

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2007

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Annual Town Meeting Warning	3
Dedication	4
In Memoriam	5
Selectboard.....	6-7
Elected Town Officials	8
Appointed Town Officials	9-11
Appointed Full Time Staff.....	12
Town Information	13
State Information	14
Voting District Descriptions	15
Real Estate Appraisal Department.....	16
Community Development Department.....	17-18
Conservation Committee	19
Economic Development Commission.....	20
Energy Task Force	21
Essex Community Historical Society	22
Essex Fire Department.....	23-24
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	43
Proposed FYE 2009 Budget.....	44-53
Champlain Water District	55
Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization	56
Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission	57
Chittenden County Transportation Authority	58-59
Chittenden Solid Waste District.....	60-61
Winooski Valley Park District.....	62
Minutes from 2007 Town Meeting	63-78
Telephone Directory	79

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The Town Meeting will be held on March 3, 2008 at 7:30 PM in the Essex Community Educational Center. Voting by Australian ballot will be held Tuesday, March 4, 2008 at the Essex Community Educational Center and the Essex Middle School, 58 Founders Road from 7:00 AM until 7:00 PM.

DEDICATION

This annual report is dedicated to

Richard E. “Dick” Gilmond

November 18, 1940 – September 9, 2007

Dick always extended a warm and friendly handshake, smile and greeting to friends and acquaintances alike. He seemed to have a sixth sense and quickly detected when someone would need to hear a joke or humorous story to lighten up the day. He would always leave you happier and better off for the interaction.

Dick graduated from Burlington High School in 1959, excelling in basketball and baseball. He earned a degree in business management from Champlain College. He was employed by Blue Cross and Blue Shield prior to becoming a Realtor in 1970. Dick included among his many loves, coaching basketball and softball, umpiring and refereeing, woodworking, fishing with friends, riding his motorcycle and volunteering his time to service organizations. He was an active member in Essex Rotary, the 251 Club, Ethan Allen Lodge, Scottish Rite Bodies of Burlington and Cairo Shrine of Rutland and the Town of Essex.

Dick was appointed to the Essex Zoning Board in 1985 and served continually until 2007. He was Vice Chair from 1992-1994 and Chair from 1994-2007.

The Town of Essex has been enriched by Dick’s legacy of public service and, as always, he left us all happier and better off for the interaction.

In Memoriam

Marvin O. Campbell

September 20, 1917 – October 17, 2007

Marvin Campbell was a valuable asset to his country, state and community. He was born in Collinsville, Connecticut on September 20, 1917, the son of the late Guy and Florence (Terrill) Campbell.

Marvin proudly served his country during World War II and the Korean War as a member of the U.S. Army 1st Division (The Big Red One) and was part of 10 major battles without being wounded.

He had been employed with Henry's Public Market for over 26 years, retiring in 1979.

Marvin had been an active member of the Essex community for many years. He was one of the first members of Essex Rescue, serving 25 years. He was Mr. Crossing Guard at the corner of Mansfield Avenue and Maple Street for 30 years. He was a former grand marshal of the Memorial Day Parade and was a participant in Project Home for 10 years.

Marvin worked for the Parks and Recreation Department as a Park Attendant for 10 seasons, first as a volunteer then as a paid employee. His service to the Town exceeded expectations. Each spring, on his own time, Marvin would clean up around the gatehouse at the park and plant flowers. Marvin insisted on wearing a tie to work each day rather than the department issued staff t-shirt. Visitors to Indian Brook Park had high praise for his friendly, kind and welcoming demeanor. He put into practice the values Essex employees and residents alike strive to attain. We thank you, Marvin.

SELECTBOARD
Jeffrey B. Carr, Chair

During the FYE 2007, the Selectboard was able to focus its attention on several issues not related to governance, and it finished several items that were the culmination of multi-year efforts. The following overview summarizes some of the actions taken within the year:

- **Planning Issues** – Based upon the recommendations of an updated study by the Town School Department’s consultant on school enrollment, the Selectboard amended the School Impact Fee ordinance to reduce fees by 25% a year with complete elimination of the fee in January 2010.

The Town applied for and was awarded a \$490,000 Community Development Block Grant to subsidize the construction of 48 low-income senior housing units in the Town Center area. The grant will be loaned to Cathedral Square Corporation that will construct and manage the housing units.

The Selectboard also finalized its discussion and amendments to the new zoning and subdivision regulations for the Town outside the Village. These revamped regulations are much improved and are much easier to understand for citizens and developers alike. At present, these revisions are moving through the final stages of the statutory hearing process. By April 1, 2008, we expect these new regulations will be in force for all new development applications in the Town outside the Village.

- **Transportation Issues** – The Selectboard reviewed the Route 15 and Sand Hill Road scoping study and selected a preferred alternative for reconstructing the intersection. The approved design will result in a signalized T-intersection with dedicated right and left turn lanes on Sand Hill Road. The crosswalk on Sand Hill Road will be relocated to the intersection to provide a protected crossing.

The Selectboard approved applying for a grant to cover 80% of the costs for designing a sidewalk from Sunset Drive on Route 15 to the Town Center Shopping Plaza. A decision on construction will not be made until design work is complete.

In addition, 2007 brought the very important Route 15 corridor study nearly to completion. First begun two years ago, the Town spear-headed a coalition of four municipalities (Essex Town, Essex Junction Village, Colchester Town, and the City of Winooski) and four institutions (including Fletcher Allen Health Care, Saint Michael’s College, the Vermont National Guard, and the Champlain Valley Exposition) on a comprehensive review of the corridor’s long-term transportation needs (for several modes), safety issues, and the needs of commercial establishments along the corridor. When this study is done in 2008, the Route 15 corridor will have a strategic plan all the way from the Town of Hardwick through to the City of Burlington-Winooski border.

- **Economic Development** – The Selectboard supported the state economic incentives application of Green Mountain Coffee Roaster’s to the Vermont Economic Progress Council related to their expansion in the Town. The company was awarded the incentives and opened a new facility in existing space on New England Drive.

On a related matter, the Selectboard also took important initial steps to help facilitate the development of the new State forensics and health laboratory in the old abandoned IBM facility in the Saxon Hollow Industrial Park. When this facility opens sometime in 2009, it is hoped that nearly 150 new, well-paying jobs will be added to the Town’s employment base.

- **Energy Task Force** – During 2007, the Selectboard conceived the idea of convening a new Energy Task Force to help the Town develop ideas and programs designed to help save energy in the Town and in the Town’s own operations/procedures. The Task Force’s first item of business was to organize a Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) bulb event with Efficiency Vermont to help homeowners in the Town implement energy-saving incandescent bulb replacements. After the CFL event is finished, the Task Force will move on to find ways to promote energy efficiency within Town operations and facilities.
- **Reappraisal** – The Selectboard also worked with Town staff to complete the state-mandated reappraisal over the past year. Though it was a very challenging endeavor—particularly with respect to the appraisal of the Town’s unique industrial property, IBM—the reappraisal and all appeals were completed by Thanksgiving. Given the way real estate values have been trending recently, it is likely that the Town will not have to reappraise again for the next several years.
- **Tax Relief** – Related to the above, the Selectboard was very concerned about the impact that reappraisal had on the tax bills of Town residents. Consistent with that concern, the Selectboard passed a one-time budget reduction measure for Town residents in the fiscal 2008 budget that was intended to set an example for similar actions by the other taxing entities in the Town. Since no other taxing entity followed suit, the Selectboard felt this tax relief would be implemented most cost-effectively in fiscal year 2009.
- **Communication** – Responding to citizen feedback, the Selectboard took a fresh look at the way it communicates with the public. Traditionally, the Board has had meetings broadcast by Channel 17 and minutes posted on the Town website. In April the Board launched a column, known as the “Selectboard Shorts,” which the Essex Reporter has graciously published. Each “Shorts” summary presents issues of interest and highlights of recent meetings to provide direct, regular, concise communication to the public about its work. Individual members took it upon themselves to write this year’s eight columns, as well as to develop e-mail communication briefs, create and distribute posters for public forums, etc. Citizens with other ideas for improving communication are asked to contact pscheidel@essex.org.

As always, the Town would not be able to accomplish its many tasks without the dedicated service of dozens of volunteers. The Selectboard extends its appreciation to the many volunteers, staff and residents that contribute to making Essex the wonderful place that it is to live, work and play.

ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS

MODERATOR

Steve McQueen.....Expires 2008

SELECTBOARD

(3 Year Terms)

Jeffrey B. Carr, Chair.....Expires 2008

Linda K. Myers, Vice Chair.....Expires 2008

Alan L. Nye.....Expires 2009

Irene A. Wrenner, Clerk.....Expires 2010

Max G. LevyExpires 2010

CHAMPLAIN WATER DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

(3 Year Term)

Bernard LemieuxExpires 2010

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

(2 Year Terms)

John L. Bartlett, 39 Mansfield Avenue, Essex Junction, VT 05452.....878-5288

Robert Chaffee*, 7 Walnut Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452.....878-4813

Diane Clemens, 15 Williams Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452.....878-3536

George Costello, 5 Williams Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452.....878-5481

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

Mary Gauthier*, 50 West Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452.....878-4093

Sherry Haggerty, 1 Shawns Way, Essex Junction, VT 05452.....878-9926

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 Mack, 256 Jericho Road, Essex Junction, VT 05452.....899-2001

Linda K. Myers*, 51 Forest Road, Essex Junction, VT 05452.....878-3514

Robyn Myers Moore*, 60 Dunbar Drive, Essex Junction, VT 05452.....878-4798

Carla Boardman Smalling*, 6 Church Street, Essex Junction, VT.....878-3652

*Performs marriages and civil union ceremonies

APPOINTED TOWN OFFICIALS

**CEMETERY COMMISSION
(3 Year Terms)**

Susan Pringle	Expires 2008
Gary Tomlinson.....	Expires 2008
Jody Landon	Expires 2009
Ron Weston	Expires 2009
Sam Kinghorn.....	Expires 2010

**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
(3 Year Terms)**

Benjamin Suratt.....	Expires 2008
Geoff Glaspie, Chair.....	Expires 2008
Suzanne Levine	Expires 2008
Robert Paroline.....	Expires 2009
John Diego.....	Expires 2010

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

Paula Duke, Vice Chair	Expires 2008
Greg Morgan, Chair.....	Expires 2009
Jerry Firkey.....	Expires 2009
Elizabeth Poulin.....	Expires 2010
Robert Levine	Expires 2010

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

Joe Casazza.....	Expires 2008
Deborah Evans, Chair.....	Expires 2009
Janet Watts.....	Expires 2009
Scott Moore	Expires 2009
Bonnie Doble.....	Expires 2010
Patricia Schmitz.....	Expires 2010
Elizabeth White	Expires 2010

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

Irene Wrenner.....	Expires 2008
Vacancy	Expires 2008
Vacancy	Expires 2008
Vacancy	Expires 2008
Carole Ann Greig.....	Expires 2009
Jan Ellis-Clements	Expires 2009
Patrick Scheidel.....	Expires 2010

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

Paul Bruso	Expires 2008
Hubert Norton.....	Expires 2008
Dick Gilmond, Chair	Expires 2009
Hugh Sweeney.....	Expires 2009
Jim Provost, Vice Chair.....	Expires 2010

**PLANNING COMMISSION
(4 Year Terms)**

Peter Lyon	Expires 2008
Jim Rose, Chair	Expires 2008
Dustin Bruso, Vice Chair.....	Expires 2009
David Raphael, Clerk	Expires 2009
David Rogerson.....	Expires 2010
Mark Marsh	Expires 2010
Susan Marks	Expires 2011

**TRAILS COMMITTEE
(3 Year Terms)**

Vacant.....	Expires 2008
Ed Ziemer	Expires 2008
Dana Baron.....	Expires 2009
Robert Erickson.....	Expires 2009
Robert Koziol	Expires 2010

ENERGY TASK FORCE

Members of the Energy Task Force were appointed to complete a specific task. Once the task is accomplished a standing committee will be formalized. As a result, there are no specific expiration dates attached to the seats.

