, 5 Williams Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452 878-5481
Bernard Couture, 9 Redwood Terrace, Essex Junction, VT 05452 879-7332
Debbie Evans*, 53 Greenfield Road, Essex Junction, VT 05452 878-4317
Dawn Hill-Fleury*, 108 Center Road, Essex Junction, VT 05452 878-7622
Thomas E. James*, 370 Old Stage Road, Essex Junction, VT 05452 879-1247
Tim Jerman*, 41 South Hill Drive, Essex Junction, VT 05452 878-2972
John Lajza, 14 South Hill Drive, Essex Junction, VT 05452 878-2678
Josie Lowe-McQueen, 11 Saybrook Road, Essex Junction, VT 05452 879-5357
Steve McQueen*, 11 Saybrook Road, Essex Junction, VT 05452 879-5357
Linda K. Myers*, 51 Forest Road, Essex Junction, VT 05452 878-3514
Linda Waite-Simpson*, 76 Beech Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452 872-0499
Carla Boardman-Smallling, 6 Church Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452 878-3652

*Performs marriages and civil union ceremonies

APPOINTED TOWN OFFICIALS

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

Sam Kinghorn	Expires 2010
Susan Pringle	Expires 2011
Gary Tomlinson	Expires 2011
Jody Landon.....	Expires 2012
Ron Weston.....	Expires 2012

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

John Diego	Expires 2010
Alex John	Expires 2011
June Campbell.....	Expires 2011
Warren Mills	Expires 2011
Robert Paroline	Expires 2012

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

Elizabeth Poulin	Expires 2010
Robert Levine.....	Expires 2010
Greg Morgan, Chair	Expires 2012
Jerry Firkey	Expires 2012
Barbara Higgins	Expires 2013

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

Bonnie Doble	Expires 2010
Patricia Schmitz	Expires 2010
Elizabeth White.....	Expires 2010
Joe Casazza, Chair	Expires 2011
Deborah Evans	Expires 2012
Janet Watts	Expires 2012
Scott Moore.....	Expires 2012

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

Patrick Scheidel	Expires 2010
Kerry Winger	Expires 2011
Patrick Bradley.....	Expires 2011
Richard Somerset	Expires 2011
Irene Wrenner	Expires 2011
Vacancy	Expires 2011
Jan Ellis-Clements	Expires 2012

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

Edith Klimoski	Expires 2010
Justin Martin	Expires 2010
Paul Bruso	Expires 2011
Hubert Norton	Expires 2011
Michael Plageman.....	Expires 2012

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

Hugh Sweeney	Expires 2010
Mark Marsh.....	Expires 2010
Susan Marks.....	Expires 2011
Jim Rose, Chair.....	Expires 2011
Adam Zahniser.....	Expires 2011
David Raphael, Clerk.....	Expires 2013
Dustin Bruso, Vice Chair	Expires 2013

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

Hobart Heath.....	Expires 2010
Ed Ziemer	Expires 2011
Greg Cluver.....	Expires 2011
Ruth LeBlanc	Expires 2012
Robert Erickson	Expires 2012

**ENERGY TASK FORCE
(3-Year Terms)**

Linda Chiasson.....	Expires 2010
Glenn Fay	Expires 2010
Thomas Tailer	Expires 2011
Michael Bleau	Expires 2011
Andy Watts, Chair	Expires 2012
Joanna Cummings	Expires 2012
Genie Christiansen	Expires 2012
Irene A. Wrenner, Ex Officio.....	No Expiration

OTHER APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Champlain Water District Alternate	Ruth Taylor
Channel 17/Town Television Representative	Trevor Lashua
Channel 17/Town Television Alternate Representative	Thomas E. James
Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission	Irene Wrenner
CCRPC 1 st Alternate	David Rogerson
CCRPC 2 nd Alternate	Jeffrey B. Carr

Chittenden County Transportation Authority Representative..... Dan Maxon & Marti Power-Keyes
 Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization Representative..... Jeffrey B. Carr
 Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization Alternate.....Max Levy
 2nd Alternate Irene Wrenner
 CCMPO Technical Advisory CommitteeDennis Lutz
 CCMPO Technical Advisory Committee Alternate Jeffrey B. Carr
 Chittenden Solid Waste District Representative Alan Nye
 Chittenden Solid Waste District Alternate.....Max Levy
 Constable Edward Von Sitas
 Fire Warden Larry Ransom
 Grand Juror Jerry Firkey
 Health Officers.....Jerry Firkey and Ken Stratton
 Town Service Officer.....Ben Gilliam
 Town Tree Warden & Forester Charles Vile
 Winooski Valley Park District (Interim).....Ann M. Myers
 Tri-Town Sewer Committee John Bartlett & Dennis Lutz

APPOINTED FULL-TIME STAFF

ASSESSOR

Randy Viens, Assessor
Terri Sabens, Clerk

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Dana Farley, Director
Sharon Kelley, Zoning Administrator
Katherine Sonnicks, Planner
Shannon Lunderville, GIS Coordinator
Cherie McCabe, Secretary/Payroll Clerk

FINANCE

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

LIBRARY

Susan Overfield, Library Director
Cassie Germain, Outreach Librarian
Sherry Somerset, Assistant Librarian
Peg Wygmans, Technical Services

PARKS & RECREATION

Mark Berry, Parks & Recreation Director
Allyson Vile, Rec. Program Coordinator
Andrea Leo, Secretary
Ken Booker, Parks Maintenance Foreman

POLICE

Leo Nadeau, Chief
Bradley LaRose, Captain
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
Todd McCabe, Corporal
Robert Hall, Corporal
Kurt Miglinas, Corporal
Diana Miranowicz, Corporal
Ed Piro, Corporal

POLICE (Cont'd)

Michael Wootton, Corporal
Linda Carey, Patrol Officer
Paul Courtois, Patrol Officer
Morgan Dayvie, Patrol Officer
Steve Dunning, Patrol Officer
Damir Karadza, Patrol Officer
Christopher May, Patrol Officer
Genevieve Paul, Patrol Officer
John Rутtenberg, Patrol Officer
Howard Alden, Dispatcher
Karen Hulbert, Dispatcher
Raymond LaCroix, Dispatcher
Peggy McCabe, Dispatcher
Angela Bellizzi, Records Clerk

TOWN CLERK

Cheryl Moomey, Clerk/Treasurer
Mary Melnick, Assistant Clerk
Jennifer Rock, Assistant Clerk

TOWN MANAGER

Patrick C. Scheidel, Town Manager
Trevor Lashua, Assistant Town Manager
Rick Garey, MIS Director
Ann Myers, Personnel Asst./Benefits/Sec.

PUBLIC WORKS

Dennis Lutz, Town Engineer/PW Director
Aaron Martin, Asst. Eng./Utilities Director
Chris Stoddard, Secretary
Loren Ward, PW Superintendent
Jerry Lesage, Mechanic
Eric Barkyoub, Highway Maintenance
Peter Daigle, Highway Maintenance
Robert Miller, Highway Maintenance
John Price, Highway Maintenance
Dan Roberge, Highway Maintenance
Brian Roy, Highway Maintenance
Darcy Spence, Highway Maintenance
Joseph Tourville, Highway Maintenance
Robert Whitten, Water & Sewer Foreman
Thomas Martin, Water & Sewer
Ernest Oakes, 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 1, 2010Town Meeting – 7:30 PM
 March 2, 2010 – Voting by Australian Ballot..... Polls Open – 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM
 March 15, 20102nd half of property taxes due
 September 15, 2010 1st half of property taxes due
 March 15, 2011 2nd half of property taxes due
 April 1, 2010Dog licenses due

GENERAL INFORMATION

Population 19,765
 Registered Voters 14,722
 Total Area 36 square miles
 Date of Charter..... June 7, 1763
 2009 Grand List \$23,062,657

	Residential	Non-Residential
Town General Tax Rate	.3066	.3066
Education Rate	1.3550	1.3732
Town Capital	.0200	.0200
Town Highway	.0800	.0800
Local Agreement Rate	.0009	.0009
Total Town Tax Rate	1.7625	1.7807

MEETINGS

Selectboard..... 1st and 3rd Monday (and as required) – 7:30 PM
 Planning Commission2nd and 4th Thursday – 6:30 PM
 Zoning Board of Adjustment 1st Thursday – 7:00 PM
 Conservation Committee 2nd Tuesday – 7:00 PM
 Trails Committee 2nd Tuesday – 7:00 PM
 Economic Development Commission..... 3rd Thursday – Noon
 Library Board of Trustees As required
 Energy Committee 1st and 3rd Tuesday—6:30 PM

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

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

STATE INFORMATION

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

U.S. Senator Patrick J. Leahy (D)

Washington Office: 433 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510-4502 (202) 224-4242
Burlington Office: Court House Plaza, 199 Main Street, Burlington, VT 05401 (802) 863-2525

U.S. Senator Bernard Sanders (I)

Washington Office: 332 Dirksen Building, Washington, DC 20510..... (202) 224-5141
Vermont Address: 1 Church Street, Burlington, VT 05401 (802) 862-0697

Congressman Peter Welch (D)

Washington Office: 1404 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20510 (202) 225-4115
Burlington Office: 30 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Suite 350, Burlington, VT 05401 (888) 605-7270
..... (802) 652-2450

VERMONT STATE GOVERNMENT

Governor James H. Douglas (R)

109 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05609 (802) 828-3333

Lieutenant Governor Brian Dubie (R)

115 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05633-5401 (802) 828-2226

SENATORS

Tim Ashe (D/P), 62 Ward Street, Burlington, VT 05401 (802) 318-0903
Ed Flanagan (D), 131 Main Street, #702, Burlington, VT 05401 (802) 862-3203
Virginia Lyons (D), 14 Elsom Parkway, South Burlington, VT 05403 (802) 863-6129
Hinda Miller (D), 84 DeForest Heights, Burlington, VT 05401 (802) 862-7008
Douglas Racine (D), 909 West White Hill Road, Richmond, VT 05477 (802) 434-2013
Diane Snelling (R), 304 Piette Road, Hinesburg, VT 05461 (802) 482-4382

REPRESENTATIVES

Debbie Evans (D) (District 6-1), 53 Greenfield Road, Essex Junction, VT 05452 (802) 878-4317
Martha Heath (D), (District 6-3) 343 Rollin Irish Rd.,
RR 1, Box 1383, Westford, VT 05494 (802) 893-1291
Tim Jerman (D) (District 6-2), 41 South Hill Drive, Essex Junction, VT 05452 (802) 878-2972
Linda K. Myers (R) (District 6-1), 51 Forest Road, Essex Junction, VT 05452 (802) 878-3514
Linda Waite-Simpson (D), 76 Beech Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452..... (802) 872-0499

VOTING DISTRICT DESCRIPTIONS

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

DISTRICT 6-1

Linda Myers and Debbie Evans – Representatives

All of the Town (excluding Districts 6-2 and 6-3)

DISTRICT 6-2

Peter Hunt and Tim Jerman – Representatives

All of the Village of Essex Junction

DISTRICT 6-3

Martha Heath – 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 6-2 voters is the Essex Community Educational Center.

The polling place for Districts 6-1 and 6-3 is the Essex Middle School located on Founders Road.

REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL
Randy Viens, Assessor

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. 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.

We will continue to monitor physical changes in properties via zoning permits, land subdivisions etc. on an annual basis in order to maintain as accurate a grand list as possible. **Also we are reviewing all of our property records file by file to check for data accuracy and to correct any inaccuracies we find as best we can on all properties.** Maintaining property changes aids in keeping equity in property values therefore fairness in property taxation as well as helping to stabilize tax rates as much as possible.

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 St. between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Please Remember

All Vermont resident Homeowners who own and occupy property as their principal home on April 1, regardless of property tax adjustment eligibility, must declare the property as a homestead every year by filing form HS-122 with the Vermont Department of Taxes.

If form HS-122 is not filed you will not be eligible to receive a property tax adjustment (income sensitivity payment) deducted from your property tax bill. There are no date extensions for the HS-122. If you file an extension for your income tax it does not apply to the homestead declaration.

The 2009 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 98.23 and a ratio of 98.58 in the Essex Junction School District.

Please feel free to call the Assessor's office anytime with questions regarding property assessment or the Homestead Declaration process at 878-1345.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Dana H. Farley, Community Development Director

This summarizes the highlights of the Community Development Department's efforts and initiatives in 2009.

2011 Town Plan - Although it seems as if the last Town Plan was just finished, work on the 2011 Plan started in early fall 2009 with a public forum on suggested revisions. Although the 2011 Town Plan is not considered a major overhaul, there is plenty of statistical updating to be done, as well as integration of both the 2008 Open Space Plan and the 2010 Economic Development Plan. Work on the Plan is expected to continue well into 2010.

Amendments to Zoning and Subdivision Bylaws – The Planning Commission began work on zoning and subdivision bylaw amendments in early Fall 2009. The intent of this latest round was to revise several administrative provisions, as well as to incorporate more substantive changes such as exterior lighting and telecommunications regulations.

Transportation – Community Development staff worked closely with the Public Works Department on a Transportation Action Grant (TAG) study. The purpose of the study, initiated by Public Works, was to develop a town road curb cut policy, a transportation impact fee policy, and to develop a plan to optimize lighting fixtures along the Susie Wilson and Kellogg Road corridors.

Scenic Roadside Protection Plan – Following the adoption of the 2008 Open Space Plan, staff began work on the priority implementation tasks. The first project was the Scenic Roadside Protection Plan project in conjunction with the Town of Jericho, the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, Smart Growth Vermont, and the Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization. During the summer and fall, Essex volunteers completed a photo-inventory of the scenic roadside view in Town. The project will extend into 2010.

Customer Service – Community Development Director Dana Farley and Planner Katherine Sonnick completed their third years on staff. Department Secretary Cherie McCabe completed training in her new position and Sharon Kelley got fully up to speed as the Zoning Administrator. Director Dana Farley was named the 2009 Outstanding Professional Planner by the Vermont Planners Association and the 2009 Professional Planner by the Northern New England Chapter of the American Planning Association. GIS Coordinator Shannon Lunderville continued to work with the Department of Public Works on mapping issues related to impervious surfaces and stormwater management.

Development and Permitting – Development review and permitting activity remained steady, with an emphasis on commercial projects. Some of the notable approved projects are listed below and a summary of zoning and subdivision activity is provided in the chart.

- Links at Lang Farm: Three-story clubhouse and restaurant at 39 Essex Way
- Pomerleau Real Estate: 8,441 square foot addition to existing Price Chopper grocery store
- Dousevicz/Town Meadow: Three-story, 49 Unit Congregate Housing building at 17 Carmichael Street
- Summerville: 8,400 square foot two-story commercial addition, at 8 Essex Way
- Blackbay Ventures/Autumn Harp: 42,660 square foot commercial addition at 26 Thompson Drive

Community Development Services Report

Discretionary Review Activity	Calendar Year	
	2008	2009
Zoning Board of Adjustment Conditional Use/Amendment Variance Unspecified Use Appeal Zoning Administrator's Decision	4 2 0	6 0 1 1
Planning Commission <i>Subdivision.....</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conceptual • Sketch Plan/Preliminary • Final Plan/Plan Amendment • Boundary Adjustment • Simple Parcel Split • Consent Agenda • Waiver <i>Project Review.....</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site Plan • Site Plan Amendment • Workshops 	0 9 6/2 1 1 1 1 1 5 18	1 5 5 2 1 6 1 2 11 9

Total Discretionary Activity	53
-------------------------------------	-----------

Zoning Permit Applications Received	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Accessory Apartment/Apartments	2	1	2	7	2	4
Condo/Townhouse	55	98	5	7	4	6
Congregate Housing	0	0	0	1	0	1
Home Occupation	4	3	9	4	3	1
Miscellaneous & Use Permits	10	17	20	12	7	21
New Commercial/Industrial Building (add/alt)	14	15	17	11	25	18
Residential (add/alt)	116	84	107	71	72	66
Residential Garage	10	7	14	7	6	6
Residential Storage Building	9	15	14	17	14	15
Sign Permit	15	15	18	11	14	11
Single-Family Home	24	9	6	15	7	5
Swimming Pool	14	8	5	3	3	4
Rebuild Dwelling	1	3	2	1	1	1
Renewal of Permit	3	3	1	2	3	2
Septic	33	29	26	19	See below	See below
Subtotal, Permits Issued	310	308	247	188	161	161
Permits Denied	0	0	1	1	0	0
Applications Withdrawn/Voided	0	0	1	0	1	0
Total Zoning Permit Activity	310	308	249	189	162	161

***Effective July 1, 2007, Septic Permits issued by State of Vermont. 37 Permits issued for 2009**

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Robert Paroline, Chair

The Conservation Committee's mission 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 local natural resources and conservation needs, development applications and acquisition of lands involving the above resources.

2009 was a year of cooperation, fund raising, grants and volunteers. The Essex Conservation Committee joined forces with the Friends of the Winooski River, the Agency of Natural Resources, the Essex High School Environmental Club Envirothon, Smart Growth of Vermont, and community volunteers to complete several projects.

The Essex Conservation Committee assisted with building a rain garden at the Essex High School (EHS) between the driveway entrance and the East Front parking lot. This project was the brainchild of the EHS environmental club. It was made possible with a grant from the Vermont Watershed and many volunteers from the Essex Field Hockey Team, Envirothon, the Essex High School Environmental Club and the Essex Conservation Committee.

Our first Rain Barrel workshop was held at the Maple Street Park on a rainy day in June and the Essex Conservation Committee built 24 rain barrels at a minimal price and raised over \$600 and was a great success. We received help from Karen Bates from the Agency of Natural Resources who provided barrels, the plans and her time. Donations to pay for supplies were received from the Town of Essex and the Village of Essex Junction. The funds from gifts and the price of the rain barrels have been placed in a newly created Essex Conservation fund.

The Biggest Project that the Essex Conversation Committee assisted with was the Scenic Roadside project. The Town of Essex teamed up with the town of Jericho and Smart Growth of Vermont and many town volunteers to take photos and rate our scenic corridors. A database has been created and this data will be used to implement a smart growth plan for the Town of Essex. The final project will be to implement regulatory and non-regulatory tools to protect views and suggest by-law language.

Other accomplishments include:

- Reviewed and commented on development applications in light of protecting our resources and open space.
- Met regularly with the Friends of the Winooski River to plan projects to protect our rivers and streams.
- Completed the Open Space study and made recommendations in the Essex 2010 Town Plan

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Greg Morgan, Chair

In 2008, the Commission reported the work on the image Essex presents to the world:

“The Economic Development Commission began a process to review and identify the Essex brand. The Commission determined that Essex’s urban/rural setting and diverse skilled workforce were unique qualities that set Essex apart from other Vermont towns. The Commission plans on continuing its branding work and potentially dovetailing the effort with future studies.”

During the last half of 2009, the Town moved forward by engaging BBPC Associates, a organization experienced and skilled in helping municipalities better understand their strengths and weaknesses, engaging citizens to formulate a vision of how the local economy might evolve, researching national, regional and local trends – including appropriate business types or clusters – in economic development. The Selectboard has asked this group to report back on the results of its outreach and to formulate several pragmatic action steps to guide decision-making and achieve concrete results.

The goal is economic diversity, which means a local and regional economy that is better able to withstand both the booms and busts of the national and global economies, while keeping the residents of Essex employed in a myriad of enterprises. If all that happens, the quality of life in Essex can only continue to improve.

The public portion of this process kicked-off in November 2009 with a facilitated public meeting at Essex High School where a series of innovative discussion techniques helped citizens work together to create elements of a common vision. Efforts to further engage citizens in early 2010 include an online survey and the use of social media to gather more points of view and inform their final guidance.

At the end of next year, the EDC hopes to be able to report on positive outcomes of this outreach and planning, including the emergence of a more targeted economic development strategy and brand presented to those businesses seeking to start, grow and locate here.

The coming year promises to be an exciting one, filled with activity as a bevy of efforts begin to coalesce not only into a vision but also into a plan that can be implemented for the eventual betterment of all.

ENERGY COMMITTEE

The Energy Committee provides leadership and outreach in the areas of conservation, efficiency and conversion to renewable sources of energy.

By raising awareness inside town hall as well as outside of it – among town residents and business owners – members aim to show how energy and money can be saved when policy is revised, habits are changed, and infrastructure is upgraded.

Inside town hall, members pored over the Town Plan this summer. They identified areas in each chapter where energy consciousness might be raised. They re-imagined how each facet of town planning could be affected by greater awareness of the scarcity/cost of fossil fuels and the availability of new energy sources. Members made recommendations to the Planning Commission and staff this fall, in order that our 2011 Town Plan might be a more comprehensive blueprint for the future.

Members read about and discussed the core provisions of the Vermont Energy Act of 2009 (Act 45), including the creation of a “standard offer” (or “feed-in tariff”) for renewable energy, Clean Energy Assessment Districts (now called “PACE” for “Property Assessed Clean Energy”), and a pilot program for district heating in two other communities.

Members kept abreast of funding opportunities and applied for several grants this year. The EC wrote a letter in support of The Edge Academy students’ grant application and rejoiced when they were awarded \$50,000 from the Solar in Schools program to outfit Essex Middle School’s roof with photovoltaic cells. The EC, working with non-profit Vermont Sustainable Heating Initiative (VSHI), has led a countywide effort to fund a solid bio-fuel feasibility study. Several other towns voted to join the project and await a decision about grant funding at the regional level.

On the outreach and education front, members hosted a display table at the Block Party in July, with help from Efficiency Vermont staff. They partnered with Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD) for a well-attended screening of “Garbage: The Revolution Starts at Home” at the Essex Free Library in November. Our second annual “Button Up Vermont!” workshop at Essex High School provided tips for saving energy on home heating in December.

As energy policy/legislation and technology move rapidly forward, members seek to stay current by reading and sharing articles on a variety of energy-related topics. Meeting with other Energy Committees is another way to share our ideas with others and leverage theirs to our benefit. Jericho and Colchester have seen Essex EC members attend their meetings and have shared their meeting minutes. A nearby school district stands to receive a \$50,000 stimulus grant thanks to our cross-pollination.

Our ties with VSHI have helped the EC better comprehend the crisis that low-income Vermonters face in keeping warm each winter. VSHI has a wood-pellet stove available to donate to one such household in Essex. If you know of anyone who owns their own home and fits the following criteria, please contact a member of this committee. The home must be weatherized to some degree and allow for direct-vent installation. Members of the household must be physically able to load pellets and clean the stove.

Members regularly attend conferences and approach town hall with energy-saving ideas. They continue to reach out to encourage conservation, efficiency, and conversion to renewable sources of energy. We welcome your energy and ideas. Consider joining the committee. Or, just attend a meeting or two as an interested citizen, and visit our website, www.SmartSwap.org.

ESSEX COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Eva C. Clough, President

The Essex Community Historical Society wishes to share with you our activities and accomplishments for the past fiscal year, 2008-09.

The Society, along with the Essex Parks and Recreation Department, sponsored a Sing-A-Long and Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony in December. Those attending enjoyed sweet treats provided by the Girl Scouts after the lighting ceremony.

At the grand opening of the Museum in June, Ron Clapp's picture and plaque were placed in the museum.

Barb Chapin and Ann Gray represented the ECHS in conjunction with the Essex Civil War committee at the Block Party.

In August, we opened the base of the Fort's water tower and had a photo display prepared by Board member Will Parkinson.

The Ron Clapp Memorial Fund printed trading cards in Ron Clapp's memory. Polly McEwing and Barb Chapin chose twenty post cards from our collection of the Town and Village and had them printed as trading cards. The cards were distributed to the school libraries and classrooms as an incentive for each student following a walking tour of the Town/Village. Board member Laurie Jordan gave several elementary school class tours.

The 18th Annual Meeting presentation was held at Founders Memorial School. Laurie Jordan displayed school pictures and led a group of Board members who read accounts of Essex School Memories from Harriet Powell, Grace Naylor, and Caroline (Chapin) Church. People from the audience shared some of their school memories.

Thanks to Board members Sherry Norton and Polly McEwing, considerable progress has been made in cataloging the Museum collection.

Work continues on the renovation of the 1805 School House located on the Essex Commons. Thanks to Hubie Norton and his work crew for their perseverance in completing this project. As a result, three sides of the School House have clapboard, new windows were made and installed and a new door has been hung with hinges made by a local blacksmith.

Two Board members left our Board in October. We would like to say thank you to Bobbi Mudgett-Russell who served 16 years as a Board member and her husband, Clint Russell, who served as a Board member and President. We also thank Clint for his work on Century Homes and other collections that he contributed to the Museum.

The Essex Community Historical Society would like to thank the Town of Essex, the Village of Essex Junction, the Town and Village Recreation departments, the Essex Free Library, the Brownell Library, our membership, and the community at large for all of their support and encouragement throughout the year.

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

The Essex Fire Department answered a total of 659 emergency calls and 138 service calls for a total of 797 incidents. Our membership remains on the low side with only 36 total members, and of that 24 are certified for interior firefighting activities. The following is a breakdown of our responses.

TYPE	FY07	FY08	FY09	TYPE	FY07	FY08	FY09
Car Crashes	123	120	118	Chimney Fires	6	5	5
Fire Alarms	118	103	122	Vehicle Fires	8	11	6
Medical First Response	457	278	290	Power Lines Down	26	5	10
Brush Fires	28	25	9	Search and Rescue	2	0	0
Hazardous Materials	25	26	25	Electrical Fires	6	4	3
Structure Fires	26	15	25	Standbys	21	15	10
CO Calls	25	27	28	Other	30	39	130
Smoke in Building	31	12	16	TOTAL	932	685	797

In addition to answering emergency calls for service, we continue to provide community outreach to promote fire safety within the home and workplace. Fire prevention demonstrations at area daycares and the elementary schools are our most important outreach programs. Our Life Safety program is well underway with three members providing extra services dedicated to commercial fire safety. These members are working in conjunction with the State Fire Marshals' Office to ensure public safety in our businesses, schools, and commercial properties.

It is important to recognize our mutual aid partners, the men and women of the Essex Junction Fire Department. The Essex Fire Department responds to all calls in the Village on weekdays from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and the Village responds to calls in the Town. In addition to weekdays, we also respond automatically to all confirmed fires in either area. If additional resources are needed, we call on our neighboring departments of Williston, Underhill/Jericho, Westford, or Colchester. Additionally, we are fortunate to have the professionalism of the Essex Police and the members of Essex Rescue to round out a complete team of emergency responders.

The Fire Department continues to work very hard to stay within our approved budget. The economy has driven prices for services higher, including replacement costs for needed equipment. Several years ago, we adopted a rotating equipment replacement plan so that the items we are required to wear and use are replaced on a regular basis to avoid large purchases in any one year. We have had to adjust those replacements as a result of budget cuts to maintain the level-funding directive voted in at the last Town Meeting.

For anyone who surfs the web please check out our website at: www.essexfire.com. There are many features including consumer product recalls, call statistics, and membership roster. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member, please download an application online. 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
Susan L. Overfield, Head Librarian

“History is a race between education and catastrophe”
H.G. Wells

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS – For 20 and 10 years ago and for this year:

	Number of Titles Owned	Total Circulation	AV+ Titles	AV+ Circulation	ILLs* Loaned To Others	ILLs* Borrowed From Others
2009	34,118	117,447	3,130	29,952	1,970	253
1999	21,533	96,237	1,282	unknown	516	249
1989	9,131	27,521	196	unknown	5	126

**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.*

+The collection was supplemented with titles borrowed from the Northwest Regional Library in Georgia, for a number of years before the library moved to its larger space in 1989.

Contact the library any time at essexfreelibrary@essex.org or by phone at 879-0313.

HOURS OPEN IN 2009:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 10 to 5
Tuesday and Thursday: 10 to 9
Saturday: 10 to 2

The library follows the Town of Essex holiday schedule with these exceptions: **Closed** the Saturdays of Memorial Day, Labor Day and Christmas weekends. Service is also **curtailed** for the Friend's and Trustee's of the Library two annual fund-raisers:

Friday and Saturday of the first weekend in June for the “The Book, Bake and Plant Sale” and Saturday of the first weekend of November for the “Cozy Nook Craft Fair”

WEB BASE ACCESS:

THE LIBRARY CATALOG can be viewed at home by Googling “Essex Free Library” and clicking on the Online Catalog link in the upper right-hand corner. Patrons can determine if items are in the library collection and whether or not they are available. Call or email anytime to have items reserved for you.

VOL — Vermont Online is a partnership the library has with many other Vermont public libraries as well as the Vermont Department of Libraries to provide access to a variety of Gale databases, including InfoTrac, magazine and newspaper articles, and health and wellness sites. Many of the articles are in full text and may be printed either at the library or at home. There are colorful brochures describing these databases available at the library. To access the site from home:

1. Google the Essex Free Library as above or connect to the Town of Essex web site at www.essex.org
2. Pick the Essex Free Library on the left-hand menu (seventh from the bottom).

3. Find the VOL link at the bottom of the opening page under “related links.”
4. Call the library for the current password as these do change periodically.

LISTEN UP VERMONT – Is funded by a consortium of Vermont libraries created to provide access to downloadable audio books. The link to this site is at the top of the library’s opening page. Use the barcode on your library card as your password.

LIBRARY SERVICES:

1. Materials Available – The library circulates books, periodicals, audio books both as cassettes and CDs, musical CDs, videos, DVDs, puzzles and children’s book/tape/CD kits. The library also has a growing collection of foreign language materials for children and adults in a variety of formats. The Library Trustees have begun adding new sets each year of the Teaching Company lectures on CD and DVD. This is a widely respected and used collection.

2. Phone Services – Save yourself a trip (and conserve gas) by calling the library to renew books, initiate Inter-Library Loan searches, register for programs and ask quick reference questions. Always call if you have any concern about an overdue bill or notice you may have received. Attention will be given to messages left after hours on the answering machine and will be listened to early the following morning.

3. HOMECARD Privileges – Essex residents have access to all Chittenden Country libraries (with the exception of the Fletcher Free Library in Burlington) when they show their valid library card. Updated cards are currently red and will be valid until the beginning of 2011.

4. Copier – The copier is available for public use with a fee of 10 cents per page.

5. Meeting Space – Small, not-for-profit groups of up to 12 people may comfortably use the activity room when there are no library programs scheduled. Please call in advance to reserve the space. Students wishing to study as a group may also use this space whenever it is available.

6. Inter-Library Loan – The library happily tries to locate titles for patrons that are not owned in this collection. Libraries throughout the state cooperate by sharing their holdings. Out-of-state requests are facilitated, but may have fees charged by the lending library and the wait can be lengthy.

7. Tax Forms – The library has State tax forms and a variety of Federal Tax Forms for the public beginning in early January. There is also a binder, which includes reproducible Federal forms, for making copies of more obscure forms.

8. Internet Access – Patrons may access the Internet from five public workstations located on the mezzanine or from the stand-up computer in the Children’s Room. Printing services are available from all workstations.

8. Tech-Tips – Patrons may request individual help sessions to learn about email and Internet searching. Please speak to a librarian to set up a convenient time.

9. Assorted Museum Passes –The library has passes from the ECHO Aquarium and Science Center, the State Parks Pass and the Birds of Vermont Museum. These passes, available on a “first-come first-served” basis, allow Essex residents to enjoy these popular museums either free or at wonderful savings.

10. Test Proctoring – The library staff is available to provide test proctoring for distance learners residing in Essex. Please contact library staff for the information your institution will require and to set up an appropriate time to take your exams.

11. Notary Service – There is usually a staff member in the building who can notarize documents at no cost. Please be sure to bring your picture ID along if you are not known to the staff.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS:

Adult Programs

Monthly Book Discussions are held at the library at noon on the 4th Thursday of each month except during the summer. The 2009 theme was “A Word in Edgewise,” with works by nine male authors. Anyone is welcome to join the group and a modest number of copies are available at the desk. These lively discussions last about one hour with new faces dropping in as the series progresses.

Vermont author Chris Bohjalian was this year's dynamic author/speaker in February. Over fifty fans of his many books and Free Press columns enjoyed this wintertime interlude. All follow-up questions from the audience carefully avoided revealing the dramatic endings to his most recent novels.

Book discussion groups are invited to make use of the more than 190 multiple copy sets available at the library. Sets may be checked out either to groups or individuals. The Library Trustees support the book discussion groups both in this community and throughout the state by purchasing at least six new sets each year. To view an updated set list, please check the set list link on the library's web site.

Children's Programs

Story-times for toddlers and preschoolers are held during six-week sessions throughout the school year. Daytime programs on Tuesday and Thursday are held in the Activity Room and with pre-registration required to keep the programs cozy and personal. Monday morning Drop-In Story-time programs are open to all without pre-registration and whimsical attendance is invited.

The Summer Reading Program offers an array of programs and reading incentives designed to keep vacationing students reading and visiting the library regularly. Summer readers participated in the program theme "Ice Cream for Books" and the year started off appropriately with a community-wide Ice Cream Social, with fiddling and dancing for all ages, at Memorial Hall.

ESSEX RESCUE, INC.
Craig R. Butkus, Executive Director

In calendar year 2009, Essex Rescue responded to a total of 1,544 calls. Even though we've been very busy with our 911 call volume, we have also been actively working on several long-term projects.

- We recently created a Community Advisory Board (CAB). This Board is comprised of one citizen from each of the five towns to which we provide primary ambulance coverage (Essex, Essex Junction, Underhill, Jericho and Westford). As our squad continues to grow (we now have over 80 members) and as our communities grow, we realize the need to gather feedback from our communities. Through the CAB, we hope to provide services that are more catered to the needs of your individual towns.
- As mentioned in last year's town narrative, we continue to work with the Underhill-Jericho Fire Department to enhance our ability to provide ambulance service from their Underhill location, thus allowing our Essex ambulance to be more effective in its response area. We now staff a second ambulance in the Underhill-Jericho Fire Station. We currently staff this ambulance four days a week and hope to add more days and nighttime coverage in the near future. Many of you have asked why you are seeing an ambulance parked on the side of the road at the Essex/Jericho boundary. This parking position is part of our new coverage efforts. When the ambulance based out of our Essex station responds to a medical call, the ambulance stationed in the Underhill Fire Station moves a few miles closer to Essex in order to decrease response times.
- We also continue to pursue paramedic coverage in our service area. It is our hope that we'll be able to move to this level of certification in the near future. We have several paramedics on our staff and we very much look forward to moving to this level of coverage.
- Is your child restrained correctly in your car? Essex Rescue offers free car seat inspections and fittings by a certified technician. Being a fitting station means that if we find a seat that has been recalled or no longer fits the child, we will be able to replace the seat on site for the cost of the seat at the time of the inspection. In 2009, we inspected 191 car seats. Out of the 191 seats, just seventeen percent were installed correctly. A car seat inspection includes checking for recalls, checking the child's fit to the seat, a correct installation, as well as looking for missing parts. We also have educational materials available for adults and children.

Since 1971, Essex Rescue has been providing prompt and professional advanced life support 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. We have over 80 volunteers and four paid staff members. Our volunteer members have contributed more than 45,000 hours annually of volunteer service in addition to the time they spent on education and community outreach. We at Essex Rescue take pride in our reputation. We maintain the highest standards of our profession; caring for our patients, their families and the community; and preventing illness and injury through public education. We truly believe that we are one of the strongest ambulance squads in the state of Vermont, both medically and organizationally.

If you are interested in obtaining more information or becoming a volunteer with Essex Rescue, please call us at 878-4859 x 2 for more information.

HEALTH OFFICER
Jerry L. Firkey, Health Officer
Kenneth Stratton, 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 housing code complaints is the presence of mold and mildew, 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.

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.

Animal bites continue to be reported and investigated by the Health Officer and Essex Police, 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. For information about rabies, call the Rabies Hotline at 1-800-472-2437.

The West Nile Virus is still active in Vermont and requires us to continue to educate the public.

According to statistics at this time, the H1N1 flu virus has spread throughout the State. Your health officers have been attending training sessions on how to deal with a pandemic. We are also attending Local Emergency Management meetings on a regular basis.

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, diseases and lead paint may be addressed to the State of Vermont Department of Health located at 108 Cherry Street, Burlington, Vermont. You can contact them by calling 863-7200 or accessing their website at www.healthyvermonters.info/.

A big thank you is extended to the Essex Police Department and Community Development Department for their generous support throughout the year.

MEMORIAL HALL COMMITTEE
Carol Anne Greig

- M** **MEMORY** of the past...old library, town meetings, Civil War plaque
- E** **ENTERTAINMENT** and performing arts...Essex Community Players
- M** **MONETARY** support...Town of Essex, Selectboard
- O** **ORGANIZATION** of rental activities and programs...Essex Parks & Recreation
- R** **RENEWAL**, restoration, reuse...Dedicated citizens of Essex Historic Preservation of Vermont
- I** **INTERACTION** to save and seek funding for the building...Memorial Hall Committee
- A** **ALLOWING**, allocating space for plays, classes, dance, exercise, Children's Toy Library...Taxpayers, citizens of Essex & ECP
- L** **LOYAL**, loving patrons, location...Historic Essex Commons
- H** **HANDICAPPED** accessible, historic structure...past Memorial Hall Committees
- A** **AESTHETIC**, available, attractive...1887 – 2008
- L** **LIGHTS** the path to creative activity...outdoor/indoor
- L** **LEADS** the task to make this building a viable place for all to enjoy...thanks to Dennis Lutz and Public Works

With thanks to the Town of Essex community for deciding to save this incredible building.

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Mark Berry, Director

Department Mission

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

*The Parks and Recreation Department continues to serve the **Community** of Essex (two working parents, seniors, single parents and teens) through **People** (staff, department volunteers, instructors and sponsors), **Parks** (Sandhill Pool, Indian Brook and neighborhood parks) and **Programs** (senior vans, after-school, adult, and special events). The department uses the recommendations identified in the 2004 Recreation Needs Survey as our Strategic Plan.*

Parks

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

Investments in the parks in FYE09 included:

- Installed playground at Foster Road Park
- Introduced online registration for Indian Brook passes
- Turf maintenance on athletic fields
- Painting and repairs to gazebo at Fort Ethan Allen Park

Scheduled or completed investments to the parks for FYE10 include:

- Turf maintenance on athletic fields
- Resurfacing basketball courts at Pearl Street Park and Pinewood Park
- Install drainage system at Pinewood Park
- Constructing composting pit toilet at Indian Brook
- Update Indian Brook Management Plan
- Develop Trail Maintenance Management Plan for Indian Brook

Recreation

Recreation programs are developed to provide the community opportunities to meet their needs. Through our diverse programs, we continue to educate residents on the benefits of physical activity, help people build healthy lifestyles and offer programs that provide youth with positive ways to fill their free time.

Accomplishments in FYE09 include:

- Increase in Internet registration to 26%
- Increase in programs for seniors

Program goals for FYE10 include:

- Increase programming that encourages children and families to utilize our parks, part of the national No Child Left Inside initiative

- Increase programming for seniors that promotes physical wellbeing
- Assume coordination of Fall Youth Soccer program (700 athletes)
- Complete Recreational Needs Assessment
- Develop a Strategic Plan for department

Pool

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

Investments to the pool in FYE09 included:

- Replaced chemical feeder for pool
- Replaced pool filter

Scheduled or completed investments for FYE10 include:

- Replacing wading pool with sprayground
- Offer additional swimming lessons

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 FYE09 van service provided 5,020 trips for seniors around the Essex community.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Leo Nadeau, Chief of Police

Our police department continues its quest to provide the best service possible to our citizens despite having to deal with minimal staffing. Essex currently has one of the lowest officer per capita ratios in Vermont (according to FBI Uniform Crime Reports, Essex has an authorized strength of 1.4 officers per thousand residents compared to the Chittenden County average of 2.0 officers per thousand residents). We currently have two vacancies. The Traffic Safety Officer position is vacant due to budget constraints; however, we secured grant funding for this position through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, COPS Program. Funding for this program is contingent upon both the Traffic Safety Officer position and a patrol officer position being filled.