Irene Wrenner, Chair
Linda Chiasson
Dawn McGinnis
Glenn Fay
Andy Watts
Tim Schonholtz
Dan Mellinger
Thomas Tailer

OTHER APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Champlain Water District Alternate	Ruth Taylor
Channel 17/Town Television Representative	Marge Gaskins
Channel 17/Town Television Alternate Representative	Thomas E. James
Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission	Irene Wrenner
Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission Alternate.....	Todd Odit
Chittenden County Transportation Authority Representative.....	Vacant
Chittenden County Transportation Authority Alternate	Dan Maxon
2 nd Alternate.....	Alan Nye
Chittenden County Circumferential Highway District Representative.....	Peter Lyon
Chittenden County Circumferential Highway District Alternate.....	Robert McEwing

Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization Representative..... Jeffrey B. Carr
 Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization Alternate..... Thomas W. Torti
 2nd Alternate.....Max Levy 3rd Alternate..... Thomas E. James
 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..... Jeffrey Carr
 Constable Edward Von Sitas
 Fire Warden Larry Ransom
 Grand Juror Jerry Firkey
 Health Officers Jerry Firkey and Ken Stratton
 Town Service Officer Jerry Firkey
 Town Tree Warden & Forester..... Charles Vile
 Winooski Valley Park District..... Mark Berry
 Tri-Town Sewer Committee John Bartlett & Dennis Lutz

APPOINTED FULL-TIME STAFF

ASSESSOR

Randy Viens, Assessor
Andrea Leo, Clerk

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Dana Farley, Director
Jerry Firkey, Zoning Administrator
Sharon Kelley, Secretary/Payroll Clerk
Katherine Sonnick, Planner
Shannon Lunderville, GIS Coordinator

FINANCE

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

LIBRARY

Susan Overfield, Head Librarian
Cassie Germain, Cat. & Adult Programs
Sherry Somerset, Assistant Librarian
Peg Wygmans, Technical Services

PARKS & RECREATION

Mark Berry, Parks & Recreation Director
Allison Vile, Rec. Program Coordinator
Cherie McCabe, Secretary
Ken Booker, Parks Maintenance Foreman

POLICE

Leo Nadeau, Chief
Vacant, Captain
Bob LaGrow, Support Services
Kenneth Beaulieu, Lieutenant
Rick Garey, Lieutenant
Robin Hollwedel, Lieutenant
Bradley LaRose, Lieutenant
George Murtie, Lieutenant
Robert Estes, Sergeant
Derrick Kendrew, Sergeant
Robert Kissinger, Sergeant
Christina Ashley, Corporal
Todd McCabe, Corporal
Nicholas Merritt, Corporal
Kurt Miglinas, Corporal
Ed Piro, Corporal
Douglas Babcock, Patrol Officer

POLICE (Continued)

Linda Carey, Patrol Officer
Paul Courtois, Patrol Officer
Morgan Dayvie, Patrol Officer
John Dunn, Patrol Officer
Robert Hall, Patrol Officer
Diana Miranowicz, Patrol Officer
Genevieve Paul, Patrol Officer
John Ruttenberg, Patrol Officer
Jesse Sawyer, Patrol Officer
Michael Wootton, Patrol Officer
Howard Alden, Dispatcher
Karen Hulbert, Dispatcher
Peggy McCabe, Dispatcher
Nicole Yandow, Dispatcher
Sherry Shadroy, Records

TOWN CLERK

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

TOWN MANAGER

Patrick C. Scheidel, Town Manager
Todd Odit, Assistant Town Manager
Rick Garey, MIS Director
Ann Myers, Secretary/Personnel Asst.

PUBLIC WORKS

Dennis Lutz, Town Engineer/PW Director
Aaron Martin, Assistant Engineer
Chris Stoddard, Secretary
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
Loren Ward, 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 3, 2008	Town Meeting – 7:30 PM
March 4, 2008 – Voting by Australian Ballot.....	Polls Open – 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM
March 17, 2008	2 nd half of property taxes due
September 15, 2008	1 st half of property taxes due
March 16, 2009	2 nd half of property taxes due
April 1, 2008	Dog licenses due

GENERAL INFORMATION

Population	19,264	
Registered Voters	14,722	
Total Area	36 square miles	
Date of Charter.....	June 7, 1763	
2007 Grand List	\$22,520,975	
	Residential	Non-Residential
Town General Tax Rate	.2965	.2965
Education Rate	1.3365	1.3066
Town Capital	.0200	.0200
Town Highway	.0800	.0800
Local Agreement Rate	.0037	.0037
Total Town Tax Rate	1.7367	1.7068

MEETINGS

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

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

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

VOTING DISTRICT DESCRIPTIONS

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

DISTRICT 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 performing 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.

The Town of Essex Assessor's Office extends its appreciation to all property owners in the Town and Village for their cooperation during the recent reappraisal. We remind you that if you still have any questions or would like to review your property record card for accuracy, you are welcome to visit our office at 81 Main Street between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

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. Maintaining property changes aids in keeping fairness in property values, therefore, fairness in property taxation, as well as helping to stabilize tax rates as much as possible.

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. Also, 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.

If anyone has any questions about the recent town-wide reappraisal or a general question about property assessment, please call the Assessor's office at 878-1345.

17

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Dana H. Farley, Community Development Director

This summarizes the highlights of the Community Development Department's efforts and initiatives in 2007.

Amendments to Zoning and Subdivision Bylaws – The process of amending the zoning and subdivision bylaws occupied the staff and Planning Commission during 2007. The process, which is expected to extend into early 2008, will amend the bylaws to ensure conformance with the 2006 Town Plan and incorporate revisions necessitated by statutory changes. Specific attention was paid to revising the residential phasing policy.

Transportation – A comprehensive Route 15 Corridor Study, coordinated by the Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization, with consultants BFJ Planning and RSG, Inc. has been ongoing. The goals for the study are to optimize traffic flow, including along the feeder routes, and to improve corridor aesthetics, vehicular safety, public transit services, and pedestrian/bicycle connections.

Open Space Plan – Coordinated by staff and the Conservation Committee, the open space planning process got underway and is expected to be finished in Spring 2008. An analysis of growth and development trends in Essex was completed, along with an updated natural resources inventory. One community forum was held to discuss conservation priorities and another one will be held in winter 2008 to discuss implementation strategies.

Customer Service - The staffing of the Community Development Department, while not always at a full complement, helped to improve the delivery of services as the year progressed. Community Development Director Dana Farley and Planner Katherine Sonnick completed their first year on staff. Retired Zoning Administrator Jerry Firkey filled in part-time until Brian Bigelow was hired. As always, the Department could not function without the energy, sense of humor, and commitment of secretary Sharon Kelley.

Special Projects - Staff performed its usual duties of assisting developers and the public through the review process, as well as providing technical assistance to the Planning Commission, the Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Conservation Committee. Staff also performed other tasks such as assisting in the application for a \$500,000 Vermont Community Development Program grant for the development of an affordable senior housing project. GIS Coordinator Shannon Lunderville worked 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 on the following page.

- Lowe's Home Centers & Cobolka Trust Co. - 124,609 sq. ft. commercial building and 28,618 sq. ft. outdoor garden center, 10 Susie Wilson Road
- Ken Petrie, d/b/a Jct. Development - 30 unit, multi-family residential project, 47 Susie Wilson Road
- Tom Shepard, d/b/a Wedgewood Development Corp. - 5 lot residential subdivision, 6 Lamore Road
- The Offset House - 60,000 sq. ft. addition to an existing printing operation, 89 Sand Hill Road
- Peter Edelman, d/b/a Essex Inn Partners, LTD, 12,600 sq. ft. health spa building, 70 Essex Way
- DDH-GSH Trust & Gabe Handy - 24 unit congregate housing project, 21 & 23 Pinecrest Drive
- Hector Leclair d/b/a Forestdale Heights, Inc., 11 lot commercial subdivision, Corporate Drive
- Nelson & Patricia Chagnon - 9,000 sq. ft. commercial bldg., Lots 17 & 25 Gauthier Industrial Pk.
- Peter Edelmann, d/b/a Eurowest Retail Partners, LTD - 12,094 sq. ft. hardware store, 21 Essex Way
- Essex Inn Partnership, LTD and Christine Bacon, d/b/a Northern Lights - outdoor recreation facility, 14 Freeman Woods

Community Development Services Report						
Discretionary Review Activity	Calendar Year					
	2006			2007		
Zoning Board of Adjustment						
Conditional Use/Amendment	2/4			4		
Variance	0			2		
Unspecified Use	0			1		
Planning Commission						
Subdivision.....						
• Sketch Plan/Extension	5			5/3		
• Preliminary	4			3		
• Final Plan/Plan Amendment	10/4			7		
• Boundary Adjustment	2			7		
• Simple Parcel Split	4			1		
• Reconsideration	1			1		
Project Review.....						
• Site Plan	1			3		
• Site Plan Amendment	20			17		
Total Discretionary Activity	53			47		
Zoning Permit Applications Received	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Accessory Apartment	0	0	2	1	2	7
Condo/Townhouse	23	10	55	98	5	7
Congregate Housing	0	0	0	0	0	1
Home Occupation	9	4	4	3	9	4
Miscellaneous Permit	4	6	5	11	4	5
Mobile Home	0	1	0	0	0	0
New Agricultural Building (add/alt)	3	0	0	1	1	0
New Commercial/Industrial Building (add/alt)	22	17	14	15	17	11
Residential (add/alt)	128	106	116	84	107	71
Residential Garage	16	11	10	7	14	7
Residential Storage Building	26	24	9	15	14	17
Sign Permit	17	13	15	15	18	11
Single-Family Home	7	19	24	9	6	15
Swimming Pool	10	8	14	8	5	3
Rebuild/Replace Single-Family/Mobile Home	1	2	1	3	2	1
Renewal of Permit	3	4	3	3	1	2
Use/Change in Use/Temp Use	14	10	5	6	16	7
Septic	24	38	33	29	26	19
Subtotal, Permits Issued	307	273	310	308	247	188
Permits Denied	1	0	0	1	1	0
Applications Withdrawn/Voided	1	0	0	1	0	1
Total Zoning Permit Activity	309	273	310	310	248	189

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Geoff Glaspie, 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.

The Town of Essex continues to face a number of current and future conservation challenges:

- the Town continues to lose significant portions of its critical open space (including prime farmland, forest, scenic corridors, and wildlife habitats) through development;
- has two major waterways on the State list of impaired waterways; and
- is under constant pressure to develop economically but in a sustainable manner.

The Conservation Committee strives to identify opportunities to improve, protect, and preserve the natural resources of Essex through collaboration with the Town committees and staff, and ongoing activities in the community. In these efforts, the Committee endeavors to maintain the Town's natural heritage and exceptional quality of life.

The Conservation Committee's accomplishments covering the period of July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007 include:

- Ongoing support and periodic review (with staff and consultants) of the Open Lands study grant findings. The grant was awarded in the fall 2006.
- Participated in the first of two workshops aimed at reporting on the above open lands grant, discussing mechanisms for long-term protection of key parcels, and setting priorities for the Town's open land resources.
- Coordinated a Photo Contest for residents of the Town and Village in conjunction with the study and report-out on open lands study.
- Held a Green-Up Day event to clean up the Saxon Hill area.
- Ongoing review of new and re-development applications, with an emphasis on ensuring the strategic conservation elements of the Town Plan are considered.
- Worked through several iterations in developing riparian buffer ordinances in collaboration with staff and state-sponsored specialists.
- Monitored and stayed connected on landfill development activity in the region in order to ensure the Town of Essex's natural communities and environment are protected.
- Met with the State Conservation Biologist to develop a better understanding of the critical areas of the Town's wildlife community's needs.

20

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Greg Morgan, Chair

During the past year there was a slew of economic development activity within the Town. Highlights of the past year are:

- The Economic Development Commission met with a representative of the Westford-Underhill-Jericho Fiber-Optic project to learn about how the three Towns are working to bring cable and high-speed Internet services to their communities. The Commission will keep abreast of the project in case there is an opportunity for the Town to become involved in bringing a similar service to the residents of Essex.
- The Town applied for and was awarded a Community Development Block Grant for \$490,000, funds that will be loaned to the Cathedral Square Corporation. The funds will be used to construct 48 affordable senior housing units in the Town Center area. This project will help to fulfill the Town Center vision while providing housing units that are in high demand.
- Green Mountain Coffee Roasters opened a new facility in Essex off from Kellogg Road for the manufacturing and distribution of their single-serve coffee-brewing line.
- Autumn Harp, a personal care product company based in Bristol VT, will be opening a facility in Essex's Forestdale Technology Park.
- The Inn at Essex will be adding a fishing pond, spa, and rock climbing and outdoor ropes course facility.
- A plan for a Lowe's Home Center, to be located in the former Ames shopping center off Susie Wilson Road, received Town approval and is awaiting Act 250 approval.
- The Economic Development Commission provided the Planning Commission with comments on updates to the Town zoning bylaws with particular attention paid to the Town Center area.
- The Circumferential Highway Environmental Impact Statement process continued, with the release of a draft statement in August. A Final Environmental Impact Statement identifying a project for construction is due in late 2008.

The Commission extends its sincere appreciation to Sheri Larsen, who was a member of the commission for 20 years, for all of her hard work and dedication to the Town of Essex over the years! We also wish to thank Assistant Town Manager Todd Odit for his support, patience and guidance.

ENERGY TASK FORCE

Irene Wrenner, Chair

Initial Assignment: Plan, organize and promote a successful community-wide Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) bulb-swapping campaign with Efficiency Vermont's advice and assistance.

Problem: Essex is an area with a high demand for electricity. If actions are not taken to reduce this level of demand, costly capital improvements will be needed in the near future.

Goal: Encourage residents and businesses to swap out incandescent light bulbs – working ones, too – for energy-saving CFLs, to reduce demand for electricity and postpone the need for new power lines.

Objectives:

- Sell 50,000 CFLs through participating retailers between October 13, 2007 and April 15, 2008
- Educate Essex residents as to the benefits of a light bulb “SmartSwap,” the name of this effort.

Reasons to SmartSwap bulbs: The average household uses at least 40 light bulbs. Replacing just one 60W incandescent bulb with a 13W CFL will save \$45 in electricity costs over its lifetime. Replacing all incandescent light bulbs will save a homeowner hundreds of dollars. Because CFLs last up to eight times longer than incandescents, buying fewer replacements saves more money.

Eight members of the Essex community, plus a representative from Efficiency Vermont, have met weekly since mid-October to brainstorm unique ways to persuade residents to save money and energy by SmartSwapping their bulbs. Everyone can make a difference!

In the first 10 weeks of this promotion, members have dressed up as a blue Energy Star – thanks to a costume loan from Efficiency Vermont – to attend local craft fairs, run in a 5K footrace, and knock on doors. They have talked with folks at local schools and parks, and shown how switching to a CFL from an incandescent reduces electrical consumption, demonstrated visually with an electrical meter.

A CFL bulb giveaway was conducted in conjunction with the annual Tree Lighting and Sing-A-Long on the Essex Common in December. Another bulb giveaway is planned at the food shelf distribution in January. Members of the Task Force believe the opportunity to try products before buying them may convince skeptics of the CFL's merits.

One member created a life-size CFL bulb for display in public venues. The Task Force held a contest to honor the most festive-yet-frugal holiday lighting display using super-efficient LED (light-emitting diode) bulbs. High school youth were asked to help publicize SmartSwap via their artwork – and their drama skills – by recording public service announcements. The Essex Free and Brownell libraries graciously loaned prime space for month-long SmartSwap display tables. Members have written articles and provided photos, published by the Essex Reporter and Burlington Free Press.

In the last months, members of the Task Force spoke to various audiences about SmartSwap, co-hosted a Sustainability Fair at Memorial Hall and, on March 8, 2008, will celebrate “SmartSwap Day.”

Wondering what to do with the incandescent bulbs you swap out? Let the Energy Task Force take them off your hands for future projects! Contact SmartSwap@essex.org or visit www.SmartSwap.org. Thank you!

ESSEX COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Ann Gray, President

The Essex Community Historical Society would like to take this opportunity to share with you our activities and accomplishments for the past fiscal year, 2006-07.

This year we had three public presentations by local residents. In a joint program with the Brownell Library, Noah Thompson shared his memories about his WWII experiences and reflections from his book "A Vermont WWII Bomber Pilot's Story." Tom Jiamachello, an antique appraiser, helped the audience see the difference between the new and old. The program titled "Yesteryear Here" allowed the audience to see different pieces in pottery, china, glassware and metals. The last presentation was at our annual meeting where Judy Dow used artifacts to tell the story of how the Native Americans in our area evolved and survived all the societal changes.

A very special project that we accomplished was "Capturing the Essex Landscape – Views We See Daily." In partnership with the Essex Art League, we were able to have 71 pieces of art created of the Essex landscape. The High School Fine Arts Program students participated and did an excellent job. The project ended with a viewing time and auction.

Our theme and exhibit for the Vermont History Expo 2007 held at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds in June was "How the Railroad Changed our Community." This same exhibit was shared with the community at the Essex Junction Block Party in late July.

Hubie Norton and friends, who are in the process of finding the appropriate materials for the renovations, are still renovating the 1805 School House, located on the commons in Essex Center.

There are two new displays at our museum. Laurie Jordan was responsible for making a display titled "Maple Syrup Produced in Essex." A display titled "Essex Duck Decoy Wood Carvers" was created by George Clapp.

The Board of Directors decided to increase the hours that the Harriet Farnsworth Powell Museum would be open. In addition to the Sunday afternoon hours, the museum will be open Thursday evening from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. from June to September. This is to coincide with the Essex Free Library hours so that individuals doing research will have access to both resources at the same time.

Our mission is to preserve and reflect Essex's history for the community. This is accomplished by our post office displays, our newsletter, opening the Fort Ethan Allen Water Tower, hosting school classes, presentations to boy/girl scout troops and church youth groups all seeking more information about our past.

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, 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

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate **Chief Howard Rice, Jr.** on his new career as the full-time Fire Chief for the Town of Falmouth, Maine, and to thank Chief Rice for his years of dedicated service to the Town of Essex. His commitment to the Essex Fire Department and the entire Vermont Fire Service has been tremendous and will be deeply missed.

Membership in the Essex Fire Department has dropped during the past year from 47 members to the current level of 38, yet our calls for service rose to an all-time high of 932 calls. This is an increase of over 12% with an average of 2.6 calls per day.

The following is a breakdown of our calls for service by type:

TYPE	FYE2007	TYPE	FYE2007
Car Accidents	123	Chimney Fires	6
Fire Alarms	118	Vehicle Fires	8
Medical Response	457	Power Line Down	26
Brush Fires	28	Search & Rescue	2
Hazardous Materials	25	Electrical Fires	6
Structure Fires	26	Standbys	21
Carbon Monoxide	25	Other	30
Smoke in Building	31	TOTAL	932

Response to Fire Calls

The above types of calls reflect the major categories that we report to the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), however, there are two very basic types of responses: medical response calls and all others that are characterized as a fire call. There are many factors that go into what apparatus will respond to specific calls, and even further as to how many firefighters will be needed to handle that emergency. Federal and State laws regulate our actions and dictate how many personnel must be at an incident. This is commonly referred to as the “two in, two out” rule. Simply put, for every two people that are working on the inside at an incident, there must be two people on the outside who are ready to relieve/replace/rescue them at a moment’s notice. This places a need upon us to insure that we have enough firefighters responding to every call. For this, we rely on mutual aid agreements with our surrounding communities. The most notable agreement is the one we share with the Essex Junction Fire Department to provide automatic response coverage to both communities. They truly are an integral part of our regular operations and I want to thank the men and women of the Essex Junction Fire Department for their service. In addition, we provide an automatic response to Westford for both fire and medical calls and we have Colchester Center Fire Company responding with us in the Fort Ethan Allen area. Besides our automatic responses, we also know that Underhill, Jericho, and Williston Fire Departments are a short distance away and always ready to respond. Together this system allows us to ensure that we can safely and expeditiously mitigate any emergency.

Emergency Medical First Response

We continue to work closely with our service partner, Essex Rescue, Inc., to provide rapid professional emergency medical response to all persons who live, work, and visit our community. When a medical emergency occurs, our first responders (those members who are trained as emergency medical technicians) respond directly to the scene to initiate emergency care before the ambulance arrives. Essex Fire Department is licensed at the Advanced Life Support level of care and is able to provide the highest level of care allowed by law. We provide radio updates to the incoming ambulance and assist them in loading the patient for transport to the hospital. In cases where no one requires transport to the hospital, such as a car accident where some or all of the occupants deny injury, we are able to keep the ambulance in service for other calls. On the other hand, when calls involve multiple patients, we can triage the extent of the injuries and how many ambulances will be needed to accommodate all of the injured. This is especially important if the primary ambulance is already handling another call and a second ambulance has to be staffed from Essex or brought in from another service such as Saint Michael’s College or

Colchester Rescue. This service is included as part of our overall operating budget and is provided without further charge to any person.