The hiring and training of police officers has become an extensive process. At the present time, 44 percent of our officers had prior police experience when they joined our agency. Presently, all candidates being considered have no police experience. New recruits must attend 19 weeks of training at the Vermont Police Academy followed by a minimum 10-week field-training program.

Despite the shortage of officers, we continue to focus on ways to enhance our interactions with citizens in order to collectively address safety and criminal issues within our community. For example, we are the first police department in the state to utilize an interactive crime report program that identifies crime and other incidents on a continual basis. It allows both citizens and officers to monitor unlawful activity. It affords a proactive approach to deterring and preventing crime. We encourage Neighborhood Watch Captains, condominium association members, and the public to monitor our community crime reports. The public can view this web-based mapping program at www.epdvt.org and by clicking on the **Crime Reports** link.

Another proactive prevention effort that we have undertaken relates to graffiti. Many communities are plagued by this problem; we have taken the initiative to work with owners and tenants of affected property in order to discourage future vandalism. For example, owners and tenants are encouraged to remove graffiti as soon as possible. We have also joined forces with a county-wide graffiti task force. As for enforcement, offenders can now be charged a \$500 fine for each graffiti tagging or marking incident.

We continue to address safety issues on our roadways by joining forces with the Safe Streets Collaborative organization and local school representatives. Our objective is to actively pursue educational and enforcement measures in order to make our streets safe for pedestrians and bicyclists. As for motorists, we have purchased speed display monitors to help drivers focus on their speed. The units also provide speed data that is used to apply enforcement efforts.

We have taken measures to maximize our resources in combating drug and other criminal activities by working collectively with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. We have an officer assigned to the Chittenden Unit for Special Investigations and another assigned to the Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force. Members of our Bureau of Criminal Investigation unit meet monthly with area detectives in order to share information relating to criminal activity.

We work closely with Chittenden County agencies such as the Local Emergency Planning Commission. The Commission meets monthly to prepare plans for handling major hazardous incidents that can affect multiple communities. The Chittenden County Law Enforcement Executive Committee meets monthly to discuss and address issues affecting law enforcement. The group is made up of all Chittenden County Chiefs of Police, the Chittenden County Sheriff, a State Police representative, a representative of the

State's Attorney's Office, the US Marshal, the Superintendent of Corrections, and resident agents in charge of the Vermont offices of the DEA and FBI.

Our department continues to be involved with several groups in pre-planning for a wide range of school related emergencies. We are an instrumental part of the Essex School Public Safety Committee that meets monthly during the school year. The committee consists of members from the Village and Town Fire Departments, Essex Rescue, the Vermont Department of Health, and representatives from schools in both the Village and Town. A representative from our force is also part of the Vermont School Crisis Planning Team, which helps other Vermont schools with their Emergency Operation Plans.

The Essex Police Department plans to maximize our law enforcement role within our community with the continuation of, and participation in, current programs and initiatives.

FY 2009 Statistics

REPORTED CRIME ACTIVITY - PERIOD 07/01/08-06/30/09

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
HOMICIDE	0	0	2	0	0
ROBBERIES	4	1	3	5	0
BURGLARIES	75	92	49	53	99
ASSAULTS	50	43	42	54	61
SEX OFFENSES	29	20	35	31	22
DRUG OFFENSES	77	84	175	161	169
LARCENIES	462	441	470	481	460
VANDALISM	158	230	250	185	243
STOLEN VEHICLES	12	10	8	6	11
SUICIDES	5	5	5	5	6
MISSING PERSONS	31	43	50	34	37
BAD CHECKS / FRAUD	204	177	131	104	84
D.U.I.	80	66	42	60	30
COURT CASES	620	626	628	610	571
ACCIDENTS	555	492	506	492	522

There were 4,183 tickets written for traffic and parking violations, of these 735 were Vermont Traffic Citations.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Dennis E. Lutz, P.E.

Town Engineer/Public Works Director

Significant budget cuts at Town Meeting resulted in reductions of \$43,000 from the prior year's funding of Public Works' operations. Some of this shortfall was made up through savings in materials such as sand and salt due to a milder winter. However, the cuts directly affected the amount of paving that could be funded, the replacement schedule for vehicles and the provision of non-critical service requests. The price of many products increased substantially such as winter salt at a ten-percent increase. Contracts with the labor force had to be honored. The net effect of the cuts was that it made it difficult to maintain the same level of service as provided in the past. The proposed budget for FYE2011 represents a net increase of 3% over the FYE2009 budget or an average of 1.5 % per year over the two-year period. In effect, the increase is less than the inflation that occurred during this period.

The challenge is, and will continue to be, the maintenance of expected levels of service with the costs of goods and labor rising coupled with customer expectation that costs should be reduced. If budgets continue to be reduced and savings accrue from such things as a mild winter or federal input of stimulus money do not happen, the net outcome will be reductions in expected service.

HIGHWAY

Town Projects completed during the past year include: completion of the new traffic signals and lane widening at the intersection of VT15 and Susie Wilson Road; general improvements within the Susie Wilson Road corridor; asphalt overlay of Greenbriar Drive, Lang Drive, Southdown Court, a portion of Forest Road, and Foster Road; area improvements on a number of gravel town highways to include sections of Brigham Hill Road, Lost Nation Road, Chapin Road and Osgood Hill Road; spot repairs on many Town roads, maintenance and winter plowing on 23.16 miles of gravel and 51.5 miles of paved roads with 10 highway employees and one mechanic.

Work in Progress: A 20-car park and ride is under construction at the intersection of VT2A and the Circ Highway, using \$75,425 in State funds and engineering assistance from UVM; a wide concrete walkway along the south side of VT15 from Sunset Drive to the Essex Square Shopping Center is due to go to construction in the spring of 2010 at a cost of \$300,000 using 80% federal stimulus funds; right-of-way acquisition is in progress for an improved intersection with traffic signals at the Sand Hill Road/ VT117 intersection by VTRANS with construction scheduled for 2010; a traffic signal is under design by CCTA for the intersection of VT15 and Ethan Allen Avenue (Fort east gate location); a scoping study is underway to investigate alternatives for replacing or repairing the Gentes Road Bridge; a preliminary structural study has been completed on the Fort Ethan Allen historic water tower with designs planned to begin in the spring of 2010; energy stimulus funds in the amount of \$50,000 will be used to improve the street lighting in the Susie Wilson Road area and reduce lighting costs, to insulate the Town Highway garage and to install a more efficient heating system at the Fire Station.

With approval of the budget for FYE2010, the following roads are planned for paving, repaving or reconstruction as appropriate: Stearns Avenue, Forest Road (portion), Glenwood Drive, Ethan Allen Avenue, Alder Lane, Ewing Place, Brigham Hill Lane, Sand Hill Road (portion). The list may be adjusted due to changing conditions over the winter, higher hot mix costs or reduced budget levels.

STORM-WATER

Projects completed include compliance with the sixth year requirements of the community-wide NPDES Phase II Storm-water Permit; completion of designs and stimulus funding requirements for two storm-water ponds – Perkins Bend and Town Center; acquisition of easements for a new storm-water treatment pond adjacent to Kellogg Road; completion of a 100% inventory and system analysis of all Town road culverts (692); repair of deteriorated storm-water piping at various locations; 100% check of all storm-water pipe catch basins (1,421) and outfalls (241); cleaning of all catch basins with more than 12 inches of material in the sump; street sweeping of all paved roads at least twice per year; active participation in a regional storm-water educational program; coordination of storm-water actions with the State, other Town Departments and Boards.

Work in Progress: Construction is anticipated in early 2010 on three storm-water systems – the Perkins Bend and Town Center systems using 50% stimulus funds and landowner contributions plus the Kellogg Road pond, using 95% State and federal grant funds; resolution of permit issues in the impaired watersheds and orders from the State to upgrade selected discharges is anticipated; new objectives will be set for the Town to achieve in an amended NPDES Phase II storm-water permit; continuing water quality studies aimed at documenting the health of the impaired waterways will be conducted.

WATER and SEWER

Projects completed include the design, permitting and bond vote approval for the Alder Brook Pump Station upgrade; initiation of a meter replacement program aimed at the larger meters and older, visual readers with remote read capabilities to more accurately capture water usage; water meter checks on smaller meters to identify those in need of replacement; purchase of a new sewer line cleaner to replace one that is over 25 years old using 55% grant funds; water main flushing and sewer main cleaning throughout the Town.

Work in Progress: construction of the Alder Brook pump station upgrade is scheduled for completion in December of 2009, with cost savings of over 50% due to stimulus fund availability; continued work effort on identification and correction of problem water meters; study effort and document revisions are underway regarding the sewer allocation policy and sewer use ordinances; ongoing studies aimed at identifying the appropriate level of control for excessive grease in the Town sewer system.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Projects completed include air quality related improvements at the Public Works Offices and 81 Main Street; addition of storage space at Memorial Hall; insulation of Powell Museum: added salt storage space; interior building reconfiguration at the Highway Garage to create a more efficient work space; interior building renovations for the Water/Sewer and recreation field crews; installation of a winter canopy for the senior bus.

Work in Progress: Added storage space at Memorial Hall; insulation additions for 81 Main Street and the Highway Garage; interior building renovations for the initiation of a preliminary space needs for the Police Department.

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.....	\$361
Marriage Licenses.....	\$1,217
Animal Licenses.....	\$9,208
Liquor and Tobacco Licenses.....	\$3,640
Recording and Land Records.....	\$161,230
Vault Time.....	\$2,795
Sale of Certified Copies.....	\$6,115
Green Mountain Passes.....	\$122
Department of Motor Vehicle Registration Renewals.....	\$2,189
Printing & Duplication Services.....	\$13,589

The Clerk's Office recorded 63 volumes of Land Records and 509 Vermont Property Transfer returns for the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

Vital records recorded in the Town of Essex from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009:

Births: 118 Marriages: 126 Deaths: 92 Civil Union: 3

The Annual Town Meeting and election was held on March 2-3, 2009. The results are as follows:

Article II (Local Option Taxes) was rejected by majority vote.

Article III (2009-2010 Budget) amended and approved in an amount of \$9,437,138 (reduced by \$404,871).

Article IV (Sale of two parcels of land) was approved by a majority vote.

Article V (Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$600,000 for purpose of upgrading Alder Brook Pump Station) was approved by a vote of 745 in favor and 295 opposed.

Article VI (election of officers):

Moderator: (One-Year Term)

Steven M. Eustis

Selectboard: (Three-Year Term)

Bruce S. Post

Services available at the Town Clerk's Office:

Maintain Cemetery Records

Dog Licenses

Pay Property Taxes

Marriage Licenses

Pay Water & Sewer Bills

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

TRAILS COMMITTEE
Robert Erickson, Chair

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.

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. We believe that a bicycle/pedestrian easement along the road would be a standard course of action for all development projects in the Town, much like power, cable, phone, etc.

In 2009, we continued our trail keeper program which works on coordinating volunteers to assist in trail maintenance and reporting. There are still a number of trails available for adoption for anyone interested in an excuse to regularly get out and visit a favorite trail.

We have developed a plan for keeping track of notes about proposed development and any trail issues so that we can bring those notes to the Planning Commission and Zoning Board meetings. We have continued our work on the investigation of a multi-use trail in the Circ Highway right-of-way. The planned trail would begin at Essex Way and connect several neighborhoods and Essex schools on the way to Route 117.

A large need that we have is to identify and map all the trail easements currently owned by the Town. We could use lots of help to pore over old Town records and record which trails we currently have easements on and which ones we need to help close the gaps in the Town plan network of trails.

The Town benefited this past year from another Eagle Scout project by Mark Irwin, who built a very nice bridge in Mathieu Town Forest improving the main trail through the area that was built by Kevin Laverty in 1993.

The Trails Committee is currently made up of Robert Erickson, Chair; Greg Cluver, Hobart Heath and Ruth LeBlanc. Town Recreation Program Coordinator, Ally Vile, serves the Committee well as staff liaison.

If you have ideas or would like to help with a favorite trail, let us know! The Trails Committee meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Offices located at 81 Main Street.

TOWN MANAGER
Patrick C. Scheidel

*“Only from the heart
Can you touch the sky.”*
— Rumi (13th Century Poet)

Thankfully Vermont lending institutions have made better-collateralized loans than their national and international counterparts. The local economic outlook is stronger than this time last year. Statewide unemployment has fallen by one half of a percentage point. Further, most of our housing markets have outperformed the other states. No one expects a strong robust recovery now. Therefore, state and local revenues will be compromised and have been conservatively projected. This recovery is likely to be uneven and historically slow.

Budget

The proposed FYE2011 budget is the current budget adjusted for inflation where possible. Few discretionary expenditures were requested. Once again the budget reflects the external demands of unfunded mandates passed by state and federal governments. One consistent example is compliance with stormwater regulations, which requires a FYE2011 expenditure of \$218,222 or a 4.04% increase.

This budget calls for increased wages for the part-time Fire Chief. Frequent turnover in this position is a reminder that paying low part-time wages for essentially full-time work is inefficient. The workload of the part-time Fire Chief grows each year. Receiving development plans, supervising emergency management functions, and covering the day shift are several of our expectations that a Fire Chief might better meet, if he were able to make this job his only full-time job and his first priority.

The proposed FYE2011 budget shows an increase of \$372,407 or 3.95% over last year. Salaries are budgeted at approximately 2.5%, including premium pay such as longevity and steps. Cost of living is projected to fluctuate between 1 and 3 percent next year.

Operating cost increases in gasoline, insurance and road materials are expected and budgeted accordingly. Health insurance has increased 2.5% over last year. Fortunately, employees participating in a statewide health program earned a cash return of \$18,590 this year to help offset health care costs for the Town.

Revenue

The proposed budget requires a tax rate of \$.3155 or \$.0089 more than the current rate of \$.3066. Assuming the Grand List growth of 1%, a penny on the tax rate will generate approximately \$233,000. The proposed \$.0089 tax rate increase on a property valued at \$280,000 would result in new taxes of \$25 per year or \$2.08 per month.

Revenues are projected realistically. Non-tax revenues are not expected to increase significantly. A marginal increase in interest and penalties on delinquent taxes, recreation fees and recording fees is shown based on current year trends. Interest revenue is down as a result of declining recording rates. The Town will lose another \$87,000 from IBM on top of reductions from recent years, or approximately four-tenths of a penny on the tax rate.

While a modest fund balance is expected for FYE2010, utilizing any of it as revenue for the FYE2011 budget would not be prudent. With the economy sluggish and with tax delinquencies rising, Town financial resources will be strained. Maintaining a healthy fund balance will minimize the negative impacts of the expected increase in delinquencies.

Additionally, tax sales are considered a last resort. We prefer to explore every avenue possible to allow residents to remain in possession of their residential or business property. An insufficient fund balance would force us to become more aggressive in tax collections (via tax sales) when a down economy begs us to be more lenient to distressed taxpayers.

Capital

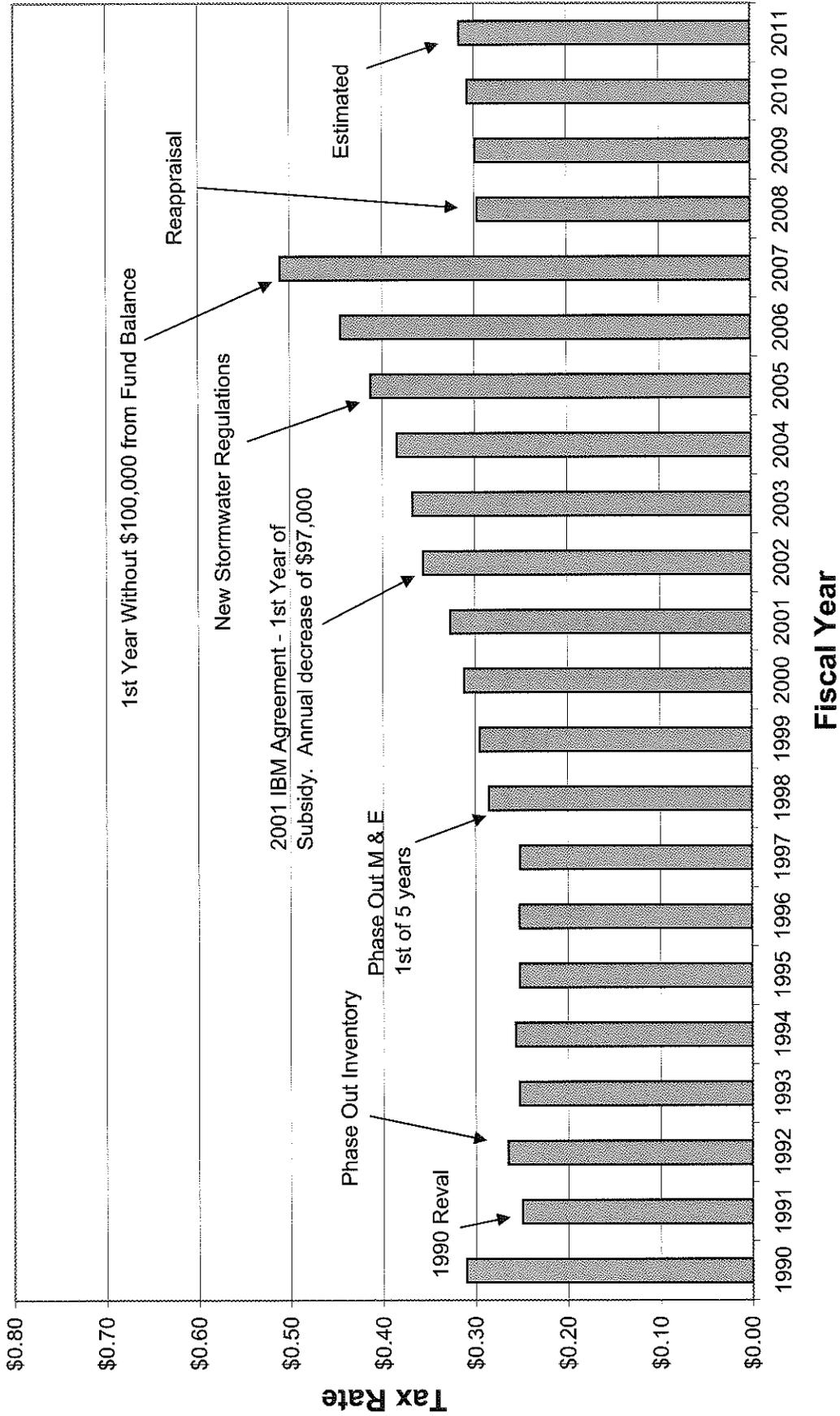
The capital budget for FYE2011 will be discussed in January, and likely adopted in February. Preventing the deterioration of infrastructure such as roads, buildings and parks has been and continues to be one of our primary capital goals. Planning for equipment and vehicle replacement over time has been another aim 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.

This year the Town does not expect to seek additional federal assistance, if available, through economic stimulus capital improvement project funds. The staff has reached its capacity to manage the approximate \$3.75 million in grants we’ve secured.

Conclusion

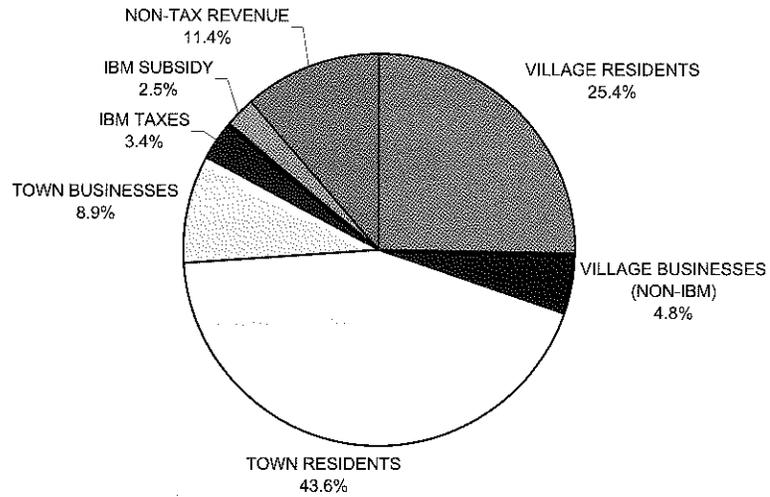
Due to the challenge to submit a budget close to the expected cost of living, no new major programs or long-term organizational objectives were addressed in the 2011 budget. Funding for the Farm and Open Land contracts and the veterans’ exemptions requires the local agreement rate of approximately \$.0009. Because a penny generates nearly \$233,000 from the new grand list, the proposed budget calls for a \$.0089 increase on the tax rate, offset by presently undetermined grand list growth.