Fire Cadet Program

The Essex Fire Department is excited to announce the re-institution of the Fire Cadet Program for 16 and 17 year olds. This program is designed to recruit, train, and develop responsible youths for service in the Essex Fire Department. In addition to our general requirements, Cadet candidates are required to maintain a passing grade of C or better in all academic courses and have at least two letters of reference from their teachers. Additionally, Cadets are restricted from certain duties on the fire ground such as interior firefighting and operating apparatus. They can, however, perform many other very important and critical functions at the scene of an emergency. Cadets are assigned to a company Lieutenant and are issued full personal protective gear. If you or a person you know is at least 16 years of age and wants to provide a public service to the community, then we want to hear from you!

Community Service/Public Education

The Essex Fire Department continues to participate in various community public safety activities, including visits to schools and daycare providers to discuss fire safety, hosting various groups at the fire station for tours and discussions, and through active participation in the Essex School Public Safety Committee. This past year, our annual Open House in October saw an estimated 400 visitors to the fire station. The Open House coincides with National Fire Prevention Week and offers various fire prevention activities and displays for children and adults.

General Membership

Being a Firefighter, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Dispatcher, or Safety Officer requires countless hours of training. In addition to the two hours of training every Monday night, the members achieve some or all of the following certifications: Firefighter Level I; Firefighter Level II; EMT Basic and EMT Intermediate are achievements that require a minimum of 120 hours to complete the initial certification, as well as ongoing annual training and recertification. Ongoing training is necessary to keep us current with new technology, techniques, and information. Being a VOLUNTEER organization, our dedicated members complete all of the training around their personal lives, their full-time careers, and of course, the 932 calls for service that were answered this past year.

With such a demand for family, time, and service, we are always looking for additional members. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about being a member of the Essex Fire Department, please stop by the fire station any Monday evening from 7-9 p.m. or check us out on the web at www.EssexFire.com.

2007 OFFICERS

Deputy Chief Al Foice	Fire Chief Charles J. Cole	Captain Greg Conner
Lieutenant Sean Soper	Asst Chief Phil Noyes, Jr.	Lieutenant Eric Lemire
	Lieutenant Dave Sheeran	
	Lieutenant Curtis Pollard	

MEMBERS

Jess Baker	George Henry	Lorrie Noyes	Matt Veilleux
Matt Clow	Dan Hill	Kurt Poulin	Mike Veilleux
Matt Cohen	John Jacob	Larry Ransom	Sharon Veilleux
Mike DePaul	Kent Koptiuch	Bill Reams	Austin Whitaker
Norm Drolette	Sherb Lang	Mike Restucci	Matt Windisch
Tim Francis	Katrina Lemire	Tom Richards	Jason Ziter
Cheryl Foice	Sara Matthews	Clayton Snelling	Barb Forsyth
	Cory Noyes (Cadet)	Mike Sweeney	

25

ESSEX FREE LIBRARY
Susan L. Overfield, Head Librarian

“The price of apathy towards public affairs is to be ruled by evil men.”
Plato

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS-- For this year, 10 and 20 years ago:

	Number of Titles	Total Circulation	AV+ Titles	AV+ Circulation	ILL* Loaned	ILL* Borrowed	Total Patrons
2007	32,961	123,522	4,645	34,102	1,476	359	8,960
1997	18,686	77,962	884	NA	417	292	6,093
1987	6,722	23,310	47	NA	0	0	2,418

**ILL is short for Inter-Library Loan. “Borrowed” titles are not owned but were borrowed for Essex patrons from other libraries. “Loaned” titles are sent to other libraries for use by their patrons. AV+Are audio and video titles.*

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

HOURS

Monday, Wednesday and Friday	10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday	10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Saturday	10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The library follows the Town of Essex holiday schedule with the following exceptions:

CLOSED the Saturdays of Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends and irregularly at Christmas and 4th of July. Library service is also curtailed the first weekend of June for the annual Book, Bake and Plant Sale and the first weekend of November for the Cozy Nook Craft Fair.

IMPROVEMENTS

The Library’s catalog is now available to patrons from home via the Internet. Google “Essex Free Library” and then click on the catalog link in the upper right hand corner. Feel free to call or email for reserves.

VOL – Vermont On-Line

The Essex community library continues to contribute to VOL (Vermont On-Line) in partnership with many other Vermont public libraries as well as the Vermont Department of Libraries. Patrons may access a variety of Gale databases, which include InfoTrac, magazine and newspaper articles and health and wellness sites. Many of the articles are full text and may be printed either at the library or on your home printer. Pick up a colorful brochure that fully describes these databases at the library. To access:

1. Click on “Related Links” at the bottom of the Library’s web page.
2. Locate VOL option and call the library for the current password, as it changes periodically.

HERITAGEQUEST – On-Line Genealogy Searching allows searching for family histories through census records, war era pension records and 1.6 million genealogy and local history articles. This service can also be accessed using the process described above.

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.
2. Phone Services – Save yourself a trip (and conserve gas) by calling the library anytime for book renewals, to initiate Inter-Library Loan requests, to register for programs and for quick reference

questions. Always call if you have a question about an overdue book or bill notice you may have received – we do make mistakes! Messages can also be left on the answering machine after hours.

3. HEMECARD Privileges – Essex residents have access to all Chittenden County libraries (with the exception of the Fletcher Free Library in Burlington) when they show their valid library card. Current cards are a vivid green color. Updating will begin anew at the end of 2008.
4. Copier – The copier is available for the public to use. The fee is 10 cents per page.
5. Meeting Space – Small, not-for-profit groups of up to 12 people may use the activity room when there are no library programs scheduled. Please call to reserve the space in advance. Students wishing to study as a group may always use this space if it is available. Larger groups can also make special arrangements for the use of the Main Reading Room.
6. Inter-Library Loan – The library is happy to locate titles that are not in this library’s collection. Libraries throughout the state cooperate to share their collections. Out-of-state requests are also facilitated, although there may be fees charged by the lending libraries and the wait can be lengthy.
7. Tax Forms – Federal and Vermont State tax forms are available beginning in early January. There is also a binder that includes Federal forms that can be reproduced if you need one that is more obscure.
8. Internet Access – Patrons may access the Internet from three public workstations located on the mezzanine. Printing services are available from all workstations. Please sign in at the main desk at the beginning of your session.
9. Tech-Tips – Patrons may request individual help sessions to learn to use email, the Internet or the on-line links “Heritage Plus” and “Vermont On-line.” Please speak to a librarian to set up a convenient time.
10. Echo Pass – This pass, available on a “first come, first served” basis allows families to enjoy this popular waterfront museum at a wonderful savings.
11. Test Proctoring – Staff is available to provide test proctoring for distance learners residing in Essex. Please contact library staff for further details.
12. 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.
13. Word Processing – The three mezzanine computers can also be used for word processing and document printing. They do not open disks brought in from outside.
14. Book Discussion groups are invited to make use of the many sets available at the library. These multiple copy sets may be checked out by either groups or individuals. The Library Trustees support these literary groups throughout the State by purchasing six new sets each year. The current list of titles can be viewed on the Library’s homepage.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS – The 225 programs offered by the Library this year were attended by over 4,500 adults and children. The following were among the more unique:

1. Noontime Book Discussions started in March on the last Thursday of each month except December and the summer. Books discussed in 2007 were: “*When the Emperor was Divine,*” “*Five Quarters of the Orange,*” and “*Skeletons of the Zahara.*” Join in anytime when titles may interest you. A modest number of copies are available for participants and the lively discussions last about one hour.
2. Children’s Story Times for toddlers and pre-schoolers were held during five or six-week sessions throughout the school year. Daytime programs on Wednesdays and Thursdays were held in the Activity Room and were by pre-registration to keep the programs cozy and personal. Monday morning Drop-In Story Time programs were open to all without pre-registration.
3. Summer Reading Program offered an array of programs and reading incentives that kept vacationing students reading and visiting the library regularly. This summer’s readers read a total of 2,540 books (including the last Harry Potter tome) as they participated in programs geared to the summer theme “Get a Clue @ Your Library.”

4. Language Classes, again this year, focused on Spanish for children entering grades 1 to 4, and were generously funded by the Friends and Trustees of the Library.
5. A Magical Harry Potter Night was held on the tenth day before the publication of the final book in this series. Enriched by the participation of enthusiastic adults, 40 children and enthralled adults spent the night attending Hogwarts classes, exploring the nooks of the library and cemetery for clues and finally creating a puzzle of great portent and potions – some bad and some delicious.

Two special programs were offered this year that focused on the Middle East. Jane Vossler brought a group of visiting Afghanistan teens for a delightful night of slides and cultural information. Lydia Johnson spent an evening telling of her semester-long stay, through the Vermont Intercultural Semester, in the remote province of Ladakh in Northern India. How impressive all these teens were and how amazing were the worlds and words they conveyed.

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

It is with great pride and appreciation that I write the narrative for the 2007 Town Report on behalf of the men and women who serve with Essex Rescue. I would first like to extend my thanks and appreciation to the citizens, businesses, and Town management for their continued support of our organization and educational programs. We also want to recognize all our mutual aid partners in rescue, fire, and law enforcement for their continued cooperation, joint efforts, and leadership. This cohesive team of emergency responders has allowed us to provide a better level of service to the community.

We especially want to recognize and extend our thanks and gratitude to the families of our members. The sacrifices that family members give throughout the year are many, from missed birthdays, delayed and/or missed holidays, children's events and many other family activities. Without the support of our families, none of us would be able to make the commitment required to provide this service to the community.

Since 1971, Essex Rescue has been providing prompt and professional medical response 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Essex Rescue serves the communities of Essex, Essex Junction, Underhill, Jericho and Westford with pre-hospital advanced life support services. In fiscal year 2007 Essex Rescue responded to a total of 1,554 calls. We have 64 volunteers and 4 paid staff members. Our volunteer members have contributed more than 35,000 hours of volunteer service in addition to the time they spent on education and community outreach. 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 have been awarded a grant from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to implement a comprehensive wellness and fitness program for our members. The DHS grant includes medical and physical fitness evaluations, fitness trainers, nutrition education, and appropriate fitness equipment. This grant will improve the health and safety of Essex Rescue's volunteers and full-time paid staff. It will do so by improving our membership's overall health, reducing their risk of exposures, on-the-job injuries, and providing musculoskeletal injury prevention and thus a safer, healthier work force.

Essex Rescue is proud to attract so many volunteers, and retaining these resources is crucial to our ability to maintain a combination department. We are made up of over 95% volunteers, and this is a big part of our being able to control cost at the same time that we are providing more services to our community.

We would like to inform you that our File of Life community outreach program is still available. The File of Life is a tool used by the community to record medical history and medications. This information is then available to first responders and ambulance personnel to assist in treatment during a medical emergency. If you are interested in obtaining a File of Life, or becoming a volunteer with Essex Rescue, please call us at 878-4859 or visit our website at www.essexrescue.org for more information.

29

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. The 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, were done during the swimming season. All testing came back normal. Regarding Indian Brook Reservoir, the public must always pick up after their animals, including horses. These measures will protect the Reservoir.

All dogs, cats and ferrets are required to have a rabies shot on a regular basis. Dogs must also be licensed with the Town Clerk on an annual basis.

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 seriously quite active among the wild animal kingdom. Remember to stay away from wild animals. For information about rabies, call 1-800-472-2437.

Continue to take safeguards regarding the West Nile Virus, as it is active in Vermont.

According to statistics at this time, the Avian Flu has not arrived in the U.S. Your health officers have been attending training sessions on how to deal with the Avian Flu if it should become a reality in Vermont.