Town of Essex General Tax Rate



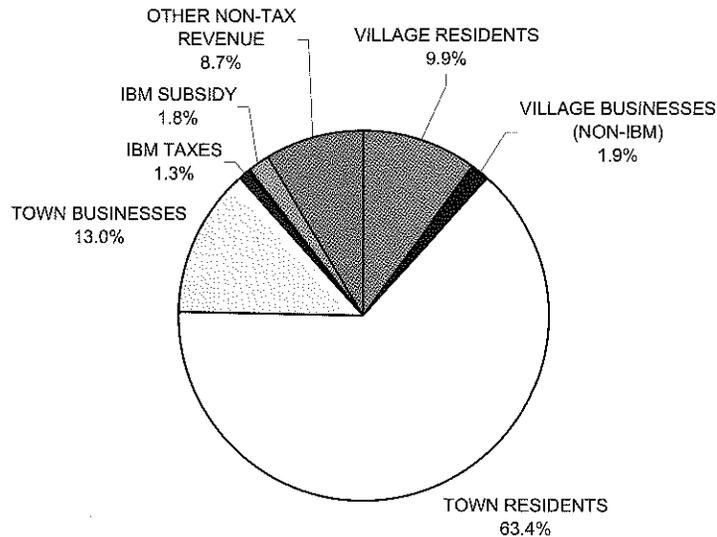
PROJECTED REVENUE SOURCES FYE 6/30/2011

TOTAL REVENUES



VILLAGE TAXPAYERS = 30.2% TOWN TAXPAYERS = 52.5% IBM = 5.9%

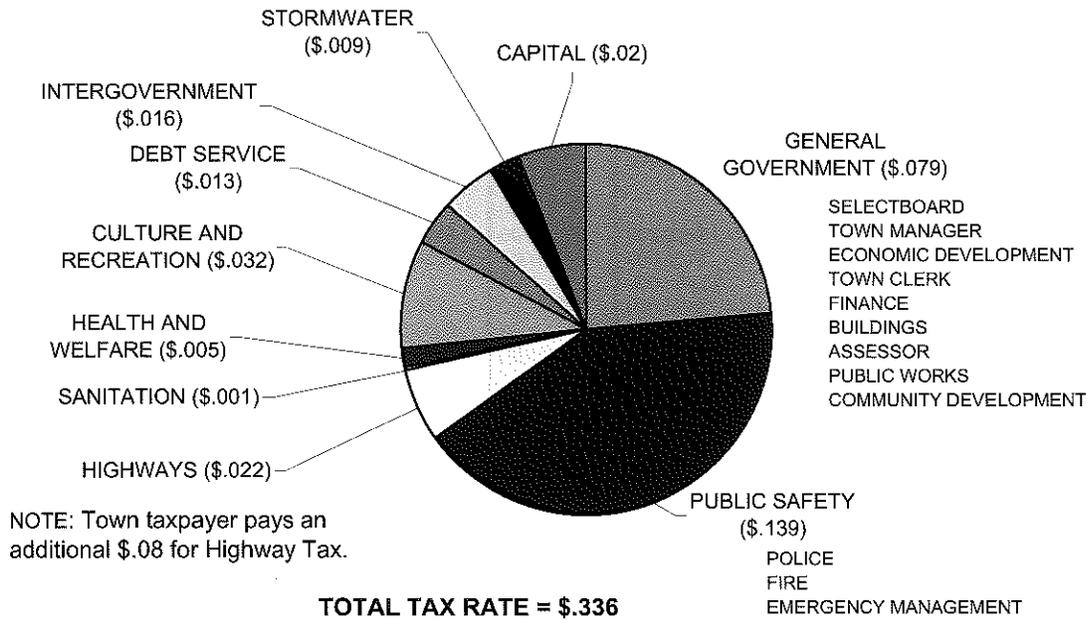
HIGHWAY REVENUES



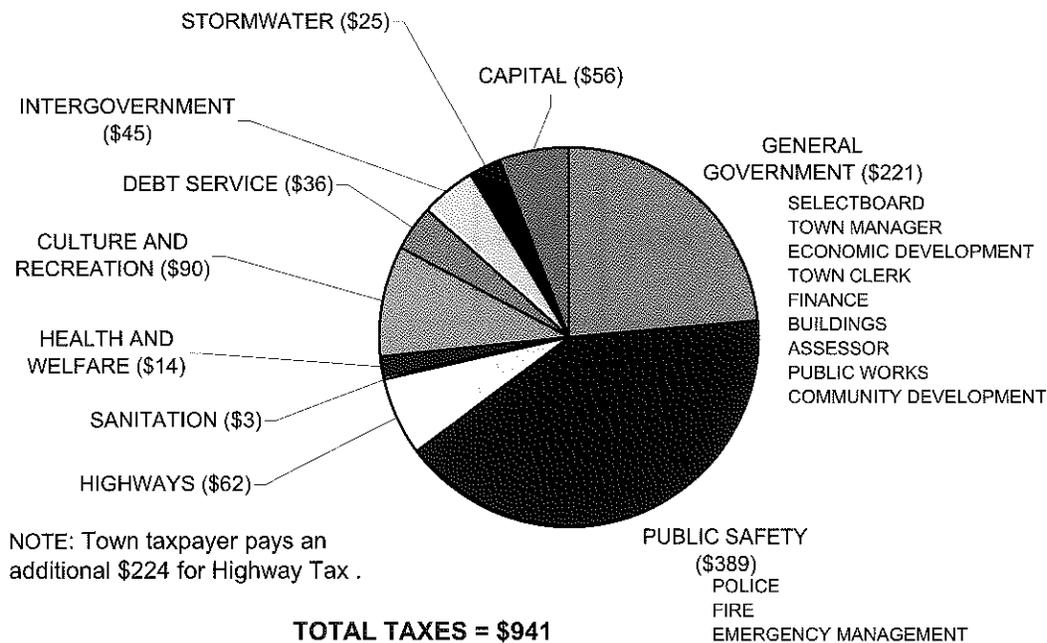
VILLAGE TAXPAYERS = 11.8% TOWN TAXPAYERS = 76.4% IBM = 3.1%

TOWN FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2011 PROPOSED BUDGET

ESTIMATED TAX RATES BY CATEGORY



ESTIMATED TAXES ON \$280,000 HOME



CAPITAL BUDGET AND PROGRAM
FYE 2011 - 2015

PROJECT	TOTAL COST	FYE 6/11	FYE 6/12	FYE 6/13	FYE 6/14	FYE 6/15	POST FYE 6/15
BUILDINGS							
NEW TOWN OFFICES	\$4,900,000	\$60,000		\$4,840,000			\$0
POLICE STATION FACILITY / RENOVATION	\$3,500,000	\$60,000		\$3,440,000			\$0
HIGHWAY GARAGE AREA IMPROVEMENTS	\$445,000	\$27,000		\$18,000		\$400,000	\$0
LIBRARY DEFERRED MAINTENANCE & EXPANSION	\$112,000	\$7,000	\$20,000				\$85,000
MEMORIAL HALL RENOVATIONS / ADDITION	\$392,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000			\$302,000
RECREATION PROGRAM SPACE FEASIBILITY STUDY	\$75,000	\$0		\$75,000			\$0
ENERGY RETROFIT OF EXISTING BUILDINGS	\$75,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0
HISTORIC WATER TOWER STUDY	\$197,500	\$16,500	\$25,000	\$25,000			\$131,000
HIGHWAYS							
HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS	\$770,200	\$258,700	\$151,000	\$172,200	\$188,300		\$0
GRAVEL ROADS	\$150,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0
ALLEN MARTIN PARKWAY	\$3,453,000	\$0					\$3,453,000
SUSIE WILSON / DAVID DRIVE TRAFFIC LIGHTS	\$105,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000			\$0
TRANSIT IMPROVEMENTS - SUSIE WILSON / VT15	\$335,000	\$0	\$335,000				\$0
GENTES ROAD BRIDGE	\$450,000	\$25,000					\$425,000
WATERLINES							
PINECREST DR TO VILLAGE RT 2A	\$152,000	\$0					\$152,000
DOUGLAS TO WILLOUGHBY	\$195,000	\$0					\$195,000
SAND HILL ROAD PRESSURE REDUCTION	\$200,000						\$200,000
WATER STORAGE TANK - LOWER SERVICE AREA	\$20,000	\$20,000					\$0
SEWERS							
PAINESVILLE AREA	\$1,155,000	\$0					\$1,155,000
CEMETERY RD	\$63,000	\$0					\$63,000
HEAVY EQUIPMENT / VEHICLES							
HIGHWAY - EQUIPMENT/VEHICLES	\$866,036	\$110,000	\$148,949	\$198,087	\$208,000	\$201,000	\$0
PARKS - EQUIPMENT / VEHICLES	\$175,200	\$13,200	\$7,913	\$47,085	\$40,661	\$26,898	\$39,443
SENIOR BUS	\$8,000	\$0					\$8,000
PARK FACILITIES							
PARK ASSETS REPLACEMENT	\$337,376	\$30,175	\$92,940	\$71,000	\$51,220	\$30,000	\$62,041
FOUNDERS / FOSTER ROAD PARK FIELD IMPROVEMENTS	\$50,000	\$0		\$25,000	\$25,000		\$0
RECREATION PROPERTY SURVEY AND APPRAISAL	\$23,000	\$23,000	\$23,000				(\$23,000)
ATHLETIC FIELDS, BALL COURTS AND RECREATION LAND	\$209,000	\$0	\$90,000	\$19,000			\$100,000
PATHS & WALKS							
ROUTE 15 - CIRC TO GOLF COURSE	\$17,000	\$0	\$3,000	\$14,000			\$0
ROUTE 2A - FROM OLD COLCHESTER ROAD & PINECREST	\$568,000	\$50,000					\$518,000
STORMWATER							
STATE PERMITS CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS	\$300,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$19,298,312	\$870,575	\$1,066,802	\$9,114,372	\$618,181	\$762,898	\$6,865,484
FUNDING SOURCES							
VEHICLE / EQUIPMENT FUND		\$123,200					
GRANTS STATE / FEDERAL / OTHER		\$120,000					
PREVIOUSLY COMMITTED CAPITAL FUNDS*		\$23,000					
UNDESIGNATED CAPITAL FUNDS		\$604,375					
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS		\$870,575					

PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET SUMMARY FOR FYE 6/30/2011

	BUDGET FYE 2009	FINAL FYE 2009	BUDGET FYE 2010	ESTIMATED FYE 2010	PROPOSED FYE2011
REVENUES - SUMMARY					
PROPERTY TAXES	\$7,796,304	\$7,713,604	\$8,094,536	\$8,122,536	\$8,377,892
LICENSES AND PERMITS	\$45,500	\$49,113	\$50,550	\$50,550	\$51,100
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	\$185,000	\$493,292	\$187,000	\$187,000	\$288,633
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	\$986,333	\$1,072,047	\$893,051	\$951,851	\$896,919
FINES	\$103,000	\$122,361	\$106,000	\$106,000	\$124,000
MISCELLANEOUS	\$96,001	\$70,328	\$106,001	\$106,001	\$71,001
TOTAL	\$9,212,138	\$9,520,745	\$9,437,138	\$9,523,938	\$9,809,545
FUND BALANCE INCREASE (DECREASE)	(\$225,000)	(\$13,869)	\$0	(\$8,062)	\$0
TOTAL REVENUE	\$9,437,138	\$9,534,614	\$9,437,138	\$9,532,000	\$9,809,545
EXPENDITURES - SUMMARY					
GENERAL GOVERNMENT					
SELECTBOARD	\$52,603	\$39,097	\$38,607	\$51,212	\$40,681
TOWN MANAGER	\$408,555	\$407,486	\$420,120	\$411,585	\$413,772
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$16,285	\$10,330	\$10,340	\$11,285	\$13,810
ELECTIONS	\$21,000	\$12,705	\$5,900	\$6,675	\$15,225
FINANCE	\$434,699	\$436,807	\$434,692	\$451,192	\$472,283
TAX COLLECTION	\$4,750	\$5,176	\$5,350	\$4,852	\$5,350
LEGAL SERVICES	\$55,000	\$51,358	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000
TOWN CLERK	\$216,406	\$207,282	\$215,571	\$215,726	\$226,607
BUILDINGS AND PLANT	\$302,280	\$256,122	\$300,340	\$331,940	\$294,390
R/E APPRAISAL	\$182,296	\$173,251	\$185,696	\$185,196	\$186,139
PUBLIC WORKS	\$103,224	\$108,911	\$104,127	\$105,077	\$108,363
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	\$367,298	\$349,688	\$383,046	\$352,498	\$391,232
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$2,164,396	\$2,058,213	\$2,158,789	\$2,182,238	\$2,222,852
PUBLIC SAFETY					
POLICE	\$3,237,883	\$3,065,155	\$3,259,882	\$3,255,317	\$3,368,666
FIRE	\$199,910	\$187,391	\$180,935	\$187,570	\$210,895
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	\$37,894	\$37,831	\$39,574	\$39,574	\$40,546
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	\$3,475,687	\$3,290,377	\$3,480,391	\$3,482,461	\$3,620,107
HIGHWAYS AND STREETS	\$1,673,661	\$1,621,447	\$1,631,091	\$1,639,241	\$1,734,946
STORMWATER	\$208,993	\$549,878	\$208,993	\$203,993	\$217,912
SANITATION	\$12,500	\$12,625	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$12,500
HEALTH AND WELFARE	\$135,697	\$135,774	\$137,447	\$137,741	\$142,284
CULTURE AND RECREATION					
RECREATION	\$376,829	\$478,082	\$410,508	\$486,937	\$428,910
PARKS	\$173,025	\$170,222	\$169,090	\$168,758	\$176,194
POOLS	\$90,623	\$92,204	\$87,203	\$88,634	\$90,782
SENIOR BUS	\$57,783	\$55,675	\$56,263	\$56,479	\$58,693
LIBRARIES	\$332,318	\$333,076	\$352,710	\$334,159	\$375,056
CONSERVATION	\$16,375	\$14,602	\$16,275	\$16,200	\$15,200
TOTAL CULTURE AND RECREATION	\$1,046,953	\$1,143,861	\$1,092,049	\$1,151,167	\$1,144,835
DEBT SERVICE	\$321,300	\$324,235	\$316,990	\$324,600	\$320,250
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	\$397,951	\$398,204	\$398,888	\$398,059	\$393,859
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$9,437,138	\$9,534,614	\$9,437,138	\$9,532,000	\$9,809,545

PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET DETAIL FOR FYE 6/30/2011

	BUDGET FYE 2009	ACTUAL FYE2009	BUDGET FYE 2010	ESTIMATED FYE 2010	PROPOSED FYE2011	
REVENUES - DETAIL						
PROPERTY TAXES						
1	GENERAL TAX REVENUE	\$6,795,304	\$6,701,199	\$7,093,536	\$7,093,536	\$7,348,892
2	HIGHWAY TAX REVENUE	\$1,001,000	\$1,012,405	\$1,001,000	\$1,029,000	\$1,029,000
	TOTAL PROPERTY TAXES	\$7,796,304	\$7,713,604	\$8,094,536	\$8,122,536	\$8,377,892
LICENSES AND PERMITS						
3	ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	\$4,000	\$3,640	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
4	BUILDING STRUCTURES	\$30,000	\$32,376	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$34,000
5	HUNTING AND FISHING	\$500	\$361	\$550	\$550	\$400
6	MARRIAGE LICENSES	\$1,000	\$1,217	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,200
7	ANIMAL LICENSES	\$7,500	\$9,208	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$9,200
8	GREEN MTN PASSPORT	\$100	\$122	\$100	\$100	\$100
9	DMV REGISTRATIONS	\$2,400	\$2,189	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$2,200
	TOTAL LICENSES AND PERMITS	\$45,500	\$49,113	\$50,550	\$50,550	\$51,100
INTERGOVERNMENTAL						
10	STATE AID TO HIGHWAYS	\$135,000	\$131,211	\$136,000	\$136,000	\$132,000
11	RAILROAD TAX	\$1,500	\$1,483	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
12	PILOT REVENUE	\$9,000	\$29,255	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$25,000
13	CURRENT USE / HOLD HARMLESS	\$12,000	\$19,839	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$19,000
14	STORM WATER GRANTS	\$0	\$271,142	\$0	\$0	\$0
17	INTERLIBRARY LOAN GRANT	\$0	\$513	\$0	\$0	\$0
18	C-O-P-S GRANT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$70,933
19	ACT 60 REVENUE	\$7,500	\$7,664	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,700
20	ACT 68 REVENUE	\$20,000	\$32,185	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$32,500
	TOTAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL	\$185,000	\$493,292	\$187,000	\$187,000	\$288,633
CHARGES FOR SERVICES						
25	IBM PAYMENT FOR SVCS - GENERAL	\$411,781	\$411,781	\$329,385	\$329,385	\$246,989
26	IBM PAYMENT FOR SVCS - HIGHWAY	\$24,402	\$24,402	\$19,516	\$19,516	\$14,630
27	USE OF VAULT	\$3,500	\$2,795	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,000
28	RECORDING OF LEGAL DOCS	\$150,000	\$161,230	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$150,000
29	ZONING HEARING FEES	\$1,000	\$1,200	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,200
30	SUBDIVISION FILING FEES	\$9,000	\$7,655	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$7,700
31	ZONING ORDINANCE PAMPHS	\$500	\$185	\$500	\$500	\$200
32	C.O. INSPECTIONS	\$8,500	\$5,024	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$5,000
33	SITE PLAN AMENDMENTS	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
34	PRINTING / DUPLICATION SVCS	\$13,000	\$13,589	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,500
35	SALE PUBLIC WORKS SPECS	\$1,000	\$1,145	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
36	SALE OF MAPS	\$700	\$147	\$700	\$700	\$200
37	SALE OF CERTIFIED COPY	\$6,000	\$6,115	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$6,500
38	SALE OF CHECKLISTS	\$50	\$0	\$50	\$50	\$0
39	STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FEE	\$0	\$300	\$0	\$0	\$300
40	SPECIAL POLICE SERVICES	\$75,000	\$84,602	\$65,000	\$75,000	\$90,000
41	HEALTH / INSPECTION FEES	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
42	ANIMAL CONTROL / SHELTER	\$1,200	\$1,285	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
43	SWIMMING POOL FEES	\$33,700	\$36,110	\$33,700	\$37,700	\$40,000
44	FACILITY RENTAL / USE FEES	\$6,000	\$6,844	\$6,000	\$8,500	\$8,700
45	INDIAN BROOK FEES	\$25,000	\$32,573	\$30,000	\$30,300	\$30,800
46	RECREATION PROGRAM FEES	\$192,000	\$248,751	\$200,000	\$240,000	\$250,000
47	AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM	\$22,000	\$26,314	\$22,000	\$24,000	\$25,000
	TOTAL CHARGES FOR SERVICES	\$986,333	\$1,072,047	\$893,051	\$951,851	\$896,919

PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET DETAIL FOR FYE 6/30/2011

	BUDGET FYE 2009	ACTUAL FYE2009	BUDGET FYE 2010	ESTIMATED FYE 2010	PROPOSED FYE2011
FINES					
50	\$70,000	\$70,312	\$65,000	\$65,000	\$70,000
51	\$33,000	\$52,049	\$41,000	\$41,000	\$54,000
52	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL FINES	\$103,000	\$122,361	\$106,000	\$106,000	\$124,000
MISCELLANEOUS					
60	\$65,000	\$25,100	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$25,000
61	\$1,001	\$0	\$1,001	\$1,001	\$1,001
62	\$10,000	\$780	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
63	\$5,000	\$22,673	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$20,000
64	\$15,000	\$21,775	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	\$96,001	\$70,328	\$106,001	\$106,001	\$71,001
TOTAL	\$9,212,138	\$9,520,745	\$9,437,138	\$9,523,938	\$9,809,545
FUND BALANCE INCREASE (USE)	(\$225,000)	(\$13,869)	\$0	(\$8,062)	\$0
TOTAL REVENUES	\$9,437,138	\$9,534,614	\$9,437,138	\$9,532,000	\$9,809,545

EXPENDITURES - DETAIL

SELECTBOARD					
100	\$5,414	\$5,414	\$5,414	\$5,414	\$5,414
101	\$15,000	\$3,000	\$0	\$15,000	\$0
102	\$4,700	\$4,927	\$4,900	\$4,927	\$4,900
103	\$11,000	\$8,529	\$11,000	\$8,529	\$11,000
104	\$16,489	\$17,142	\$17,293	\$17,142	\$19,367
105	\$0	\$85	\$0	\$200	\$0
TOTAL SELECT BOARD	\$52,603	\$39,097	\$38,607	\$51,212	\$40,681
TOWN MANAGER					
110	\$256,371	\$259,431	\$258,919	\$258,919	\$262,681
111	\$135,489	\$135,881	\$144,606	\$135,881	\$133,531
112	\$200	\$0	\$200	\$200	\$200
113	\$4,000	\$4,090	\$4,000	\$4,090	\$4,000
114	\$1,500	\$886	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
115	\$5,945	\$5,193	\$5,895	\$5,945	\$6,395
116	\$1,300	\$173	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,300
117	\$1,850	\$1,596	\$1,800	\$1,850	\$2,265
118	\$150	\$131	\$150	\$150	\$150
119	\$250	\$105	\$250	\$250	\$250
120	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
TOTAL TOWN MANAGER	\$408,555	\$407,486	\$420,120	\$411,585	\$413,772
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT					
131	\$5,000	\$830	\$0	\$0	\$3,000
132	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$0
133	\$450	\$0	\$0	\$450	\$450
134	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
135	\$3,335	\$2,500	\$3,340	\$3,335	\$3,360
TOTAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$16,285	\$10,330	\$10,340	\$11,285	\$13,810

PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET DETAIL FOR FYE 6/30/2011

	BUDGET FYE 2009	ACTUAL FYE2009	BUDGET FYE 2010	ESTIMATED FYE 2010	PROPOSED FYE2011
ELECTIONS					
140	MACHINERY	\$0	\$28	\$0	\$0
141	VOTER REGISTRATION	\$1,000	\$34	\$0	\$225
142	ELECTIONS / TOWN MEETINGS	\$20,000	\$12,643	\$5,900	\$15,000
	TOTAL ELECTIONS	\$21,000	\$12,705	\$5,900	\$15,225
FINANCE					
150	SALARIES	\$92,548	\$93,150	\$96,697	\$99,119
151	BENEFITS	\$42,351	\$42,127	\$46,495	\$48,014
152	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$1,500	\$0	\$500	\$0
153	AUDIT	\$19,000	\$18,500	\$19,000	\$19,000
154	TECHNICAL SERVICES	\$2,000	\$0	\$1,500	\$0
155	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE SVCES	\$20,000	\$25,676	\$17,500	\$20,000
156	INSURANCE	\$219,800	\$233,683	\$223,500	\$248,500
157	DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$1,500	\$1,006	\$1,500	\$1,500
158	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	\$35,000	\$21,341	\$27,000	\$35,000
159	TRAVEL	\$500	\$113	\$400	\$400
160	GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$500	\$1,211	\$600	\$750
	TOTAL FINANCE	\$434,699	\$436,807	\$434,692	\$472,283
TAX COLLECTION					
165	PRINTING AND BINDING	\$2,000	\$2,699	\$2,750	\$2,750
166	POSTAGE	\$2,750	\$2,477	\$2,600	\$2,600
	TOTAL TAX COLLECTION	\$4,750	\$5,176	\$5,350	\$5,350
LEGAL SERVICES					
167	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$55,000	\$51,358	\$55,000	\$55,000
	TOTAL LEGAL SERVICES	\$55,000	\$51,358	\$55,000	\$55,000
TOWN CLERK					
170	SALARIES	\$127,313	\$130,297	\$133,160	\$136,381
171	BENEFITS	\$60,843	\$62,323	\$66,111	\$73,771
172	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE SVCES	\$150	\$142	\$0	\$155
173	ADVERTISING	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$0
174	DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$500	\$128	\$300	\$300
175	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$15,000	\$5,776	\$6,000	\$6,000
176	TRAVEL	\$100	\$0	\$0	\$0
177	GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$12,000	\$8,616	\$10,000	\$10,000
	TOTAL TOWN CLERK	\$216,406	\$207,282	\$215,571	\$226,607
BUILDINGS AND PLANT					
180	WATER/SEWER	\$1,350	\$1,491	\$1,590	\$1,590
181	R & M SERVICES	\$24,500	\$25,793	\$23,600	\$23,600
182	R & M SUPPLIES	\$3,200	\$4,459	\$3,450	\$4,600
183	TELEPHONE	\$22,000	\$15,637	\$18,000	\$16,800
184	POSTAGE	\$19,000	\$19,053	\$17,000	\$18,500
185	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$5,970	\$5,942	\$6,150	\$6,670
186	GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$30,480	\$31,518	\$31,200	\$33,180
187	ELECTRICITY	\$24,830	\$24,709	\$24,500	\$25,300

PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET DETAIL FOR FYE 6/30/2011

	BUDGET FYE 2009	ACTUAL FYE2009	BUDGET FYE 2010	ESTIMATED FYE 2010	PROPOSED FYE2011	
BUILDINGS (CONTINUED)						
188	HEATING	\$8,300	\$9,916	\$8,900	\$9,900	\$10,500
189	GASOLINE	\$147,000	\$103,794	\$150,300	\$180,000	\$140,000
190	MACHINERY	\$8,650	\$9,482	\$8,650	\$9,500	\$8,650
191	MEMORIAL HALL REPAIRS	\$7,000	\$4,328	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$5,000
TOTAL BUILDINGS & PLANT		\$302,280	\$256,122	\$300,340	\$331,940	\$294,390
REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL						
200	SALARIES	\$112,877	\$106,323	\$111,440	\$111,440	\$114,219
201	BENEFITS	\$65,474	\$65,456	\$71,721	\$71,721	\$68,225
202	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$1,635	\$192	\$635	\$635	\$1,690
203	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE SVCS	\$600	\$201	\$600	\$600	\$600
204	ADVERTISING	\$100	\$94	\$100	\$100	\$100
205	DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$1,310	\$802	\$440	\$440	\$1,045
206	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$0	\$0
207	TRAVEL	\$100	\$80	\$100	\$100	\$100
208	GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$200	\$103	\$160	\$160	\$160
TOTAL R/E APPRAISAL		\$182,296	\$173,251	\$185,696	\$185,196	\$186,139
PUBLIC WORKS						
210	SALARIES	\$65,473	\$69,319	\$66,234	\$66,234	\$67,914
211	BENEFITS	\$26,631	\$26,946	\$29,003	\$29,003	\$29,889
212	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$50	\$20	\$50	\$50	\$50
213	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE SVCS	\$1,600	\$1,594	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,100
214	DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$800	\$769	\$500	\$500	\$800
215	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$2,900	\$2,757	\$3,020	\$3,020	\$3,120
216	TRAVEL	\$800	\$992	\$300	\$300	\$520
217	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$400	\$190	\$350	\$300	\$300
218	MACHINERY	\$3,000	\$3,858	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
219	FURNITURE & FIXTURES	\$1,500	\$2,404	\$600	\$600	\$600
220	OTHER OBJECTS	\$70	\$62	\$70	\$70	\$70
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS		\$103,224	\$108,911	\$104,127	\$105,077	\$108,363
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT						
230	SALARIES	\$212,521	\$208,958	\$222,709	\$212,521	\$226,777
231	BENEFITS	\$112,488	\$108,448	\$125,733	\$112,488	\$128,771
232	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$15,000	\$14,739	\$12,000	\$5,500	\$10,500
233	TECHNICAL SERVICES	\$200	\$0	\$200	\$200	\$150
234	R & M SERVICES	\$5,950	\$5,122	\$6,500	\$5,950	\$6,500
235	ADVERTISING	\$5,250	\$3,191	\$5,800	\$5,250	\$7,000
236	PRINTING AND BINDING	\$1,500	\$502	\$2,000	\$1,500	\$3,000
237	DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$4,505	\$2,564	\$3,200	\$4,505	\$3,450
238	TRAVEL	\$3,250	\$1,865	\$750	\$600	\$600
239	GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$1,930	\$1,316	\$2,100	\$1,930	\$2,430
240	MACHINERY	\$4,704	\$2,983	\$2,054	\$2,054	\$2,054
TOTAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT		\$367,298	\$349,688	\$383,046	\$352,498	\$391,232

PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET DETAIL FOR FYE 6/30/2011

	BUDGET FYE 2009	ACTUAL FYE2009	BUDGET FYE 2010	ESTIMATED FYE 2010	PROPOSED FYE2011	
POLICE						
250	SALARIES	\$2,064,868	\$1,988,174	\$2,067,850	\$2,067,850	\$2,095,300
251	BENEFITS	\$883,409	\$811,380	\$928,283	\$928,283	\$982,581
252	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$9,000	\$10,411	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000
253	SMALL TOOLS & EQUIPMENT	\$5,000	\$5,418	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
254	ADVERTISING	\$1,500	\$85	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
255	TELEPHONE	\$23,000	\$21,915	\$23,000	\$21,000	\$21,000
256	DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$4,000	\$4,441	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,500
257	PRINTING AND BINDING	\$1,500	\$2,375	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$2,500
258	RENTALS	\$1,250	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
259	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	\$19,000	\$14,750	\$19,000	\$17,000	\$17,000
260	UNIFORMS	\$31,000	\$28,661	\$28,500	\$28,500	\$31,000
261	REGISTRATIONS, FEES & LIC	\$150	\$176	\$150	\$150	\$290
262	TRAVEL	\$12,000	\$7,572	\$10,500	\$10,500	\$12,000
263	CRIME PREVENTION	\$6,000	\$5,228	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$6,000
264	POLICE TRAINING	\$12,000	\$10,156	\$10,500	\$10,500	\$12,000
265	POLICE COMMUNICATIONS	\$18,950	\$10,319	\$18,950	\$18,950	\$18,500
266	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$3,000	\$2,249	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
267	R & M SUPPLIES - BLDGS	\$200	\$135	\$200	\$200	\$200
268	R & M SERVICES - BLDGS	\$5,550	\$5,948	\$5,650	\$5,650	\$6,000
269	UTILITIES	\$5,850	\$5,375	\$5,850	\$5,850	\$5,640
270	BUILDING & IMPROVEMENT	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
271	R & M SUPPLIES-VEH & EQUIP	\$12,000	\$6,891	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
272	R & M SVCES - VEH & EQUIP	\$17,000	\$17,625	\$17,000	\$17,000	\$17,000
273	RENT	\$39,156	\$40,800	\$42,670	\$42,105	\$43,155
274	BUYING & MAINT VEHICLES	\$61,500	\$64,071	\$38,779	\$38,779	\$61,500
	TOTAL POLICE	\$3,237,883	\$3,065,155	\$3,259,882	\$3,255,317	\$3,368,666
FIRE						
280	SALARIES	\$95,100	\$71,919	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$95,880
281	BENEFITS	\$7,275	\$5,502	\$6,120	\$6,120	\$7,335
282	PRINTING & BINDING	\$150	\$0	\$0	\$150	\$0
283	DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$1,710	\$1,080	\$1,250	\$1,710	\$1,510
284	COMMUNICATIONS	\$3,415	\$3,064	\$3,415	\$3,415	\$3,275
285	TRAVEL	\$100	\$89	\$0	\$100	\$0
286	GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$2,145	\$281	\$2,145	\$2,145	\$2,410
287	SMALL TOOLS & EQUIPMENT	\$5,450	\$4,469	\$5,450	\$5,450	\$5,825
288	UNIFORMS	\$16,515	\$22,958	\$13,205	\$16,515	\$16,685
289	MACHINERY	\$9,900	\$4,823	\$9,200	\$9,900	\$11,200
290	FIRE PREVENTION	\$900	\$475	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$2,000
291	FIRE TRAINING	\$7,150	\$1,353	\$5,000	\$7,150	\$5,125
292	TRAINING / MEDICAL	\$1,500	\$1,430	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$1,000
293	FIRE COMMUNICATIONS	\$14,325	\$13,964	\$14,500	\$14,325	\$17,300
294	R & M SERVICES	\$20,150	\$37,693	\$20,150	\$20,150	\$23,000
295	R & M SUPPLIES	\$550	\$392	\$550	\$550	\$550
296	R & M SERVICES - BUILDINGS	\$2,200	\$1,627	\$2,400	\$2,200	\$2,400
297	R & M SUPPLIES - BUILDINGS	\$675	\$1,184	\$500	\$675	\$1,000
298	GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$700	\$200	\$500	\$700	\$350
299	WATER / GAS	\$9,000	\$8,623	\$10,600	\$9,000	\$10,600
300	BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS	\$1,000	\$6,265	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
301	BUILDINGS - OTHER PURCHASED SERVI	\$0	\$0	\$2,450	\$3,315	\$2,450
	TOTAL FIRE	\$199,910	\$187,391	\$180,935	\$187,570	\$210,895

PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET DETAIL FOR FYE 6/30/2011

	BUDGET FYE 2009	ACTUAL FYE2009	BUDGET FYE 2010	ESTIMATED FYE 2010	PROPOSED FYE2011
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT					
310 SALARIES	\$24,315	\$25,214	\$25,391	\$25,391	\$26,036
311 BENEFITS	\$12,779	\$12,617	\$13,933	\$13,933	\$14,360
312 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$150	\$0	\$150	\$150	\$150
313 COMMUNICATIONS	\$300	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
314 PRINTING AND BINDING	\$250	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
315 GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$100	\$0	\$100	\$100	\$0
TOTAL EMERGENCY MGMT	\$37,894	\$37,831	\$39,574	\$39,574	\$40,546
HIGHWAYS AND STREETS					
320 SALARIES	\$507,158	\$492,251	\$520,326	\$520,326	\$539,406
321 BENEFITS	\$255,588	\$240,555	\$284,240	\$284,240	\$287,490
322 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$3,500	\$13,274	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500
323 R & M SVCES - VEHICLES	\$23,000	\$33,134	\$23,000	\$23,000	\$24,300
324 R & M SUPPLIES - VEHICLES	\$54,000	\$63,031	\$54,000	\$54,000	\$58,000
325 R & M SVCES - BUILDINGS	\$6,150	\$6,557	\$5,600	\$5,600	\$5,600
326 R & M SUPPLIES - BUILDINGS	\$2,500	\$2,400	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
327 RENTAL OF EQUIPMENT	\$300	\$238	\$200	\$250	\$250
328 COMMUNICATIONS	\$4,100	\$24,688	\$4,000	\$8,000	\$4,000
329 ADVERTISING	\$1,000	\$922	\$900	\$900	\$900
330 DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$1,450	\$711	\$800	\$800	\$2,125
331 OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$7,000	\$14,069	\$8,200	\$12,000	\$12,000
332 TRAVEL	\$1,300	\$1,299	\$600	\$1,200	\$1,200
333 TAXES / LICENSES / REGISTNS	\$340	\$45	\$275	\$275	\$275
334 SMALL TOOLS & EQUIPMENT	\$1,800	\$3,456	\$1,000	\$1,800	\$1,800
335 UNIFORMS	\$10,000	\$9,908	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,500
336 OP SUPPLIES - BLDGS	\$6,700	\$7,390	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
337 OP SUPPLIES - VEHICLES	\$4,300	\$4,052	\$4,100	\$4,000	\$4,100
338 ELECTRICITY	\$10,500	\$10,135	\$9,800	\$9,800	\$9,900
339 NATURAL GAS	\$9,950	\$9,411	\$9,800	\$9,800	\$9,900
340 MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT	\$3,200	\$4,525	\$3,200	\$3,200	\$5,100
341 VEHICLES	\$142,000	\$142,000	\$118,000	\$118,000	\$135,000
342 SUMMER CONST - RENTALS	\$2,900	\$2,751	\$2,900	\$2,900	\$3,000
343 SUMMER CONST - PURCH SVCES	\$170,000	\$164,079	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$186,500
344 SUMMER CONST - SUPPLIES	\$75,600	\$28,785	\$75,600	\$75,600	\$60,000
345 TRAFFIC CNTRL - PURCH SVCES	\$11,500	\$18,499	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$8,200
346 TRAFFIC CNTRL - SUPPLIES	\$7,825	\$7,907	\$7,800	\$7,800	\$6,700
347 SIDEWALKS AND CROSSWALKS	\$23,000	\$17,248	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$12,000
348 WINTER MAINT - PURCH SVCES	\$6,300	\$5,066	\$5,100	\$5,100	\$5,200
349 WINTER MAINT - SUPPLIES	\$183,000	\$155,942	\$157,200	\$157,200	\$192,150
350 BRIDGES AND VIADUCTS	\$5,000	\$465	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$2,500
351 STORM DRAINS - PURCH SVCES	\$19,000	\$29,550	\$20,100	\$20,100	\$19,000
352 STORM DRAINS - SUPPLIES	\$18,700	\$18,192	\$18,850	\$18,850	\$18,850
353 ELECTRICITY - STREET LIGHTS	\$95,000	\$88,912	\$97,000	\$96,000	\$96,000
TOTAL HIGHWAYS & STREET	\$1,673,661	\$1,621,447	\$1,631,091	\$1,639,241	\$1,734,946
STORMWATER					
360 SALARIES	\$58,061	\$68,870	\$65,185	\$65,185	\$66,537
361 BENEFITS	\$28,932	\$27,895	\$32,475	\$32,475	\$33,375
362 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$11,000	\$3,024	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
363 REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	\$24,000	\$27,855	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$24,000
364 CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES	\$35,000	\$6,686	\$40,000	\$35,000	\$40,000
365 ADVERTISING	\$7,000	\$10,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
366 OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$16,000	\$6,492	\$7,100	\$7,100	\$6,000
367 TAXES / LICENSES / REGISTNS	\$9,000	\$2,305	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$7,000
368 VEHICLES	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$9,233	\$9,233	\$20,000
369 STORMWATER PROJECTS	\$0	\$376,751	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL STORMWATER	\$208,993	\$549,878	\$208,993	\$203,993	\$217,912

PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET DETAIL FOR FYE 6/30/2011