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.

The State of Vermont Department of Health is located at 108 Cherry Street, Burlington, Vermont and their website is 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

Located on Towers Road in Essex Center, Memorial Hall was built to honor Essex civil war dead. The names of these individuals are inscribed on a granite plaque above the front entrance.

Originally built as the Essex Town Hall, this historic building has served the community of Essex for over 135 years. Organizations, Town leaders and volunteers have helped this structure escape the wrecking-ball fate that has become common in today's society.

In 1989, the voters of the Town of Essex directed the Town to preserve and maintain Memorial Hall for the benefit of the community. The heating system was changed and windows and slate roof repaired.

During FYE2007, there were 351 reservations for Memorial Hall. Of these, 122 were for the Essex Community Players (plays, rehearsals, auditions, meetings) and 123 were for the Parks & Recreation Department. The remaining users include rental of the Hall for weddings, receptions, meetings and dance classes. The Town charges a minimal fee for use of the facility, which helps to defray the tax burden. The total revenue from these uses during FYE2007 was \$4,335.

Improvements that were made to Memorial Hall during FYE2007 include the following:

- heating and ventilation system upgraded with programmable thermostat;
- insulation of third floor of building;
- removing of bat guano from the third floor; and
- repair and sealing of building to keep out bats.

Other improvements will take place, as funds are available.

Members of the Memorial Hall Committee include Carole Ann Greig, Jan Ellis-Clements, Patrick Scheidel, and Irene Wrenner. There are currently three vacancies on the Committee. If you are interested in serving your community in this capacity, please send a letter of interest to the Town Manager, 81 Main Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452 or email us at pscheidel@essex.org.

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 provide facilities that are safe, clean and green.

Improvements to the parks in FYE07 included:

- Installed stairs to Prairie Fields
- Replaced bridge on Shillingford Crossing Trail
- Resurfaced tennis court at Sand Hill Park
- Patched and repaired basketball court at Sand Hill Park.
- Installed bridge along trail at Saxon Hill

Scheduled or completed improvements to the parks for FYE08 include:

- Installation of playground at Foster Road Park
- Install lighting at Sand Hill Shelter
- Painting and repairs to the Gazebo at Fort Ethan Allen Park
- Improvements to bathroom at Foster Road Park
- Install safety lighting at Pearl Street Park
- Turf maintenance on athletic fields

Recreation

Recreation programs are developed to meet the needs of the community. Through our diverse programs, we continue to promote health and wellness, exercise and fitness, environmental stewardship and community building.

Accomplishments in FYE07 include:

- 23% increase in summer day camp registration
- Increase in Internet registration from 13% to 21%
- Increase in senior trips
- 25% of Adult and Youth classes were new

Program goals for FYE08 include:

- Offering additional summer camp programs
- Increase family programming

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.

Improvements to the pool in FYE07 included:

- Repainting of changing room

Scheduled or completed improvements for FYE08 include:

- Replacing stainless steel stairs
- Replacing bathroom partitions
- Replacing wading pool with sprayground

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.

Improvements to the Senior vans in FYE07 included:

- Replaced ten-year-old van with new van.

33

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Leo Nadeau, Chief of Police

Last August, Chief David Demag retired after providing our community with six years of admirable police services. He came to our department with a vast array of police experience that encompassed over thirty years. His innovative and inspiring vision helped continue our department on the progressive path.

Following Chief Demag's retirement, I was appointed as your Chief of Police. I am extremely honored and grateful for the opportunity to serve our community in such a capacity. My vision for our department is to continue on our established quest of providing the utmost in professional police services to our citizens. The entire membership of the Essex Police Department will continue to be guided by our Mission Statement that can be found at our website (www.epdvt.org).

Just over one year ago, our department faced one of the most challenging crime sprees in our community's history. Within a relatively short period of time, we were involved in the investigations of two murders and two attempted murders. This crime spree not only shocked our community, but also affected many throughout Vermont and beyond.

It is important to remember that as sad and senseless as these crimes were, our community was fortunate in having police, emergency medical responders, fire department personnel, school officials, and volunteer relocation site representatives from the Essex Alliance Church, collectively working together as a team to manage our misfortune. This team was established in 1996 with the formation of the Essex School Public Safety Committee. During the school year, the committee meets monthly to pre-plan for various incidents such as shootings, hazardous chemical spills, major medical problems, school bus crashes, natural disasters and other emergencies. The goal of the committee is to help make our schools as safe as possible and to strive to be prepared to deal with various school related emergencies.

Our court system is overloaded with pending cases. Our department is attempting to do its part in relieving the pressure by being actively involved with the Essex Community Restorative Justice Program. The program, funded by a grant from the Vermont Department of Corrections, offers alternative solutions when dealing with individuals who, as a result of their actions, have become involved in the criminal justice system.

The Essex Community Restorative Justice Program's Board is made up of a paid Director and volunteers from the community. The Board is used by the Vermont Department of Corrections for reparative cases that involve our local citizens. The Board works together to provide assistance and support in the areas of preventing crime, resolving conflicts and rendering justice. The program allows a community to take responsibility for the quality of life by making violators accountable for their crimes and focus on ways they can pay back both the victims and the community. It helps resolve disputes and crimes using processes that seek to include everyone affected. It focuses on the needs of the victims and the community and emphasizes repairing the harm resulting from crime and conflict. It seeks to preserve and elevate the quality of life by empowering citizens to work on the problems that most concern our community. For further information go to www.epdvt.org related links page.

Just over a year ago, the department began an initiative of identifying and investigating illicit drug activity within the community. Officers from all divisions including patrol, detective, and management work collectively to develop, document and communicate drug information throughout the department. Officers are finding they spend a significant amount of their time dealing with illicit drug activity and its residual effects. Working closely with other police departments and the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration, the community has seen a significant increase in the number of drug cases that often leads to the seizure of personal property obtained as a result of the drug activity. The Federal Government's Asset Forfeiture Program permits the seizure of drug trade assets and allows such proceeds to revert back to law enforcement organizations. Two recent drug investigations led to the seizure of a

2007 GMC Denali and a 2007 van. The GMC will replace the department’s 2003 SUV; the department’s Tactical Response Team will utilize the van.

Beyond enforcement, the department continues with its drug and alcohol awareness program known as Project Northland. Officers work closely with local schools in grades 6 through 8 to provide education regarding resistance to alcohol, drug abuse and negative peer pressure. The program’s goal is to delay the age when young people begin drinking and to reduce drinking among those who have already started. The project is based on an approach that helps young people understand and resist social pressures to drink alcohol or use other drugs.

REPORTED CRIME ACTIVITY

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
HOMICIDE	0	0	0	0	2
ROBBERIES	1	0	4	1	3
BURGLARIES	98	92	75	92	49
ASSAULTS	51	54	50	43	42
SEX OFFENSES	29	29	29	20	35
DRUG OFFENSES	129	81	77	84	175
LARCENIES	366	408	462	441	470
VANDALISM	239	197	158	230	250
STOLEN VEHICLES	7	9	12	10	8
SUICIDES / ATTEMPTS	11	6	5	5	5
MISSING PERSONS	63	54	31	43	50
BAD CHECKS / FRAUD	183	216	204	177	131
D.U.I	110	90	80	66	42
COURT CASES	543	569	620	626	628
ACCIDENTS	542	574	555	492	506

There were 3,343 tickets written for traffic and parking violations, of these 875 were Vermont Traffic Citations.

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

The Department of Public Works met its primary objectives during the past year to include providing quality, responsive service to its customers, addressing the infrastructure needs of the community and protecting the public health. High materials and fuel prices were partially offset by a mild winter with reductions in salt use and overtime. The actual budget expenditures for the year were less than the approved combined budgets for Highway, Administration, Buildings, Landfill Testing, Conservation and Storm-water by .4% without grants and by 2% including grants. With the continued high cost for energy and the financial impact of reappraisal on taxpayers, the challenge will be to continue maintaining a high level of service concurrent with customer expectation to reduce costs. The Department will seek grant money wherever possible to leverage local funds and to develop greater efficiency in daily operations.

HIGHWAY

Town Projects completed during the past year include asphalt overlay of Essex Way from VT15 to east of the Circumferential Highway (with a State Class II paving grant), Oakwood Lane, Gardenside Lane, Bluestem Road, Button Drive, Alder Brook Road, Linden Lane, Rosewood Trail and Fern Hollow; area improvements on a number of gravel roads to include sections of Brigham Hill Road, Lost Nation Road and Osgood Hill Road; crack-sealing and spot repairs on many Town roads, road maintenance and winter plowing on 23.16 miles of gravel and 51.6 miles of paved roads with 10 highway employees and one mechanic.

Work in Progress: Designs have been completed for a new traffic signal and lane widening at the Susie Wilson/David Drive/Marketplace intersection; bidding and construction will begin in the spring of 2008. The Susie Wilson Road corridor may also be upgraded significantly in 2008 to better handle peak hour traffic, depending upon the result of development approvals currently awaiting decisions under Act 250. Designs are in progress for an improved intersection with traffic signals at the Sand Hill Road/ VT117 intersection by VTRANS with construction scheduled for 2009. The Selectboard has approved a scoping study for installation of a traffic signal at VT15/Sand Hill Road and the design stage is expected to start during late 2008. Construction is planned for improvements to the paved portion of Chapin Road during 2008, pending approval of the Capital Plan. Construction is also planned for an 8-foot wide paved walkway along the south side of VT15 from Saybrook Road to Sunset Drive, with proposed additional Capital funds.

With approval of the budget for FYE2009, the following roads are planned for paving, repaving or reconstruction as appropriate: Old Stage Road from #262 north to the Alder Brook crossing, Lang Drive, the last section of Logwood Circle, Cypress Lane, Tanglewood near Cindy Lane, Damon Drive, the last section of Pioneer Street, Ira Allen Drive, Greenbriar Drive and Susie Wilson Road from Abare Avenue to the end. The list may be adjusted due to changing conditions over the winter, higher hot mix costs or reduced budget levels. A conversion to bio-diesel is proposed in the budget to improve air quality and partially reduce the dependence on foreign oil.

STORM-WATER

Projects completed include compliance with the fourth year requirements of the community-wide NPDES Phase II Storm-water Permit; implementation of the adopted storm-water ordinance; development of zoning changes for riparian buffer protection in coordination with the Conservation Committee and Planning Commission, repair of deteriorated/damaged storm-water piping at various locations, 100% inventory of all storm-water pipe outfalls and 100% check of all catch basins, correction of erosion problems on Fern Hollow with the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, extensive catch basin

cleaning; street sweeping on all roads at least twice during the year; enlargement of a culvert at Lamell Avenue to assist in the relief of area groundwater problems, preparation of an extensive State-required report on illicit discharges; active participation in the regional storm-water education program; coordination of storm-water actions with other Town Departments and Boards.

Work in Progress: Construction is anticipated in early 2008 on a swirl separator for storm-water treatment in the Colbert Street area using grants and local funds; lining of the 42 inch culvert under Susie Wilson Road will occur using local funds and a \$172,000 VTRANS grant; designs are underway on a storm-water detention pond to handle the Kellogg Road area discharge to Sunderland Brook; resolution of permit issues in the impaired watersheds is being sought; new objectives will be set for the Town to achieve in the next five-year federally mandated NPDES Phase II permit: increased emphasis is being directed towards identification of illicit discharges; work on implementation (GIS mapping) of the riparian buffer ordinance.

WATER AND SEWER

Projects completed include construction of a waterline loop on lower Sand Hill to enable alternate water delivery points and improved water quality to residents between VT117 and Greenbriar Drive; construction of a waterline on a portion of Old Colchester Road to alleviate a well problem; increased system flushing due to the change in CWD chlorination and State requirements; completion of a pre-design study for upgrading the Alder Brook Pump Station to meet current standards.

Work in Progress: Design plans for the Alder Brook Pump Station upgrade have been initiated as well as new flow measurement systems to more accurately capture the Town flow to the Essex Junction wastewater facility; inventory/studies continue aimed at addressing grease problems in the Town's wastewater piping system; infiltration and inflow studies are being conducted as well as water loss studies to reduce revenue loss; alternative methods of billing for sewer/water are being investigated to reduce the impact of increased costs on system customers. A sewage spill prevention plan is under preparation to meet State requirements

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Projects completed include repainting of the Highway garage; an energy retrofit was done at Memorial Hall to help reduce the high heating costs; a grant was submitted to the Vermont Arts Council to improve the lighting and seating at Memorial Hall; handicapped access to the Library was improved.

Work in Progress: Application was made for a grant to improve facilities at Memorial Hall; a plan is being developed for improved storage and use of the space at Memorial Hall.

SUMMARY

With much uncertainty over energy issues and rising costs coupled with tight budget constraints due to the impact of reappraisal, the Department's approach continues to focus on the belief that every challenge represents a new opportunity for success.

**TOWN CLERK/TREASURER
Cheryl Moomey, Town Clerk and Treasurer**

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

Fish and Wildlife Licenses	\$514
Marriage Licenses.....	\$853
Dog Licenses	\$6,661

Liquor and Tobacco Licenses	\$4,200
Recording of Land Records	\$146,759
Vault Time.....	\$3,249
Copies and Certified Copies	\$19,546
Green Mountain Passes	\$114
Department of Motor Vehicle Registration Renewals	\$2,415

The Clerk’s Office recorded 33 volumes of Land Records and 726 Vermont Property Transfer returns for the period of July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007.

Vital records recorded in the Town of Essex from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007:

Births: 213 Marriages: 108 Deaths: 95 Civil Union: 2

The Annual Town Meeting election was held on March 5, 2007. The following officers were elected by Australian ballot:

Moderator: (One-Year Term)	Steve McQueen
Selectboard: (Three-Year Term)	Max Levy
Selectboard: (Three-Year Term)	Irene Wrenner

Article I: Shall the voters authorize the purchase of a fire truck in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 to be financed over a period not to exceed five years?

Number of votes in favor: 1154 Number of votes opposed: 500

On November 7, 2006, voters were asked to vote on the following article:

Article I: Shall the Town of Essex adopt the “Plan for Merger of the Town of Essex, Vermont and the Village of Essex Junction, Vermont” dated September 28, 2006 and the proposed Charter for the merged communities?

Number of votes in favor: 4376 Number of votes opposed: 4167

At a Special Town Meeting held on January 23, 2007, Town voters petitioned for a revote on the “Plan for Merger” with the following results:

Number of votes in favor: 2703 Number of votes opposed: 2890

Services available at the Town Clerk’s Office:

Record Land Records	Dog Licenses	Certified Copies of Vital Records
Pay Property Taxes	Marriage Licenses	Green Mountain Passports
Pay Water & Sewer Bills	Civil Union Licenses	Motor Vehicle Registration Renewals
Notary Public Service	Fish & Wildlife Licenses	Liquor Licenses

38

TRAILS COMMITTEE
Dana Baron, 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.

In 2007, much of our attention was focused on finding a way to build 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. Late in the year we received approval from the Selectboard to discuss this concept with VTRANS.

As trails and potential trails in the Town evolve, our committee realized that we needed to prioritize potential trails to better channel our efforts. We have been reviewing the various trail maps from the Essex Town Plan (bike, pedestrian, snowmobile, horse, ski, etc). We plan to rework the maps showing priority trails to help guide development review and potential grant writing efforts. Along the way, we are mapping all trail easements currently owned by the Town.

Our popular Trailkeeper program continued in 2007 with a few new trail caretakers signing on to monitor and maintain Town trails. 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.

The Trails Committee is currently made up of Dana Baron (Chair), Ed Ziemer, Robert Erickson and Robert Koziol. Town Recreation Director Mark Berry serves the committee well as staff liaison. As of December, the committee was short-handed, with one available opening. If you are interested in serving on the committee, contact the Town to see if there is still an opening.

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 pm at the Town Office building at 81 Main Street.

TOWN MANAGER
Patrick C. Scheidel

*“Be a lamp, or a lifeboat, or a ladder.
Help someone’s soul heal.
Walk out of your house like a shepherd.”*
-Rumi, poet and mystic (1207 – 1273)

The passage of time is cyclical and often marked by recurring events. The year 2007, like 1990, will be remembered for its town-wide revaluation. Fortunately, Montpelier provided funding to complete a consultant-aided, state-mandated reappraisal of all taxable property. The main purpose of a revaluation is to implement a measure of equity among all classifications of taxable property in a jurisdiction (Essex). Such a “reval” must be based upon fair market value. The scope and size of this task exacted a toll upon all who were involved. Our sincere gratitude is extended to the town staff, hired consultants, and appointed volunteers and affected citizens whose diligence, hard work and patience allowed this project to be completed with a modicum of disruption. Without **Randy Viens and Andrea Leo**, and their tenacious yet calm approach to this task, the “reval” would not have been completed on schedule nor on budget. To say that revaluation dominated the lives of many individuals this year is a major understatement.

Once again, Town employees participated in the Vermont League of Cities and Towns Health Trust Leader Program. This year more employees joined their co-workers in this self-managed wellness effort. In 2006, the net result of participating in this program returned \$14,000 to the Town of Essex. In 2007, the return was \$21,000. The participating employees are leading the way to a healthier, cost conscious organization. Thank you one and all!

Budget

Per Selectboard request, the proposed FYE 2009 budget is the FYE 2008 budget adjusted for inflation. Few discretionary expenditures are listed. Once again the local budget reflects demands made by federal and state government via unfunded mandates. One costly regular example is compliance with stormwater regulations, which requires a 2009 expenditure of \$209,000, an 8.7% increase. As mentioned above, the recent revaluation is the rare exception; it is a fully funded state mandate.

The proposed FYE 2009 budget shows an increase of \$285,615 or 3.1% over the current year. Salaries are budgeted at approximately 4%, excluding premium pay such as longevity, steps, holiday or overtime. Cost of living is projected to fluctuate between 3% and 4% next year.

Operating cost increases in gasoline, insurance and road materials are expected and budgeted accordingly. Unlike many employers facing double-digit increases in health insurance premiums, Essex saw health insurance rise a mere 3% over last year. In addition, employees in the aforementioned wellness program earned a cash return of \$21,000 to help offset health costs.

Revenue

Revenues are projected realistically. Non-tax revenues are not expected to grow. A marginal rise in penalties on delinquent taxes and building permits is shown based upon current year trends. Receipts from fees for mortgage refinancing continue to decline. The Town will lose \$87,000 from IBM. Meanwhile, an amount of \$225,000 appears as a one-time revenue source for 2009 per the Selectboard’s “tax relief” action in response to the CLA revaluation issue that negatively impacted village residents.

Capital

The capital budget for FYE 2009 is discussed in January and adopted in February. Improvements to fields, parks, buildings, highways, utility lines and paths totaling \$2,455,642 are proposed to be completed next year. Funding sources vary with the projects.

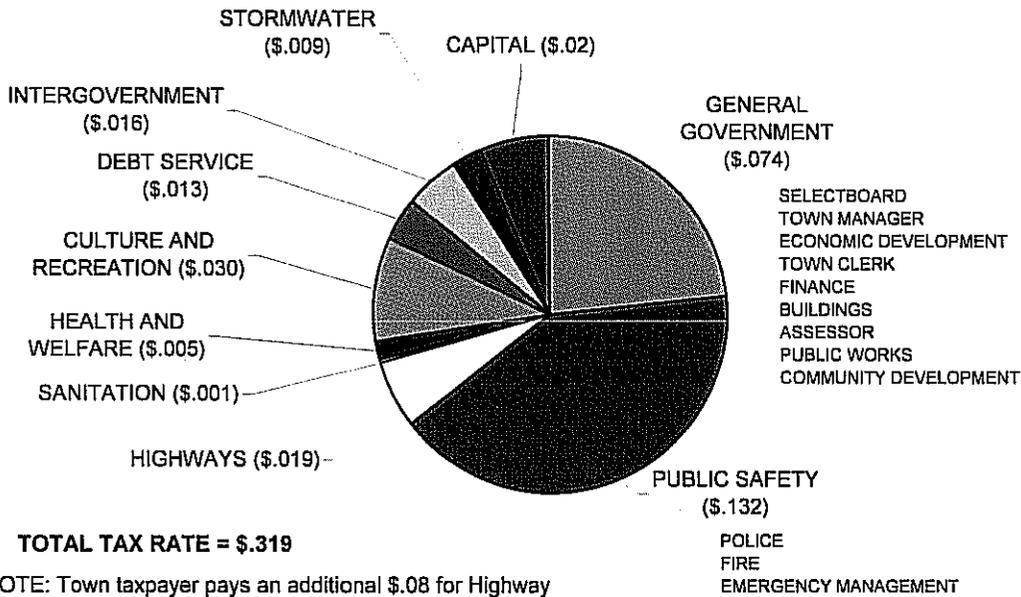
Capital needs will be the largest future cost center between now and the end of the next decade. The more resources that can be directed to our infrastructure now, the less costly future projects will be. It is certain that storm water management will necessitate major future spending, perhaps even resulting in the creation of a new utility to finance the undertaking.