	BUDGET FYE 2009	ACTUAL FYE2009	BUDGET FYE 2010	ESTIMATED FYE 2010	PROPOSED FYE2011
SANITATION					
370	\$12,500	\$12,625	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$12,500
	TOTAL SANITATION	\$12,500	\$12,625	\$12,500	\$12,500
HEALTH AND WELFARE					
PUBLIC HEALTH					
380	\$8,510	\$8,520	\$8,936	\$8,936	\$9,159
381	\$125	\$0	\$125	\$125	\$125
382	\$22,491	\$22,511	\$23,615	\$23,609	\$24,205
383	\$1,500	\$1,310	\$1,700	\$2,000	\$2,000
WELFARE AND OTHER					
384	\$94,371	\$94,278	\$94,371	\$94,371	\$98,095
385	\$5,200	\$5,200	\$5,200	\$5,200	\$5,200
386	\$2,000	\$2,456	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
387	\$1,500	\$1,499	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
	TOTAL HEALTH AND WELFARE	\$135,697	\$135,774	\$137,447	\$142,284
RECREATION					
390	\$177,557	\$184,625	\$189,534	\$189,534	\$204,835
391	\$77,852	\$82,926	\$98,499	\$98,499	\$100,450
392	\$2,900	\$3,036	\$3,100	\$3,100	\$3,500
393	\$900	\$1,266	\$900	\$1,200	\$1,200
394	\$600	\$360	\$450	\$450	\$450
395	\$8,000	\$9,883	\$9,100	\$9,100	\$9,300
396	\$1,660	\$2,918	\$1,400	\$1,710	\$1,500
397	\$70,000	\$144,643	\$70,000	\$140,000	\$70,000
398	\$1,760	\$1,668	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$1,800
399	\$6,200	\$7,408	\$12,200	\$12,200	\$12,200
400	\$350	\$200	\$0	\$0	\$0
401	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
402	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
403	\$600	\$322	\$500	\$500	\$500
404	\$700	\$0	\$700	\$700	\$700
405	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$2,850	\$2,850	\$3,000
406	\$750	\$6,103	\$0	\$5,819	\$0
407	\$500	\$500	\$475	\$475	\$475
408	\$18,000	\$24,724	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$18,000
409	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$0	\$0	\$0
	TOTAL RECREATION	\$376,829	\$478,082	\$410,508	\$486,937
PARKS					
420	\$77,800	\$79,893	\$82,872	\$82,872	\$85,903
421	\$30,041	\$30,571	\$33,487	\$33,487	\$34,478
422	\$4,120	\$5,186	\$4,245	\$4,245	\$4,457
423	\$12,360	\$12,506	\$12,360	\$12,854	\$12,854
424	\$375	\$386	\$498	\$498	\$500
425	\$200	\$0	\$100	\$100	\$100
426	\$300	\$385	\$300	\$300	\$300
427	\$13,077	\$7,419	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000
428	\$300	\$0	\$300	\$150	\$150
429	\$3,915	\$5,320	\$3,800	\$3,800	\$4,200
430	\$550	\$443	\$500	\$500	\$500
431	\$1,452	\$494	\$1,452	\$1,452	\$1,452
432	\$3,535	\$2,619	\$3,676	\$3,000	\$3,300
433	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$15,000
	TOTAL PARKS	\$173,025	\$170,222	\$169,090	\$168,758

PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET DETAIL FOR FYE 6/30/2011

	BUDGET FYE 2009	ACTUAL FYE2009	BUDGET FYE 2010	ESTIMATED FYE 2010	PROPOSED FYE2011
SWIMMING POOLS					
440	\$59,390	\$62,392	\$59,390	\$59,000	\$60,875
441	\$4,568	\$4,769	\$4,543	\$4,484	\$4,657
442	\$1,500	\$2,245	\$1,300	\$1,500	\$1,300
443	\$1,000	\$1,827	\$750	\$750	\$750
444	\$250	\$151	\$0	\$250	\$0
445	\$800	\$603	\$800	\$650	\$700
446	\$200	\$199	\$150	\$200	\$200
447	\$1,800	\$1,839	\$1,600	\$1,700	\$1,700
448	\$3,365	\$46	\$2,600	\$2,200	\$2,200
449	\$3,600	\$5,013	\$3,800	\$4,000	\$4,500
450	\$3,250	\$2,634	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
451	\$1,400	\$1,143	\$1,470	\$1,400	\$1,400
452	\$7,500	\$9,343	\$7,800	\$8,500	\$8,500
453	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000
TOTAL POOLS	\$90,623	\$92,204	\$87,203	\$88,634	\$90,782
SENIOR CITIZEN BUS					
460	\$41,090	\$41,720	\$44,137	\$44,137	\$45,975
461	\$3,143	\$3,191	\$3,376	\$3,376	\$3,518
462	\$3,000	\$1,574	\$3,200	\$3,200	\$3,200
463	\$450	\$417	\$450	\$816	\$900
464	\$300	\$0	\$150	\$0	\$150
465	\$1,600	\$630	\$800	\$800	\$800
466	\$200	\$143	\$150	\$150	\$150
467	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
TOTAL SENIOR BUS	\$57,783	\$55,675	\$56,263	\$56,479	\$58,693
LIBRARIES					
ESSEX FREE LIBRARY					
470	\$165,694	\$178,929	\$181,236	\$172,425	\$193,241
471	\$88,341	\$80,846	\$97,511	\$88,341	\$107,102
472	\$15,884	\$15,060	\$14,770	\$14,500	\$14,700
473	\$1,100	\$1,075	\$980	\$930	\$870
474	\$2,885	\$2,806	\$2,839	\$2,885	\$2,991
475	\$175	\$0	\$200	\$175	\$100
476	\$4,960	\$5,139	\$5,000	\$5,275	\$5,400
477	\$6,800	\$4,779	\$6,500	\$5,475	\$5,475
478	\$2,400	\$2,492	\$2,700	\$2,600	\$2,600
479	\$27,000	\$26,106	\$24,974	\$24,974	\$25,877
480	\$600	\$0	\$500	\$600	\$0
481	\$479	\$190	\$0	\$479	\$1,200
482	\$1,000	\$654	\$500	\$500	\$500
TOTAL ESSEX FREE LIBRARY	\$317,318	\$318,076	\$337,710	\$319,159	\$360,056
BROWNELL LIBRARY					
484	\$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	\$332,318	\$333,076	\$352,710	\$334,159	\$375,056

PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET DETAIL FOR FYE 6/30/2011

	BUDGET FYE 2009	ACTUAL FYE2009	BUDGET FYE 2010	ESTIMATED FYE 2010	PROPOSED FYE2011
CONSERVATION					
485 TREE CARE	\$16,000	\$14,491	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$15,000
486 TRANSFER TO W/S - AGRICULTURE	\$375	\$111	\$275	\$200	\$200
TOTAL CONSERVATION	\$16,375	\$14,602	\$16,275	\$16,200	\$15,200
DEBT SERVICE					
PRINCIPAL					
490 LIBRARY / MEMORIAL HALL	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0
491 FIRE TRUCK - PUMPER	\$70,000	\$0	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$70,000
492 FIRE STATION	\$66,000	\$66,000	\$66,000	\$66,000	\$0
INTEREST					
493 LIBRARY / MEMORIAL HALL	\$3,048	\$3,038	\$1,013	\$1,013	\$0
494 INTEREST - SHORT-TERM	\$2,500	\$0	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
495 FIRE TRUCK - PUMPER	\$17,500	\$0	\$13,265	\$13,265	\$10,612
496 FIRE STATION	\$6,600	\$4,222	\$1,973	\$1,973	\$0
497 TRANSFER TO CAP RESERVE FUND	\$125,652	\$220,975	\$132,239	\$139,849	\$237,138
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE	\$321,300	\$324,235	\$316,990	\$324,600	\$320,250
INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXPENSE					
510 COUNTY TAX	\$113,873	\$114,125	\$115,515	\$115,341	\$115,515
511 CCTA	\$206,196	\$206,197	\$206,851	\$206,196	\$210,101
512 WINOOSKI VALLEY PARK DIST	\$53,500	\$53,500	\$53,500	\$53,500	\$45,000
513 C.C.R.P.C.	\$16,166	\$16,166	\$15,078	\$15,078	\$15,371
514 M.P.O.	\$8,216	\$8,216	\$7,944	\$7,944	\$7,872
TOTAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL	\$397,951	\$398,204	\$398,888	\$398,059	\$393,859
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$9,437,138	\$9,534,614	\$9,437,138	\$9,532,000	\$9,809,545

* The over expenditure in Line 397 "Recreation - Other Purchased Services" is due to activities that are funded through user fees. See line 46 for the related revenues.

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, 2009. 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 2009 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.

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

We are very proud to announce that the Champlain Water District's (CWD) Peter L. Jacob Water Treatment Facility received the "Ten-Year Excellence in Water Award" from the Partnership for Safe Water (PSW) in June 2009. The PSW program is a national initiative developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and five other drinking water organizations. This Phase IV Excellence in Water Treatment award is the highest possible level that can be achieved in the four-phased PSW program, and signifies continuous optimal performance protective of public health. Each year for the past ten consecutive years, 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 the demonstration and documentation of operational tenacity toward continual quality improvement as required by the Partnership program. At the present time, there are only five other water treatment facilities in the United States that have attained this "Excellence in Water Treatment" status which is the pinnacle of water treatment optimization for public health protection. CWD is the first water supplier in the U.S. to maintain this level of excellence for ten consecutive years. The Partnership for Safe Water program membership collectively serves a combined population of 85 million people or nearly two-thirds of the U.S. citizens served by surface water.

Over the past ten years, CWD water sales have dropped 2.26 million gallons per day (mgd) going from 11.26 mgd in FYE 2000 to 9.0 mgd in FYE 2009, with industrial water sales to one user declining 1.76 mgd in this same ten year time period. Both nationally and locally, the economy has slowed resulting in the full recession that is now occurring. This will be a recession that may take considerable time to rebound from. Water suppliers have been managing significant increases in main expense areas such as water treatment additives, fuel, electricity, and many other materials and products that we rely on in our daily operations and maintenance activities. These significant increases are occurring when we continue to manage the challenge of rehabilitating and replacing aging water works infrastructure. On the positive side, drinking water continues to be, by far, the most economical product/service delivered to our residential, commercial, and institutional customers when compared to other services such as electricity, natural gas, cable/internet/phone, and wastewater costs. CWD will remain committed to delivering the highest quality product and services at the most economical costs to our customers during these challenging times.

Additional ongoing activities include the following summary of major projects:

- In-house completion of a preliminary hydraulic modeling assessment of a 24" water transmission pipeline cross-tie for future water supply reliability purposes
- Coordinated solicitation of a third party proposal to provide contracted long-term maintenance on 14 of CWD's welded steel water storage tanks
- Instrumental in the development and organization of VT WARN, a statewide water and wastewater mutual aid program
- Numerous improvements to CWD's Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system and upgrades to CWD's overall water system security and communications
- Relocation of a water meter vault in preparation for a new roadway to be constructed in 2010
- Coordinated safeguarding water infrastructure during VELCO's Northwest Reliability Project
- Upgrades major pumping and related electrical motor controls at field booster pump station

- Completed new extensive regulatory water quality testing required under Safe Drinking Water Act
- Continued optimization of daily energy usage to reduce overall annual electrical costs
- Continued research on utilizing CWD water treatment residuals to reduce phosphorus input to Lake Champlain
- Placed second redundant lake water intake into service with related water quality monitoring system

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 CWD.

CHITTENDEN COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Jeffrey B. Carr, Chair

The CCMPO serves as a cooperative regional forum for the development of transportation policies, plans and programs that address transportation issues and opportunities in Chittenden County. CCMPO plans, prioritizes, and coordinates the use of all federal transportation funds in Chittenden County.

CCMPO is a federally mandated agency to undertake transportation planning, but it is locally controlled. CCMPO is responsible to all citizens of the region to ensure the implementation of the best transportation plan for Chittenden County. The CCMPO Board is composed of appointed officials from each of the 18 county municipalities, the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans), the Chittenden County Transportation Authority (CCTA), the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC), the Federal Highway Administration (FHA), Vermont Transportation Authority (VTA) and air and rail representatives. These officials are accountable to their respective constituencies. The implementation of the transportation plan is primarily carried out by VTrans and the municipalities.

Under federal law, the CCMPO is required to maintain and update a long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan and a short-range Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). In addition, CCMPO provides technical and planning assistance to its member municipalities and VTrans.

In January 2005 the CCMPO adopted the 2025 Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the county. The Transportation Plan was based upon the Regional Plan that was adopted by the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission in 2001. The transportation plan was developed based upon a forecast of over one billion dollars of federal funds to be spent within the county by the year 2025. More than half of these funds are to be used for maintaining our present transportation system.

The CCMPO approved the Federal Fiscal Year TIP for 2010 through 2013 in July 2009. It 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. During the period of this TIP, more than \$230 million in federal dollars are slated for transportation projects within the county.

The CCMPO provides a wide variety of technical and planning service to its membership. Some samples of this include the following:

- Aerial Orthoimagery Program
- Infrastructure Management System
- Traffic counts
- Regional Public Transportation Initiative
- Route 15 Corridor Improvement Plan
- Route 2 Corridor Improvement Plan
- Signal Optimization
- Sidewalk Grants
- Scoping projects, which is the first step to make a concept into a project
- Technical Assistance Projects
- Transportation Action Grants

A list of projects underway or recently completed in Essex is provided below. Once complete these studies can also be found at www.ccmpto.org, which is also where you can find traffic count data generated for your community.

Town of Essex CCMPO Work Product Summary

Technical Assistance

- VT 289/Essex Way Traffic Signal Optimization Study - 2009
- Traffic Impact Study Trip Analysis – 2009
- Traffic Counts

Scoping

- Gentes Road Bridge – Project underway
- VT 15/Ethan Allen Avenue – November 2009
- VT 15 Bike Path (with Colchester and Essex Junction) – September 2007
- VT 15/Sand Hill Road – May 2007
- Essex Alternative Paths – Completed
- VT 2A/Old Colchester Road – Completed
- VT 15/Old Stage Road – Completed
- Kellogg Road Reconstruction – Completed

Corridor Studies

- Route 15 Corridor Study – 2008
(Winooski, Colchester, Essex, and Essex Junction)

Transportation for Livable Communities

- Susie Wilson Corridor Transit Oriented Development Plan – 2004 (\$25,000)

Transportation Improvement Program

- Jericho Road Bike Path
 - \$400,000 Bicycle/Pedestrian grant for constructing a path along VT 15 from VT 128 to Sand Hill Road in 2006
- Route 15 Slope Stabilization Project
 - \$1.3 million drainage improvement project for Federal fiscal years 2008 and 2009
- Sand Hill Road/VT 117 Intersection
 - \$1.3 million project for traffic signal installation at VT 117/Sand Hill Road in 2012
- VT 15/VT 128 Traffic Signal Improvements
 - \$567,000 signal improvement completed in 2007
- VT 15 Paving, Colchester/Winooski Line to MM 1.57 (with Colchester)
 - \$2.7 million paving project for Federal fiscal year 2009
- VT 15 Sidewalk project
 - FY2010 Transportation Enhancement Award

CCMPO Sidewalk Grant

- Route 15 multi-use path conceptual plans – 2007 (\$40,000)
- Route 15 sidewalk – 2005 (\$25,000)

Transportation Action Grant

- Transportation Impact Fee Guidelines, Curb Cut Policies, Lighting Study – project underway

CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Garrett Mott, Chair

Created in 1966 by Chittenden County municipalities, the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) is a 24-member board consisting of one delegate from each of the County's 19 municipalities and five at-large members representing the interests of agriculture, environmental conservation, business, housing and transportation. Together, CCRPC members and CCRPC staff provide planning leadership through policy guidance and technical analysis. Member communities benefit from the expertise through the Commission's professional competency and proficient technical assistance services.

Some of the CCRPC projects that benefited all member municipalities in 2009 are:

- Co-sponsored Floodplain Workshops with ANR and provided municipalities with preliminary FEMA DFIRM (Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map) GIS data
- Provided the 2007 Vermont Mapping Program 1:5000 digital Orthophotos on DVD or CD
- In cooperation with the Vermont Department of Homeland Security and the Local Emergency Management Planning Committee, provided training to municipal officials regarding the new state template for emergency operation plans
- Obtained approximately \$250,000 in federal funds for energy efficiency and conservation efforts (including renewables) and provide a competitive grant program for municipalities to receive this funding
- Offered assistance to municipal staff to explore grant opportunities for culvert replacements using FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants
- Participated in Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization's scenario planning efforts for the 2060 Metropolitan Planning Transportation Plan
- Managed an analysis of police and dispatch safety services throughout the County to determine regionalization opportunities
- Began work on the 2011 Regional Plan
- Prepared a Natural Areas Strategic Planning Guide
- Provided updates regarding Census Tracts, Census Block Groups and several municipal boundary issues to the US Census Bureau in preparation for the 2010 Census.

In addition, Essex also has benefited from the following specific CCRPC services:

- Provided maps for the "Views to the Mountain: Protecting Scenic Road Corridors in Essex & Jericho" (a project with Smart Growth Vermont, Essex, and Jericho)
- Provided staff support for the Chittenden County Regional Stormwater Education Program began providing assistance for the update of the Town Plan

CCRPC continues to review municipal plans as part of the statutory requirement to confirm municipal planning processes. In addition, CCRPC regularly reviews development applications governed by Act 250 for compliance with the 2006 Chittenden County Regional Plan.

Maintaining a balanced built and natural environment involves continuous collaboration and coordination. 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.

CHITTENDEN COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
Chris Cole, General Manager

The Chittenden County Transportation Authority (CCTA) continued to provide public transportation services to the Town of Essex and the greater Burlington area. In FYE09, services included local fixed-route bus service; commuter park and ride shuttles, supermarket and school shuttles; inter-regional commuter routes; multi-county ridesharing and vanpooling; transportation for Medicaid recipients and contracted ADA paratransit service for those who are unable to ride the bus.

In FYE09, a 14-member Board of Commissioners with two Commissions representing each of the following communities governed CCTA: Burlington, Essex, Shelburne, South Burlington, Williston, Winooski and Milton. Essex's Commissioners to the CCTA Board were Dan Maxon and Marti Powers-Keys.

CCTA's annual operating expenses for FYE09 (pre-audit) were \$10,066,699. Breakdown of revenues was as follows: Federal 27%, Local 22%, Passenger Revenues 26%, State 14% and Purchase of Service 12%.

Increased Ridership

CCTA saw ridership increased by 12.5% in FYE09 over FYE08. The total rides provided in FYE09 for fixed route service was 2,512,643. CCTA also provided 36,098 Paratransit rides in the fiscal year.

Several routes saw an increase higher than the system-wide average of 12.5%, including: Essex Junction (27%), Sunday service (22%), Burlington City loop (16%), Essex Center (14%), and the U-Mall/Airport route (14%).

While year-end FYE09 ridership on the Essex Junction route increased 27% over FYE08 ridership, February 2009 also marked the one year anniversary of 15-minute peak hour headways on the route. Ridership on the Essex Junction route during the first year of high frequency service between February 2008 and February 2009 increased by 40%. These substantial Ridership increases resulted in the Essex Junction route achieving the top ridership route position in FY09, with an annual ridership of 444,784 and an average weekday ridership of 1,573.

Strong ridership growth continued on the Montpelier LINK Express route between Montpelier and Burlington in FYE09, with an increase of over 37%. In FYE09, CCTA expanded service on the Montpelier LINK for four AM roundtrips and four PM roundtrips, offering passengers several convenient commuting options each day.

The other LINK Express routes to Middlebury and St. Albans also saw significant ridership growth. In FY09, the Middlebury LINK ridership increased over 16% from the previous fiscal year and the St. Albans Link ridership was up over 11%.

In FYE09, CCTA Planning staff began a thorough study of the U-Mall/Airport and Williston routes with the goal of improving service along the Route 2 corridor between Burlington, South Burlington, and Williston. During the year, four public meetings were held to gather public comments on potential service scenarios and an online survey was developed to reach as many current and potential passengers as possible.

In order to gather information from a wide cross-section of Chittenden County residents about their attitudes toward public transportation, CCTA conducted a county-wide phone and web survey in FY09. Approximately 400 households were surveyed by phone and an additional 133 individuals participated via the web survey. The survey included questions asking respondents to offer opinions on the level of public transportation funding as compared to other transportation modes, the source of public transportation funding, and current and future CCTA services. The data gathered by this survey informs CCTA about the level of interest and awareness for future services and for potential changes to the way public transportation is funded in our region.

Respondents of the survey overwhelmingly agreed with the statement that “Public transportation plays an important role in the economic development of Chittenden County.”

Improved Amenities and Service

In FYE09, CCTA continued to advance several projects to make the transit system more convenient and user-friendly.

- Two passenger bus shelters were relocated to better meet passenger needs and one additional shelter was constructed.
- In FYE09, CCTA added morning and afternoon service on the Montpelier LINK to total four AM trips and four PM trips.
- CCTA planned repairs to the Cherry Street transfer station, to be completed in FYE10.

Environmental Commitment

In FYE09, CCTA received 13 new buses, which drastically reduce the emissions output of the fleet. The Authority is committed to operating with the cleanest technology available, and has been working to receive the funding necessary to replace all updated buses with new, low emission, clean diesel buses. Also in FYE09, CCTA ordered an additional 10 new buses, and will receive them in FYE10.