Conclusion

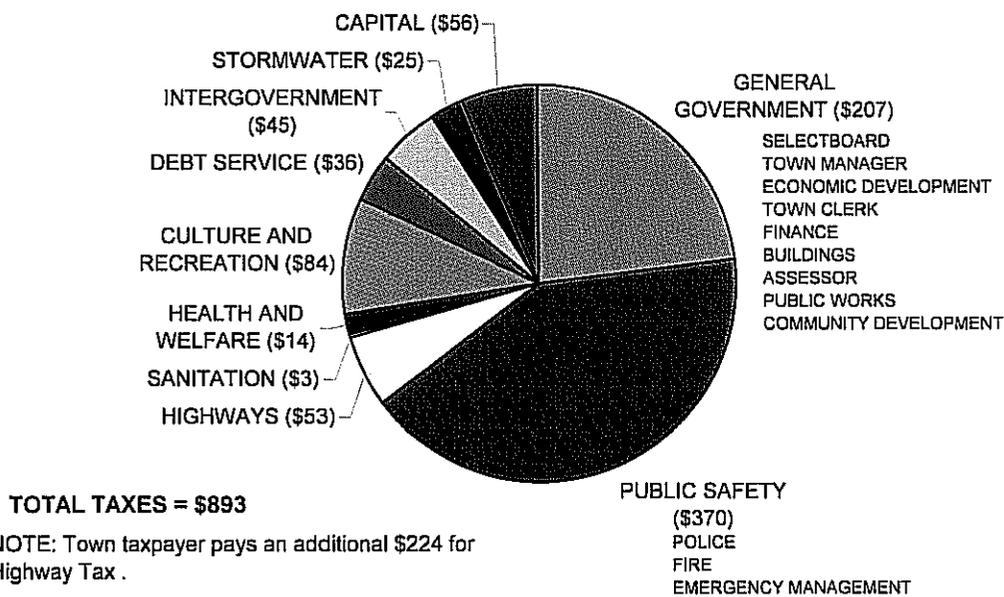
Due to the directive to submit a budget close to the expected cost of living, no new major programs, no personnel nor long-term organizational objectives were addressed in the 2009 budget. Funding for the Farm and Open Space contracts and the HDI tax stabilization agreement requires the local agreement rate of \$.0047. Because a penny generates approximately \$225,000 on the new grand list, the increase in the tax rate necessitated by this proposed budget is approximately one half of one penny (.005).

GENERAL FUND FOR FYE 6/30/2009

ESTIMATED TAX RATES BY CATEGORY



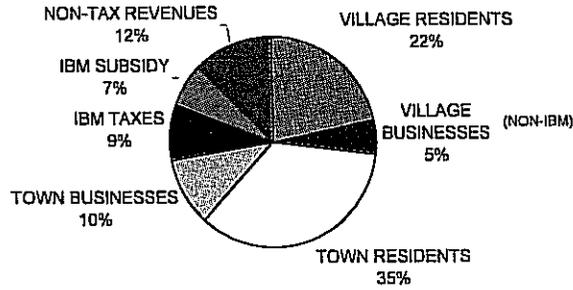
ESTIMATED TAXES ON \$280,000 HOME



TOWN GENERAL FUND REVENUE SOURCES

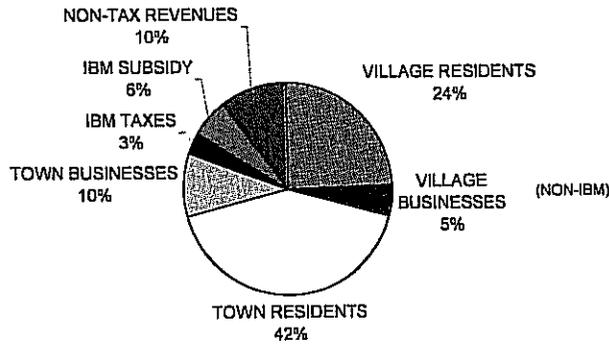
FYE 2007 ACTUAL

Before Reappraisal

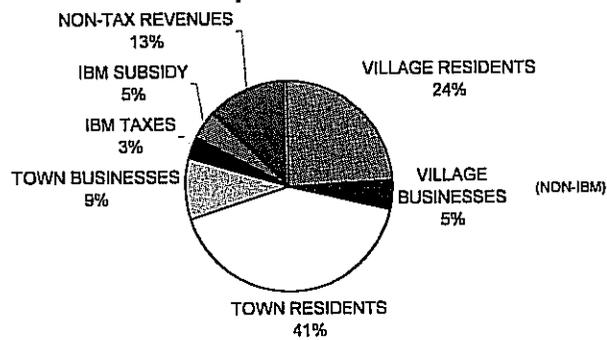


FYE 2008 ESTIMATED

After Reappraisal



FYE 2009 PROPOSED



* Non-Tax Revenues include one-time "Tax Relief" revenue source of \$225,000.

CAPITAL BUDGET AND PROGRAM
FYE 2009 - 2013

PROJECT	TOTAL COST	FYE 6/09	FYE 6/10	FYE 6/11	FYE 6/12	FYE 6/13	POST FYE 6/13
BUILDINGS							
NEW TOWN OFFICES	\$4,500,000						\$4,500,000
POLICE STATION FACILITY / RENOVATION	\$493,700		\$493,700				\$0
HIGHWAY GARAGE AREA IMPROVEMENTS	\$415,000	\$65,000					\$350,000
LIBRARY DEFERRED MAINTENANCE & EXPANSION	\$95,000						\$95,000
MEMORIAL HALL RENOVATIONS / ADDITION	\$282,000	\$25,000	\$12,000				\$245,000
RECREATION PROGRAM SPACE FEASIBILITY STUDY	\$65,000		\$65,000				\$0
ENERGY RETROFIT OF EXISTING BUILDINGS	\$20,000	\$20,000					\$0
HISTORIC WATER TOWER STUDY	\$5,000	\$5,000					\$0
HIGHWAYS							
HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS	\$790,000	\$228,000	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$142,000	\$142,000	\$38,000
ALLEN MARTIN PARKWAY	\$3,193,000						\$3,193,000
PARK & RIDE LOTS	\$100,000	\$40,000					\$60,000
SUSIE WILSON / DAVID DRIVE TRAFFIC LIGHTS	\$455,000	\$455,000					\$0
WATERLINES							
PINECREST DR TO VILLAGE RT 2A	\$140,000						\$140,000
DOUGLAS TO WILLOUGHBY	\$179,000						\$179,000
WATER STORAGE TANK - LOWER SERVICE AREA	\$580,000	\$580,000					\$0
SEWERS							
PAINESVILLE AREA	\$1,067,000						\$1,067,000
CEMETERY RD	\$53,000						\$53,000
ALDER BROOK PUMP STATION UPGRADES	\$550,000	\$550,000					\$0
HEAVY EQUIPMENT / VEHICLES							
HIGHWAY - EQUIPMENT/VEHICLES	\$1,656,000	\$134,947	\$129,330	\$175,230	\$223,000	\$202,000	\$791,493
PARKS - EQUIPMENT / VEHICLES	\$192,019	\$43,250	\$16,763	\$18,661	\$7,913	\$0	\$105,412
PARK FACILITIES							
PARK ASSETS REPLACEMENT	\$371,750	\$65,175	\$50,680	\$39,000	\$53,940	\$46,000	\$126,955
FOUNDERS / FOSTER ROAD PARK FIELD IMPROVEMENTS	\$50,000		\$25,000	\$25,000			\$0
BIKATE PARK ENHANCEMENTS	\$20,000	\$20,000					\$0
RECREATION PROPERTY SURVEY AND APPRAISAL	\$10,000						\$10,000
ATHLETIC FIELDS, BALL COURTS AND RECREATION LAND	\$216,000		\$52,000	\$119,000	\$45,000		\$0
PATHS & WALKS							
ROUTE 15 - SAYBROOK TO SUNSET	\$174,000	\$174,000					\$0
ROUTE 15 - SUNSET TO TOWN SQUARE SHOPPING PLAZA	\$50,000	\$50,000					\$0
ROUTE 15 - CIRC TO GOLF COURSE	\$15,000			\$15,000			\$0
ROUTE 2A - FROM OLD COLCHESTER ROAD & PINECREST	\$525,000						\$525,000
CIRC PATH ESSEX WAY TO FORESTDALE	\$10,000	\$10,000					\$0
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$16,273,469	\$2,455,372	\$964,473	\$511,911	\$471,853	\$380,000	\$11,479,860
FUNDING SOURCES							
VEHICLE / EQUIPMENT FUND		\$178,197					
OPERATING FUNDS		\$24,000					
GRANTS STATE / FEDERAL / OTHER		\$85,000					
WATER / SEWER FUNDS/BORROWINGS		\$1,130,000					
LONG-TERM BORROWINGS		\$173,050					
PREVIOUSLY COMMITTED CAPITAL FUNDS*		\$372,125					
UNDESIGNATED CAPITAL FUNDS		\$493,000					
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS		\$2,455,372					

* Previously Committed Funds include contributions from developers in prior years

PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET DETAIL FOR FYE 6/30/2009

	BUDGET FYE 2007	ACTUAL FYE 2007	BUDGET FYE 2008	ESTIMATED FYE 2008	PROPOSED FYE 2009
REVENUES - DETAIL					
PROPERTY TAXES					
1	\$6,537,808	\$6,628,929	\$6,703,308	\$6,703,308	\$6,795,304
2	\$542,000	\$551,567	\$961,000	\$961,000	\$1,001,000
	TOTAL PROPERTY TAXES	\$7,079,808	\$7,664,308	\$7,664,308	\$7,796,304
LICENSES AND PERMITS					
3	\$4,000	\$4,220	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
4	\$30,000	\$31,952	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$30,000
5	\$500	\$514	\$500	\$500	\$500
6	\$1,000	\$853	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
7	\$6,500	\$6,661	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500
8	\$100	\$114	\$100	\$100	\$100
9	\$3,000	\$2,415	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$2,400
	TOTAL LICENSES AND PERMITS	\$45,100	\$41,100	\$41,100	\$45,500
INTERGOVERNMENTAL					
10	\$134,000	\$136,466	\$135,000	\$135,000	\$135,000
11	\$1,500	\$1,526	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
12	\$6,300	\$10,358	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$9,000
13	\$10,000	\$15,392	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
14	\$0	\$8,830	\$0	\$0	\$0
15	\$0	\$3,131	\$0	\$0	\$0
16	\$0	\$5,992	\$0	\$0	\$0
17	\$0	\$793	\$0	\$0	\$0
18	\$0	\$1,245	\$0	\$0	\$0
19	\$0	\$2,742	\$0	\$0	\$0
20	\$7,250	\$7,624	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500
21	\$17,000	\$20,339	\$19,000	\$19,000	\$20,000
	TOTAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL	\$176,050	\$182,000	\$182,000	\$185,000
CHARGES FOR SERVICES					
25	\$576,574	\$576,574	\$494,177	\$494,177	\$411,781
26	\$34,172	\$34,172	\$29,287	\$29,287	\$24,402
27	\$4,500	\$3,249	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500
28	\$200,000	\$146,759	\$165,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
29	\$1,500	\$750	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
30	\$5,000	\$9,790	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$9,000
31	\$500	\$199	\$500	\$500	\$500
32	\$3,000	\$8,465	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$8,500
33	\$1,000	\$1,025	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
34	\$14,000	\$12,721	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000
35	\$1,000	\$1,350	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
36	\$700	\$635	\$700	\$700	\$700
37	\$6,000	\$6,732	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
38	\$50	\$43	\$50	\$50	\$50
39	\$0	\$505	\$0	\$0	\$0
40	\$95,000	\$61,863	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
41	\$2,300	\$6,395	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$1,000
42	\$1,000	\$1,520	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
43	\$27,000	\$33,711	\$33,700	\$33,700	\$33,700
44	\$6,000	\$5,061	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
45	\$25,000	\$31,447	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
46	\$172,500	\$182,772	\$192,000	\$192,000	\$192,000
47	\$22,000	\$21,336	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$22,000
	TOTAL CHARGES FOR SERVICES	\$1,198,796	\$1,085,114	\$1,070,114	\$986,333

PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET DETAIL FOR FYE 6/30/2009