Programs

CCTA launched a new program in FY09 to encourage businesses to promote public transit within the organization to employees. The Smart Business program provided businesses with a turn-key approach to encouraging employees to use alternative transportation for their commuting. Components include the SureRide benefit – an emergency ride home cab reimbursement due to unexpected events – free try-it passes for those interested in joining and tax incentives to companies subsidizing their employees’ transportation to and from work. Eight businesses signed up to participate in the Smart Business program and it continues to see growth in FYE10.

The Unlimited Access program saw continued growth and success in FYE09. CCTA welcomed Middlebury College and South Burlington High School to the program, which allows those with a valid ID to board CCTA buses by swiping or showing an ID instead of paying direct fare. The UA program continues to be well received by staff and students and will be continuing to expand in the next fiscal year.

The mission of CCTA is to promote and operate safe, convenient, accessible, innovative and sustainable public transportation services in the Chittenden County region that reduce congestion and pollution, encourage transit oriented development and enhance the quality of life for all.

Contact CCTA for Route and Schedule Information

802-864-CCTA (Phone)
info@cctaride.org (email)
www.cctaride.org (Web)

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 unaudited FYE09 General Fund expenses were \$8.28 million and the revenues were \$8.32 million. This represents a \$1.1 million increase in expenses and a \$0.1 million increase in revenues from the FYE08 General Fund. The increase in expenses relates to CSWD taking over the Intervale Compost Program and the only modest increase in revenues is a reflection of poor market prices paid for recyclables and the fact that we experienced less tonnage to apply the solid waste management fee.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES/EVENTS

In FYE09, CSWD took over the Intervale Compost Program processing nearly 4,000 tons of food waste, 5,500 tons of leaves and yard waste and 5,000 tons of animal manures into a compost product. CSWD adopted a new 5-year plan for the next generation of solid waste management strategies for Chittenden County. Due to very poor market conditions we had to raise the tip fee for recycling at our Materials Recovery Facility.

ONGOING OPERATIONS

The Board of Commissioner's Officers include: Chair Paul Stabler of South Burlington, Vice Chair Bert Lindholm of Jericho, and Secretary/Treasurer Mike Coates of Williston. **Executive Board Members** include Paul Stabler of South Burlington, Mike Coates of Williston, Alan Nye of Essex Town, Ken Nolan of Milton and Steve Goodkind of Burlington. CSWD General Manager is Thomas Moreau.

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 3,177 tons of recyclables, a decrease of 1.5% from FYE08, and 6,389 tons of household trash during FYE09, a 3.2% decrease from FYE08.

The **Materials Recovery Facility** in Williston is owned by CSWD and is privately operated by Casella Waste Management. In FYE09, 44,532 tons of recyclables were collected, sorted, baled, and shipped to markets. This represents a 7.25% increase from the previous year. The average sale price for materials was \$72.96 per ton, which is a 39.8% decrease over last year's average.

The **Environmental Depot** and the Rover are CSWD's hazardous waste collection facilities for residents and businesses. In FYE09, 7,857 households and 672 businesses brought in 504,846 pounds of waste that were collected and processed at these facilities. This included 51,070 pounds (5,107 gallons) of latex paint re-blended and sold as "Local Color," 18,550 pounds of leftover products given away through the "Hazbin" reuse program and 122,100 pounds (12,210 gallons) of oil-based and latex paint processed for recycling in Canada.

CSWD maintained **Intervale Compost Products** as a viable composting operation responsible for composting 14,715 tons of mixed feedstocks, and transforming it into a valuable spoil amendment sold

and donated to Chittenden County homes and businesses. The operating agreement signed with the Vermont Attorney General's office in October 2008 calls for the relocation of the composting facility. CSWD will no longer accept material at the present location after June 30, 2010 and is in the process of locating an interim replacement facility elsewhere in the county.

CSWD brokered 15,009 wet tons of biosolids for our member communities in FYE09, just 4.2% less material than last year. We negotiated a new biosolids contract to replace the 10-year old agreement that ended with the fiscal year.

CSWD's **Marketing Campaign** once again raised the profile of the Electronics Recycling Program, with a round-up event held at the Williston Drop-Off Center, where we collected 53 tons of electronics, and with the third annual Small Dog Electronics round-up where they collected 140 tons. Other events promoting reduce, reuse, recycle-rethink included Rover round-ups, Spring Move Out and Summer Move In Projects, Waste Reduction Award, Lake Monsters sponsorship game, Green Up Day, the Appliance and Tire round-ups, several public tours of the Materials Recovery Facility, Yule Fuel (formerly Merry Mulch), paint round-up, and the Creative ReUse Showcase. The Environmental Depot was highlighted in a series of radio spots.

A variety of educational programs and tools are available to assist residents, institutions, and businesses to reduce and properly manage their wastes. The **CSWD Hotline** (872-8111), **Website** (www.cswd.net), school programs, displays, workshops, informational pamphlets, free recycling bins and signage, municipal programs, discount compost bins, and waste assessments for businesses are part of this positive community outreach.

Over 28,500 employees, residents of residential complexes, students, volunteers, and clients were impacted by the **Business Outreach Program**. School presentations, equipment loans, and waste assessments and facility tours, reached 9,900 students through the **School Outreach Program**. CSWD also participated in 17 community events attended by over 12,000 people.

Research and development efforts, which have dual goals of reducing the amount of waste generated and land-filled along with making programs more convenient and cost-effective, focused on recycling incentives and collection, construction and demolition debris recycling; organics diversion, product stewardship, and markets for recyclables.

CSWD provides funding and staff time to support **Green Up Day** efforts in Chittenden County. In May 2009, 40 tons of litter, 2,212 tires, and 18 cubic yards of scrap metal were collected. CSWD also contributed \$4,050 to Green Up Vermont on behalf of its member municipalities.

The fall and spring **Appliance** and **Tire Round-Ups** brought in 978 major appliances and 7,957 tires at no charge from 2,604 households. An **Electronics Round-Up** at the Williston Drop-Off Center brought in 53 tons of equipment.

The **Community Clean Up Fund** helps members keep their communities clean and litter free throughout the year. In FYE09, almost \$5,000 was distributed to eight of CSWD's member municipalities through this program.

WINOOSKI VALLEY PARK DISTRICT
Jennifer Ely, Executive Director

The Winooski Valley Park District's mission is to preserve natural areas for the purposes of conservation, stewardship education, wildlife habitat preservation, passive recreation, and use as outdoor classrooms. Our 16 natural areas offer over 13 miles of shoreline and 25 miles of trail for you to enjoy. In Essex, this includes Essex Overlook and Woodside parks, both across from Forth Ethan Allen, as well as the eastern most acreage in Colchester Pond Natural Area making this park contiguous with Indian Brook Reservoir. Visit www.wvdp.org for trail maps and to learn more.

You will find our office at the Ethan Allen Homestead. A seven member Board of Trustees governs the Park District, one appointed by each of the seven member communities. Your representative has been Mark Berry. The Town of Essex has been a supporting member of the Park District for 37 years.

Highlights of Fiscal Year 2009 include:

- ***School Children, Tourists and Residents:*** One of our parks, the Ethan Allen Homestead, features the 1787 restored farmhouse of Ethan and Fanny Allen and is on the National Historic Registry. During the 2009 season, the farmhouse stayed open for tours, Thursday through Sunday, thanks to volunteers. The Park District would like to see the State begin to help support this important historic site annually.
- ***Lessons Learned at the Parks:*** Thirteen children from the Earth Explorer's Camp met with WVDP's Americorps environmental educator Woodside Natural Areas for an informative nature hike. Four students from Essex examined insects at Macrae Farm with UVM's Zoology Department. This year we were fortunate to have nine students from Essex Middle School volunteer several days in May; they learned about invasive species and helped to remove buckthorn, honeysuckle, garlic mustard, phragmites, and Japanese knotweed at three of our parks. We were also grateful to have the help of many Essex volunteers employed by IBM and Merchants Bank who did everything from splitting firewood to painting tables. One master eco-steward is an Essex resident.
- ***Improvements to Essex Parks:*** A new entrance sign was installed at Woodside Park along with a new, handicapped accessible gate. New picnic tables were provided at Essex Outlook.

Children need wild places to stay in touch with their natural heritage. In turn, wild places need management that assures people and wildlife can peacefully coexist. 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
2009 TOWN MEETING
MINUTES
March 2, 2009

SELECTBOARD: Alan Nye, Chair; Linda Myers, Irene Wrenner, Max Levy, Dave Rogerson

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Patrick C. Scheidel, Town Manager; Todd Odit, Assistant Town Manager; Cheryl Moomey, Town Clerk; Leo Nadeau, Police Chief; Dennis Lutz, Town Engineer/Public Works Director; Susan Overfield, Library Director; Bill Ellis, Town Attorney; Charles Cole, Fire Chief; Randy Viens, Town Assessor; Dana Farley, Community Development Director

MODERATOR: Steve McQueen

Mr. McQueen introduced himself as Town Moderator at 7:55 p.m. He called attention to the State Representatives present: Linda Waite-Simpson, Tim Jerman, Deb Evans and Linda Myers and the Village Trustees present: Larry Yandow, George Tyler, Peter Gustafson, and John Lajza. He thanked the representatives for their work.

Next, Mr. McQueen pointed out the location of Senator Bill Doyle's 2009 Town Meeting Day Survey.

Next, Mr. McQueen explained the articles for discussion at Town Meeting. There were no questions from the public regarding this information.

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

Mr. McQueen introduced the Essex Selectboard Chair, Alan Nye, who in turn introduced those people sitting at the head table, and Town staff present that night.

At 8:06 p.m., Mr. McQueen called the 2009 Town of 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.

LINDA MYERS MOVED AND DAVID KEENAN SECONDED A MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES BY REQUIRING A MAJORITY VOTE TO AUTHORIZE A PAPER BALLOT FOR THIS MEETING.

Mr. McQueen confirmed for Mr. Bruce Post that the vote to suspend the rules would require a 2/3 majority vote to call for a paper ballot.

Mr. Jim Miller pointed out that a paper ballot would be very time consuming and that there was the opportunity for the public to be counted by using “division.”

There was no further 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.

ROBERT BATES STATED DIVISION.

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

Mr. McQueen reported the results being 340 in favor of the motion and 143 being opposed to the motion.

THE MOTION PASSED.

ARTICLE 1: SHALL THE REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS BE ACCEPTED?

BOB MARCOTTE MOVED AND GEORGE BOUCHER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE ARTICLE 1.

Mr. John FitzGerald was opposed to the Town including a report from the Essex Rescue. He did not believe Essex Rescue was part of the government of Essex and asked that the report from Essex Rescue be removed from the Annual Report.

Mr. Bob Marcotte thanked the staff for including a graph in the Annual Report on page 42 that compared the tax rates over the years and the grand lists over the years. He pointed out that from 1995 to 1997 the tax rate was flat, which were the years he was a member of the Selectboard. He referred to page 19 and pointed out that in the last year, the Town had only built seven new homes and in the past five years, only 61 new homes. He felt these numbers were a sad commentary in a community the size of Essex.

There was no further 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.

ARTICLE 2: SHALL THE TOWN ASSESS A 1% LOCAL OPTION TAX FOR SALES, MEALS AND ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, AND ROOMS, PURSUANT TO 24 V.S.A. SECTION 138?

Mr. Levy, being an IBM employee, felt it would be prudent to recuse himself from further discussion on the Local Option Tax (LOT) in Article 2.

JOHN LAJZA MOVED AND CHUCK BARRY SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE ARTICLE 2.

Mr. Rogerson explained that in light of recent information about IBM's position on the LOT and recent legislative proposals for tax increases on gas, sales, rooms and meals, the Selectboard requested that Article 2 be tabled.

DAVE ROGERSON MOVED AND BRUCE POST SECONDED A MOTION TO TABLE ARTICLE 2.

Mr. McQueen explained that a motion to table an article was non-debatable.

Mr. McQueen clarified for Mr. Henry Gabert that at any future meeting, a majority of the voters could approve the removal of Article 2 from the table and take a vote on the article at that same meeting. He added that this action could also occur later in the evening that night.

Mr. Robert Bates stated that from his research on Robert's Rules of Order, it was his understanding that at any Town Meeting, without any warning in writing to the public, a majority of voters present could take action on this Article. He thought it would be more appropriate to postpone Article 2 rather than to table Article 2.

Mr. McQueen clarified for Ms. Roberta Penchina that at any future Town Meeting, regardless of the number of people in attendance, the majority of those present could approve the Article to be removed from the table.

Mr. Gil Allen, in the event that Article 2 was voted down, asked when the LOT could be voted on again. Mr. McQueen explained that the issue would have to be re-warned for a special meeting according to State Statute.

It was confirmed for Mr. Gabert that before Town Meeting ended, a motion to take Article 2 "off the table" could be decided by the voters in attendance.

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

THE MOTION FAILED BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Marty Olsen stated that when he factored in the amount of money he would save in property taxes with the LOT versus what the LOT would cost him, in terms of increased taxation on

goods he purchases in Essex and heating his home, the result was a 3:1 loss. Additionally, he anticipated that he would be taking approximately a 20% pay cut at his job in order to maintain his job and support his family. With regards to economic development, he felt the LOT was “going in the wrong direction.” With regards to Capital Projects that needed to be addressed, Mr. Olsen argued that he personally had much work he would like to do on his house, business and cars, but could not because he was trying very hard just to support his family. He was opposed to Article 2 and stated that it did not in any way, shape or form provide him with any relief, but instead would cost him a tremendous amount of money.

Mr. Gabert agreed with Mr. Olsen and stated that anyone who believed the LOT would save money was delusional. He had calculated that the tax on cable and electric would cost the average resident \$42, with an additional \$20 for oil. He did not think that the towns that had LOTs, such as Stowe, South Burlington and Williston, were similar to Essex and argued that it would not work in Essex as it did in those towns that had ski areas, shopping malls and hotels. He argued that any new house built would see an increased cost of \$2,000. Over time, the value of everyone else's house would increase by \$2,000, therefore raising property taxes. He did not think it was the right time to have the LOT in Essex because people made decisions on where to shop based on the LOT, and Essex did not have a lot of business to draw customers. He suggested giving Lowe's a “honeymoon” period before having the LOT.

Mr. Peter Gustafson, a Village Trustee, was speaking in support of the LOT because the Town and Village would have to rely more on the residential property tax to pay for municipal services. He stated that it was rare that the Trustees and Selectboard agreed on an issue and pointed out that the Village residents benefited twice from the LOT because there would be tax relief on the Town taxes and the Village taxes. He argued that it was becoming more difficult to pay for municipal services and infrastructure by relying on the property tax. He stated that the Town and Village was losing \$140,000 a year from IBM and that by 2014, any revenue from the IBM Machinery and Equipment Tax would be entirely gone. Mr. Gustafson provided a list of needed repairs in the Village and gave some examples of projects and costs, such as the Briar Lane sidewalk project, which would cost \$206,000 and the South Summit Street project, which would cost \$180,000. He stated that over the next four years, the Village needed to pay for much needed repairs that equaled \$1,613,000 and that the money had to come from somewhere because the government was required to maintain safe roads and sidewalks. He reported that through discussions between the Trustees and the Champlain Valley Fairgrounds (CVE), a total of \$15,000 each year for five years was agreed upon. However, he added that in the near future, the Village would have to pay for a new ladder truck at a current cost of \$997,000. If the ladder truck was not replaced in two years, it would not pass requirements for operation. Mr. Gustafson stated that, as a result, the LOT was necessary. He argued that just one company, Lowes, had the potential to provide \$210,000 to the community, and he felt that any type of tax relief to the residents was a good tax. Mr. Gustafson felt that the public had to look beyond how much it would save them and look at what the LOT would do for both communities to provide safe roads and sidewalks.

Mr. John FitzGerald was opposed to the LOT and argued that it had not made a significant impact on those communities with the LOT or brought in new businesses for those communities. He stated that if the Town did not receive enough revenue from the property tax, then he was

opposed to the Town going “into the other pocket.” He stated that the Town should “put the tax where it belongs so they can see where it comes” and that “they aren't suppose to make any money off taxes, just suppose to live.”

Mr. George Tyler, Village Trustee, agreed that the LOT was not a great tax and had flaws. He stated that there were misconceptions from the public about reasons behind having the LOT. He stated that even if the budgets were cut in half, the LOT was still needed because the Town still needed to fund the Police, Fire and Public Works Departments, which for a community of 20,000 people, cost millions of dollars. He stated, “you can shoot the messenger, but it won't change the message.” He emphasized that the Selectboard planned to apply the revenue from the LOT to the local budget to help provide some relief and that no new programs or new purchases were planned. The current budget was all funded by taxing homes, which was the only “tool in the tool box.” The Selectboard was making an effort to explore other ways to provide some relief on that mechanism. Mr. Tyler also pointed out that three local communities have had the LOT for a number of years, and he has not heard of any desire to “get rid of those LOTs” in Burlington, South Burlington and Williston. He has not heard from anyone in those communities that the LOT had driven up the cost of utilities, that home repairs were postponed or that the cost of living had increased. He suggested asking, “If it is working in those communities, why would it not do something here?” Another assumption Mr. Tyler felt had been made by the comments from the public was that Williston was a destination community so that the LOT worked for that community. He did not think that idea made any sense because the LOT was not a fundraiser. Whatever revenue was generated was revenue that the Town and Village could put towards the budget and did not have to come from property taxes. The LOT would assist the tax burden and would be a way that the CVE, which supported this tax, could give back to the community. Mr. Tyler added that he had not heard from any businesses in Burlington, South Burlington and Williston that the LOT had driven them out of business. Mr. Tyler thanked the Selectboard for their courage in bringing this issue to the community.

Mr. Bruce Post commented that it was ironic that there was a moment of silence for the troops that were spreading freedom abroad when the Selectboard was using a process for voting on the LOT that “freezes most of the community to vote.” He felt that process was not freedom or democracy, which was one reason that he became involved with this issue. Mr. Post was concerned about issues that had not been told to the public or issues that were unknown to the Selectboard regarding the LOT. He gave an example of a fact on the information sheet from the LOT Public Hearing that did not show the full implication of the tax. The second informational sheet provided additional information, but he still did not know how the tax would affect IBM. He stated that none of the three towns that currently had the LOT had a manufacturer that was of strategic importance to the community like IBM. Mr. Post asked why the Selectboard never told them about the implications of the tax on IBM other than the meals tax.

Mr. Nye replied that the Selectboard was not aware of the amount of money that IBM spent on non-manufacturing processes at the Essex location. The Town and Selectboard received correspondence from IBM regarding this issue only two weeks ago. Since receiving that letter, the Selectboard had been trying to get as much information as possible about this situation. As a result of having more questions, the Selectboard took action that night to table Article 2.

One public member asked if the Town had asked IBM ahead of time about the LOT before presenting this issue. Mr. Nye replied that financial discussions between the political body in the Town and the Village and IBM had been very, very limited. For example, he learned today, after asking many questions, that the delivery point for all of IBM's materials was Essex Junction, not Williston because of Williston's LOT.

Ms. Sherry Haggerty preferred being able to clearly see what she was being taxed and did not like that the LOT was a "hidden tax." She pointed out that since this tax was not on her property bill, she could not claim it for her property tax rebate. She asked the Selectboard to "be honest and pay for what we need." She felt that the amount of burden the LOT placed on small businesses for not a very large amount of revenue was not worth it, and she did not feel like she was saving any money. She appreciated that the Selectboard was trying to find an answer.

Mr. Matt Wheeler asked why Article 2 had not been placed on Australian ballot to include everyone as opposed to limiting it to the Town Meeting.

Ms. Myers stated that the reason this issue was not on Australian ballot was because the Essex Charter stated that, "except for the elections of members of the Selectboard and bond items, all other business was to be conducted at Town Meeting." She added that it would take at least two years to change that process because it would be a Charter change.

One public member asked whether residents could vote at Town Meeting to have a special election on this issue at a later time during the year.

Mr. Odit explained that the State law that enabled the LOT did not require that the vote occur by ballot. The law that authorized the use of Australian ballot required a vote to approve the use of the ballot before using it. He stated that since the Town had not voted to use the ballot for public question and the law enabling LOT did not require the vote to be by ballot, the issue had to be from the floor. He further explained that the Town would have to vote to use the ballot for public question and afterwards at the following Town Meeting, it could be voted by Australian ballot once warned as an article.

It was clarified for Mr. Raj Chaz that heating bills would not be affected by the LOT. Mr. Chaz asked why the CVE could not be taxed further, and why the Town had not gone to the legislature to "make that happen"

Ms. Myers replied that the community could not tax the CVE because it was considered a non-profit. Mr. Chaz asked why another service tax could not be specific to the CVE? Ms. Myers replied that the State had that capability, not the Selectboard. Mr. Chaz wondered what needed to happen for the State to take that action so he and his clients did not have to be subjected to the LOT. Ms. Myers replied that a couple of years ago she approached the Commissioner of Taxes about this issue and was told that because the CVE was a non-profit organization and was considered an agricultural fairgrounds, it would have to be a State action. She did not think there would be strong support at the legislature for this issue.

Mr. Don Miller, a former Williston business owner, was an experienced user of the LOT and agreed that nobody in the Village community would stop shopping because of the LOT. He was not sure if he was in favor of the LOT in Essex, but was in favor overall of consumption tax because it was a tax on discretionary items. He stated that it clearly pointed out in the information sheet that heating was exempt. He felt that those people who had more would spend and those people coming into the community would spend. Currently, he was undecided on this issue, but would like to support the method of tax. He stated that the reason the road lines were not painted in Williston was not related to the LOT, but was because there were other project priorities, which was similar in other towns as well. He suggested that the voters defeat the budget, not the LOT because many people were objecting to the way the taxes were being spent as opposed to the method of taxation.

CHRIS HALPIN MOVED AND CHUCK BARRY SECONDED TO CALL THE QUESTION.

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.

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

THE MOTION FAILED BY VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE 3: SHALL THE TOWN ADOPT A BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2009 TO JUNE 30, 2010 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECTBOARD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,842,009?

CHARLES COLE MOVED AND CLINT RUSSELL SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE ARTICLE 3.

Mr. Bob Marcotte was opposed to the increase of \$404,871 because it was unjustified in today's economy. He argued that other towns like Williston and Milton had level funded budgets or reduced budgets this year, and he did not see any reason why the Town's budget could not be level-funded.

BOB MARCOTTE MOVED AND JOHN FITZGERALD SECONDED A MOTION TO AMEND ARTICLE 3 BY REDUCING THE PROPOSED INCREASED BUDGET BY \$404,871.

Ms. Myers explained that the Town Manager and Department Heads were asked in November to prepare a budget that was equal to the cost of living increase, which was 4.1% at that time. The proposed budget in Article 3 was an increase of 4.2%. She stated that there were 282 line items in the budget, and 176 or 62.4% of those line items were level funded or decreased. Thirty three of the line items that had been decreased were related to salaries and benefits, which were largely

contractual through employee unions. Salaries and benefits totaled \$360,620, which was 89% of the total increase of \$404,871. Seventy nine line items were discretionary and were either reduced or level funded, for a total of \$44,251, which was less than 1/2% of the proposed budget. The cost of health insurance increased this year to 18% for the first half of 2010 and 10% for the second half of the year. The Town was also losing \$87,000 from IBM. As a result, there were not many alternatives to raising revenue to continue the services that were requested by the public every year.

Ms. Myers reported that there were currently 74 full time employees, which was only four more than twenty years ago, whereas the population of the Town had increased by almost 2000 people. The full-time employee-per-thousand population in 1990 was 4 and at the present time, it was 3.7. She reported that there were 390 police calls in 1990, whereas this year, there were 9,900 and that there were 192 fire assistance calls in 1990, whereas last year there were 932. She stated that the Town had a growing population that asked for services. Personally, she was glad the top of the hill by her residence had been plowed that night so she could attend the meeting safely. She asked, what did they tell someone who did not receive police services because a policeman's position had to be cut, or what do you say to your employer if the roads were not plowed in the morning and you could not get to work? She expressed that the public did not hear the calls to the Departments for help, but that the staff and Selectboard did, and as a result, they prepared a budget that addressed those issues. She requested that the voters reject the amended motion to Article 2 and approve the budget as published by the Selectboard.

Ms. Laurie Singer stated that she worked five jobs and paid attention to small increases in her bills. Out of her five jobs, she only received one raise, which was 2% and her out of pocket medical insurance expenses increased as well. She asked if the Town employees were paying more for their out-of-pocket expenses and why they needed a 4 1/2% increase in pay.

Ms. Myers replied that the Town negotiated a contract with the union workers to receive a 4 1/2% increase over four years, which was up for renewal in January 2010. In terms of the Police Department, other communities were offering higher wages and were recruiting officers to leave Essex.

Mr. Nye, with regards to non-union employees, explained that approximately 6-7 years ago, there was a salary study conducted to address the disparity between non-union and union pay. The voters, at that time, had approved an increase to address this issue. He argued that the Town believed it had quality employees and wanted to be sure to recognize them for their work. The employees worked a lot of extra hours, and he felt that they deserved that increase. He added that a few employees were exchanging a pay raise this year for leave time. He reported that employees paid a co-pay for health insurance and that their out-of-pocket expenses for benefits increased this year. He stated that the Selectboard was conducting a study this summer to compare the Town's co-pays and with those of other local municipalities.

Mr. Mitch Stern stated that in today's economic climate people were losing jobs, not getting any increased pay and were making sacrifices by spending less and deferring projects. He wondered why the Town of Essex had to spend more money. He stated that if the residents had to struggle, then so should the political organization in the Town. He agreed that all the employees deserved

a 5% raise, but that it just couldn't happen. He added that if the Union did not want to negotiate, then the Town would have to "lay someone off." He directed that the Selectboard show some leadership because the public was sending the message loud and clear that they did not want taxes to go up. He felt that Fire, Police and infrastructure were very important but that everything else needed to be cut and that there was a lot of fluff in the budget. He stated that the Town, the Village and the School Boards have been spending "like drunken sailors for many years because they've had IBM. It's time that it stops and stops here and now. People are not going to like the cuts, but that is what we have to do."

Mr. Erik Post asked for clarification about the \$50,000 for new Town offices on the proposed FYE 2010 Capital Budget list.

Mr. Scheidel explained that the Public Hearing for the Capital Budget would be held in April. The \$50,000 for "New Town Offices" included the replacement of \$32,000 that was spent for needed improvements. He clarified that the study was not for a brand new town office, but for an effort to make the existing building healthier and more functional for the employees.

GLENN TAYLOR MOVED AND LESTOR PELKEY SECONDED A MOTION TO CALL THE QUESTION.

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.

Mr. McQueen asked "all those in favor of the amendment to the original motion please signify by saying aye, all those opposed, nay".

STEVE MCQUEEN STATE DIVISION.

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

Mr. McQueen reported the results being 307 in favor of the motion to suspend the rules by requiring a majority vote to authorize a paper ballot for this meeting and 160 being opposed.

THE MOTION PASSED.

ARTICLE 3 AS AMENDED: SHALL THE TOWN ADOPT A BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2009 TO JUNE 30, 2010 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECTBOARD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,437,138?

Mr. Doug Kemerer presented two points from his letter to the Editor of the Essex Reporter. He referred to page 46 of the Annual Report under "Property Taxes", which showed areas of revenue that decreased for a difference of 9.01%. As a result, Mr. Kemerer raised his first point

by stating that even though the Selectboard presented the budget as a 3% or 4% total increase, residents would still see an increase in taxes because of the loss of revenue in other places in the budget. He stated that the Town would receive fewer services. but still pay higher taxes. Mr. Kemerer referred to page 46 under “Fund Balance Increase/Decrease” or “Rainy Day Fund” to show his second point of concern. Under this line item, it showed a \$9.4 million budget, but that the Selectboard anticipated an actual of \$9.5 million this year. He did not know how the Selectboard could spend more money than was approved by the voters. He suggested that the Selectboard save that money for when it would need it even more in the future.

Mr. Nye reminded Mr. Kemerer that at the Public Hearing on the budget, it was explained that the Selectboard was only spending money that was authorized by the voters. The Town received grant money that had to be used for specific purposes and had to be shown in the budget as being spent. This money was not anticipated revenue, but was matching funds from the existing budget. Mr. Scheidel clarified that the \$225,000 under “Fund Balance” in the annual report showed a deficit from the fund balance. The Selectboard took that money out of last year's budget to reduce the property tax by 1 penny, so that the grand total of the tax increase was ¼ of 1 penny, making it a return on investment for the citizens of the Town of Essex.

Mr. Marty Olsen simply stated “thank you” to all the Selectboard members and staff for all that they did for the community.

Mr. Doug Kent asked for clarification on the \$130,000 for Route 15 Path Sunset to Town Square Shopping Plaza project.

Mr. Nye explained that this project was the continuation of the path from where it currently ended to right across from the Price Chopper and included drainage issues.

There was no further discussion.

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

THE MOTION PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE IV: SHALL THE VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF ESSEX AUTHORIZE THE SELECTBOARD TO SELL A PARCEL OF LAND APPROXIMATELY 0.6 ACRES IN SIZE LOCATED AT 8 ROSEWOOD TRAIL AND A PARCEL OF LAND APPROXIMATELY 1.16 ACRES IN SIZE LOCATED AT 51 TANGLEWOOD DRIVE?

GEORGE BUSER MOVED AND ALISON WERMER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE ARTICLE IV.

Ms. Zukowski was opposed to the sale of the properties because she stated that it would result in a net loss to the taxpayers. She pointed out that one of the reasons the Town wanted to sell the properties was to recoup 30 years of lost property tax revenue, which she felt was absurd. She stated that if those properties had been developed 30 years ago, there would have been costs

incurred from municipal services and school services. She added that the sale of these properties would be a one-time tax revenue as opposed to years of municipal and school costs once developed. She stated that one parcel was next to the forest and the other parcel was next to the trail and did not cost the Town any money. She did not know why they were selling the properties.

DAVE KEENAN MOVED AND DONNA OWENS SECONDED A MOTION THAT THE THE ARTICLE BE DIVIDED.

Mr. Keenan felt that the property on Tanglewood Drive had a developed trail and was used by many residents for recreational purposes and that the property on Rosewood Trail was on the edge of a cliff, which he did not know would be marketable.

There was discussion on whether the question could be divided and whether it was debatable. Mr. Bates pointed out that Roberts Rules of Order indicated that a motion to divide was a non-debatable motion, and Mr. McQueen agreed with Mr. Bates.

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.

FIRST HALF OF ARTICLE IV: SHALL THE VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF ESSEX AUTHORIZE THE SELECTBOARD TO SELL A PARCEL OF LAND APPROXIMATELY 0.6 ACRES IN SIZE LOCATED AT 8 ROSEWOOD TRAIL

Mr. Kent referred to the Trails Committee Report on page 39 of the Annual Report. He pointed out that one of the goals of the Trails Committee was to find a way to build a multi-use trail from the Circumferential Highway right of way, which he thought was part of one or both of the properties in question. He was in favor of keeping the trail access on the properties because it was “something a lot of us really enjoy.”

Mr. Francis Raymond asked why the Town wanted to sell the properties, whether there would be any costs to the Town after the sale of the properties and whether there was a market for these properties at this time.

Mr. Nye explained that in May 1981 the voters approved the sale of these properties at the Town Meeting. He explained that with the development from surrounding properties, the size of the parcels in question were changed, which was why the Selectboard was raising this issue with the voters. The trail access on Tanglewood Drive was on the edge of the right of way and would not be affected by the sale of the property. The revenue from the sale of the property would pay off part of the sewer costs from when sewer was first installed. He added that he felt the sale of the properties would also address an earlier comment from Mr. Marcotte about the lack of houses being built in Essex. The Selectboard was in favor of the sale of these properties and the potential for additional construction jobs from the development of those properties.

Ms. Mary Post stated that \$65,000, in addition to legal fees, had already been spent by the Town for sewer for the houses in this development because the Town was partners with the developer. The existing residents were never surveyed as to their wishes for sewer, which could be proven in a court of law. She stated that the residents were forced to hook on to sewer or would be required to hook on to sewer at the time their properties were sold, even though they lived on Sand Hill, which was a perfect location for septic. Therefore, she thought that selling the properties would not be a financial gain to the Town. Ms. Post did not think the Rosewood Trail parcel was marketable, and she was concerned that the trail access would be lost in the sale and development of the property. Ms. Post was heartsick at how much beautiful green space was being lost in the Town of Essex, and she felt that Essex was “backwards thinkers.” She was opposed to the sale of the property on Tanglewood Drive, but was in favor of the sale of the property on Rosewood Trail since it was “a dangerous place to be anyways.”

Ms. Barbara Higgins was in favor of the sale of both properties because they were both in a residential area. She understood that one parcel was adjacent to a trail, but that it had already been addressed by the Town, the Trails Committee and the owner of the lot, Mr. Owen Jenkins. She stated that Mr. Jenkins had graciously allowed the Town access to the land. If the properties were not developed, then that was a loss of two housing stocks in a residential area, which made little sense. Ms. Higgins argued that the Town had spent money and continued to spend money on other open spaces in appropriate places. She supported the sale of both properties and thanked the Trails Committee for their action in keeping access to the other trails, and Mr. Jenkins for allowing access.

Mr. Harold Simpson was in favor of more partnership with developers because it was important for jobs in the community and to bring more properties on to the tax roll. He stated that one of the problems and consternations that had been felt by the public was for lower taxes. He felt that the opposition for the sale of these properties was a small group of individuals with a specific interest. He respected their interests, but felt there was a greater interest at large in the community to lower taxes. He was in favor of building more, creating jobs and bringing more properties on the tax roll.

There was no further discussion.

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

THE MOTION PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

SECOND HALF OF ARTICLE IV: SHALL THE VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF ESSEX AUTHORIZE THE SELECTBOARD TO SELL A PARCEL OF LAND APPROXIMATELY 1.16 ACRES IN SIZE LOCATED AT 51 TANGLEWOOD DRIVE?

DUSTIN BRUSO MOVED AND GARY MILLER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE SECOND HALF OF ARTICLE IV.

Mr. Moshe Braner did not agree with selling Town land because he felt that it was not a sustainable approach to trying to fund the budget. He stated that the Town needed to look at the bigger picture to determine how it could sustain itself. As a former Trails Committee member, he felt it was doubtful about whether the access to the trail would be honored. He discussed trails in the Town in general and their importance as alternative transportation routes. He suggested that the ownership of land by the Town be looked at in a different way and not as a loss, but with respect to the woods, as a benefit to everybody.

Ms. Zukowski disagreed with Mr. Simpson in that the sale of the properties cost a lot more to the Town than the gained revenue from the sales. She stated “more residences, more taxes.”

Mr. Robert Bates wondered whether the properties would sell in the current real estate market. He also thought there was some confusion over whether there would be trail access, which was an important issue for clarification before voting on the motion.

ROBERT BATES MOVED AND MARY POST SECONDED A MOTION TO POSTPONE ARTICLE IV INDEFINATELY.

There was discussion on the motion, and Mr. McQueen explained that postponing the issue was debatable and could be brought up at another Town Meeting by the Selectboard.

Mr. Scheidel confirmed that the trail access at Tanglewood was protected by an existing easement, which was on file at 81 Main Street, and therefore would not be lost or disconnected with any other trail connections discussed that night.

Mr. Mike Grenada was opposed to postponing the issue and wanted to take the vote that night.

There were no further comments.

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

THE MOTION FAILED BY VOICE VOTE.

There was no further discussion on the second half of Article IV.

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

A CITIZEN CALLED FOR A DIVISION.

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

Mr. McQueen reported the results being 160 in favor of the motion to suspend the rules by

requiring a majority vote to authorize a paper ballot for this meeting and 77 being opposed.

THE MOTION PASSED.

Mr. McQueen explained that the Town Meeting business had been concluded. He presented Article V and VI for discussion purposes only.

Mr. Nye explained the issues related to Article V. He pointed out that even though all of the residents were required to vote on this issue, only the users of the system would be paying off this bond. He stated that the pumps needed to be replaced and that the station needing upgrading. He stated that the bond needed approval from the voters in order to receive any stimulus revenue for this project.

Ms. Myers added that while the stimulus money was not guaranteed, she had seen this project on a stimulus project list at the State level. She emphasized that the Town would not receive the stimulus money for this project if it did not have an approved bond by the voters and, therefore, she requested that the voters vote in favor of this issue.

Mr. Lutz explained to a public member that the pumps were about 25 years old and were wearing over time. The pumps needed replacement due to recent Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements and ventilation issues. These pumps would be upgraded with variable speed pumps that would be energy efficient and had a life of up to 24 years. He pointed out that residents in the Town who were connected to the sewer would be seeing a modest increase in their bills and that the Village residents would not be paying anything for this upgrade.

Mr. Lutz confirmed for a public member that there had been an energy study on all the components of the building and that this information was available at the office. He reported that the time was appropriate to replace the pumps with variable speed pumps because the replacement parts of the current system were not available anymore and should anything happen, there would be severe consequences to the Town. He added that the increase in rates was minimal and that the project also included grant funding.

Mr. Lutz explained to another public member that the grant money was a straight wastewater grant from the Environmental Conservation Agency for wastewater systems, and at this point he did not know whether there was any Town match for that money. He added that some money would be returned to the Town from Efficiency Vermont because the pumps were energy efficient.

AT 10:45 P.M., LESLIE DAMON MOVED AND GARRET LANGLOIS SECONDED A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING UNTIL 7:00 A.M. THE FOLLOWING DAY, MARCH 3, 2009.

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 _____ day of _____, 2009.

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

Irene Wrenner, Clerk, Selectboard

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

United States®

Census 2010

Census 2010: Making our Community Count

The U.S. Census Bureau is conducting the decennial census this year and needs everyone to participate. There's too much at stake to miss out on this opportunity. Let's make our community count.

Our Constitution requires the government to count everyone living in the U.S. every 10 years. Census data is used to allocate \$400 billion annually to states and localities for programs such as social services, health care, education and infrastructure. If our community's population figures are off, we may not receive all the federal dollars to which we are entitled.

Ideally, the Census Bureau counts everyone by delivering or mailing a questionnaire to each household. The residents fill it out and mail it back in a pre-addressed, stamped envelope.

Filling out the census questionnaire is easy and should only take about 10 minutes. The questionnaire asks 10 or fewer questions about each person living in the household, including their name, age, birthday, sex, Hispanic background, race and other places they might live. It also asks how many people live at the home and whether it's rented or owned. If residents don't fill out and return their questionnaire, the Census Bureau has to send a representative to collect the information. That ends up costing taxpayers a lot more money. In Vermont, only 60 percent of households returned their questionnaires in the 2000 census, well below the national average of 67 percent. We need to increase that percentage significantly!

Filling out the questionnaire is safe and the information remains completely confidential. Census employees are prohibited from disclosing the information to any agency or individual, and face jail time and fines for any violations.

Please fill out your questionnaire when you receive it in March. Help anyone else who might need assistance. It's easy, it's important and it's safe. We need to make every Vermonter count!

To learn more about the census, contact Vermont partnership specialist Helen Simon at the Census Bureau in Williston at (802) 264-0856, or email her at Helen.j.simon@census.gov. You can also visit 2010.census.gov.

The Census: A Snapshot

What: The census is a count of everyone residing in the U.S. The U.S. Constitution requires a national census every 10 years.

Who: Everyone who lives in the U.S. most of the year – citizens and non-citizens.

Why: The census documents state population counts in order to determine how the 435 seats in the House of Representatives will be allocated. Census numbers also help determine how \$400 billion annually in federal money is distributed to states and communities.

When: Census questionnaires will be delivered or mailed to all households in Vermont in March 2010; residents should fill out and return them as soon as possible. Official Census Day is April 1. Between May and July, census workers will fan out across the state visiting households that do not return their questionnaire.

Confidential: By law, the Census Bureau cannot share information gathered from individuals with any other government agency or person.

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
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
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>	