	BUDGET FYE 2007	ACTUAL FYE 2007	BUDGET FYE 2008	ESTIMATED FYE 2008	PROPOSED FYE 2009	
FINES						
50	PENALTIES ON TAXES	\$40,000	\$83,860	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$70,000
51	INTEREST ON TAXES	\$36,000	\$33,144	\$33,000	\$33,000	\$33,000
52	COURT FINES	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
	TOTAL FINES	\$76,000	\$127,004	\$83,000	\$83,000	\$103,000
MISCELLANEOUS						
60	INTEREST ON DEPOSITS	\$35,000	\$144,214	\$65,000	\$65,000	\$65,000
61	RENTS AND ROYALTIES	\$1,001	\$1,001	\$1,001	\$1,001	\$1,001
62	RECORDS PRESERVATION	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
63	SALE OF ASSETS	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
64	FREEMAN GRANT	\$0	\$10,397	\$0	\$0	\$0
65	NOT CLASSIFIED	\$10,000	\$20,111	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
	TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	\$61,001	\$175,723	\$96,001	\$96,001	\$96,001
	TOTAL	\$8,636,755	\$8,891,464	\$9,151,523	\$9,136,523	\$9,212,138
	FUND BALANCE INCREASE (USE)	\$0	\$357,461	\$0	\$17,289	(\$225,000)
	TOTAL REVENUES	\$8,636,755	\$8,534,003	\$9,151,523	\$9,119,234	\$9,437,138

EXPENDITURES - DETAIL

SELECTBOARD						
100	SELECTBOARD SALARIES	\$5,414	\$5,414	\$5,414	\$5,414	\$5,414
101	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
102	SECRETARY	\$4,400	\$4,619	\$4,400	\$4,400	\$4,700
103	PRINTING/BINDING ORDNS	\$11,000	\$8,786	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$11,000
104	DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS / VLCT	\$15,180	\$15,908	\$15,817	\$15,817	\$16,489
105	MERGER EXPENSES	\$50,000	\$5,004	\$0	\$0	\$0
	TOTAL SELECT BOARD	\$115,994	\$39,731	\$66,631	\$51,631	\$52,603
TOWN MANAGER						
110	SALARIES	\$218,727	\$219,918	\$250,180	\$250,180	\$256,371
111	BENEFITS	\$119,579	\$100,512	\$126,300	\$126,300	\$135,489
112	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$10,000	\$1,500	\$0	\$0	\$0
113	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE SVGES	\$200	\$0	\$200	\$200	\$200
114	ADVERTISING	\$4,000	\$6,678	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
115	PRINTING AND BINDING	\$1,500	\$356	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
116	DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$5,900	\$4,020	\$6,395	\$6,395	\$5,945
117	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$1,300	\$787	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,300
118	TRAVEL	\$2,760	\$2,946	\$2,760	\$2,760	\$1,850
119	SUPPLIES	\$150	\$239	\$150	\$150	\$150
120	FURNITURE AND FIXTURES	\$250	\$46	\$250	\$250	\$250
121	EDUCATION	\$3,800	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$1,500
	TOTAL TOWN MANAGER	\$368,166	\$337,002	\$395,035	\$395,035	\$408,555
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT						
131	ADVERTISING	\$5,000	\$4,219	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
132	DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$500	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$500
133	TRAVEL	\$475	\$0	\$450	\$450	\$450
134	G.B.I.C.	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
135	CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	\$3,280	\$780	\$3,300	\$3,300	\$3,335
	TOTAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$16,255	\$11,999	\$16,250	\$16,250	\$16,285

PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET DETAIL FOR FYE 6/30/2009

	BUDGET FYE 2007	ACTUAL FYE 2007	BUDGET FYE 2008	ESTIMATED FYE 2008	PROPOSED FYE 2009	
ELECTIONS						
141	VOTER REGISTRATION	\$2,500	\$99	\$1,000	\$2,500	\$1,000
142	ELECTIONS / TOWN MEETINGS	\$15,000	\$19,091	\$7,300	\$8,300	\$20,000
	TOTAL ELECTIONS	\$17,500	\$19,190	\$8,300	\$10,800	\$21,000
FINANCE						
150	SALARIES	\$80,734	\$85,929	\$88,994	\$88,994	\$92,548
151	BENEFITS	\$40,290	\$37,140	\$41,616	\$41,616	\$42,351
152	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$1,500
153	AUDIT	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$19,000	\$18,500	\$19,000
154	TECHNICAL SERVICES	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
155	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE SVCES	\$15,000	\$18,422	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
156	INSURANCE	\$173,000	\$200,241	\$200,500	\$200,500	\$219,800
157	DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$1,500	\$897	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
158	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	\$35,000	\$24,644	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
159	TRAVEL	\$500	\$85	\$500	\$500	\$500
160	GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$350	\$493	\$400	\$475	\$500
	TOTAL FINANCE	\$369,374	\$385,851	\$412,510	\$412,085	\$434,699
TAX COLLECTION						
165	PRINTING AND BINDING	\$1,900	\$1,360	\$1,500	\$3,175	\$2,000
166	POSTAGE	\$2,500	\$2,698	\$2,750	\$2,382	\$2,750
	TOTAL TAX COLLECTION	\$4,400	\$4,058	\$4,250	\$5,557	\$4,750
LEGAL SERVICES						
167	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$40,000	\$62,434	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000
	TOTAL LEGAL SERVICES	\$40,000	\$62,434	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000
TOWN CLERK						
170	SALARIES	\$119,231	\$117,048	\$124,275	\$124,275	\$127,313
171	BENEFITS	\$55,548	\$47,316	\$52,970	\$52,970	\$60,843
172	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE SVCES	\$100	\$0	\$150	\$150	\$150
173	ADVERTISING	\$730	\$0	\$730	\$730	\$500
174	DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$500	\$232	\$500	\$500	\$500
175	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$14,050	\$4,598	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
176	TRAVEL	\$300	\$83	\$300	\$300	\$100
177	GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$12,000	\$8,035	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
	TOTAL TOWN CLERK	\$202,459	\$177,312	\$205,925	\$205,925	\$216,406
BUILDINGS AND PLANT						
180	WATER/SEWER	\$1,200	\$1,250	\$1,260	\$1,260	\$1,350
181	R & M SERVICES	\$20,500	\$25,293	\$20,500	\$25,000	\$24,500
182	R & M SUPPLIES	\$3,300	\$3,079	\$3,300	\$3,200	\$3,200
183	TELEPHONE	\$23,430	\$19,956	\$23,450	\$22,000	\$22,000
184	POSTAGE	\$22,000	\$20,925	\$19,000	\$21,000	\$19,000
185	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$5,500	\$6,017	\$5,770	\$6,000	\$5,970
186	GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$30,000	\$29,277	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,480
187	ELECTRICITY	\$24,700	\$23,353	\$23,500	\$24,000	\$24,830

PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET DETAIL FOR FYE 6/30/2009

	BUDGET FYE 2007	ACTUAL FYE 2007	BUDGET FYE 2008	ESTIMATED FYE 2008	PROPOSED FYE 2009
BUILDINGS (CONTINUED)					
188	\$9,200	\$9,343	\$9,700	\$8,300	\$8,300
189	\$117,000	\$119,097	\$124,000	\$130,000	\$147,000
190	\$8,200	\$8,123	\$8,600	\$8,600	\$8,650
191	\$5,500	\$5,394	\$10,000	\$13,653	\$7,000
TOTAL BUILDINGS & PLANT	\$270,530	\$271,107	\$279,080	\$293,013	\$302,280
REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL					
200	\$97,960	\$101,408	\$108,558	\$108,558	\$112,877
201	\$62,830	\$57,290	\$64,460	\$64,460	\$65,474
202	\$1,810	\$1,157	\$3,170	\$3,170	\$1,635
203	\$600	\$141	\$600	\$600	\$600
204	\$100	\$0	\$100	\$100	\$100
205	\$1,130	\$1,315	\$1,390	\$1,130	\$1,310
206	\$250	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$0
207	\$100	\$149	\$100	\$100	\$100
208	\$200	\$162	\$200	\$200	\$200
TOTAL R/E APPRAISAL	\$164,980	\$161,622	\$188,578	\$178,318	\$182,296
PUBLIC WORKS					
210	\$60,962	\$68,420	\$67,922	\$67,922	\$65,473
211	\$27,082	\$27,025	\$28,262	\$28,262	\$26,631
212	\$100	\$0	\$100	\$100	\$50
213	\$1,500	\$1,476	\$1,700	\$1,600	\$1,600
214	\$800	\$1,647	\$860	\$860	\$800
215	\$2,400	\$2,714	\$2,700	\$2,700	\$2,900
216	\$900	\$1,351	\$900	\$900	\$800
217	\$500	\$468	\$400	\$400	\$400
218	\$3,000	\$2,404	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
219	\$350	\$306	\$350	\$350	\$1,500
220	\$100	\$7	\$100	\$100	\$70
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	\$97,694	\$105,818	\$106,294	\$106,194	\$103,224
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT					
230	\$186,222	\$223,978	\$203,049	\$203,049	\$212,521
231	\$96,708	\$79,772	\$98,868	\$98,868	\$112,488
232	\$29,000	\$29,677	\$32,780	\$29,000	\$15,000
233	\$500	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$200
234	\$7,000	\$5,340	\$6,555	\$7,000	\$5,950
235	\$5,500	\$4,163	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$5,250
236	\$3,500	\$62	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$1,500
237	\$4,925	\$3,182	\$4,575	\$4,925	\$4,505
238	\$0	\$1,500	\$0	\$0	\$0
239	\$3,200	\$3,150	\$3,600	\$3,200	\$3,250
240	\$2,500	\$1,208	\$3,500	\$2,500	\$1,930
241	\$4,692	\$5,103	\$4,540	\$4,692	\$4,704
TOTAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	\$343,747	\$357,135	\$366,967	\$362,734	\$367,298

PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET DETAIL FOR FYE 6/30/2009

	BUDGET FYE 2007	ACTUAL FYE 2007	BUDGET FYE 2008	ESTIMATED FYE 2008	PROPOSED FYE 2009
POLICE					
250	\$1,871,419	\$1,859,208	\$1,972,407	\$1,972,407	\$2,064,868
251	\$841,487	\$779,339	\$839,434	\$839,434	\$883,409
252	\$9,000	\$9,625	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000
253	\$5,000	\$4,861	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
254	\$1,500	\$2,386	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
255	\$23,000	\$21,242	\$23,000	\$23,000	\$23,000
256	\$4,000	\$5,203	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
257	\$1,500	\$2,411	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
258	\$1,250	\$1,039	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$1,250
259	\$18,000	\$14,908	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$19,000
260	\$31,000	\$24,855	\$31,000	\$31,000	\$31,000
261	\$290	\$246	\$150	\$150	\$150
262	\$8,000	\$11,623	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$12,000
263	\$6,000	\$3,580	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
264	\$12,000	\$13,958	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
265	\$18,950	\$19,890	\$18,950	\$18,950	\$18,950
266	\$3,000	\$1,914	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
267	\$200	\$0	\$200	\$200	\$200
268	\$5,500	\$4,842	\$5,550	\$5,550	\$5,550
269	\$5,850	\$4,914	\$5,850	\$5,850	\$5,850
270	\$1,000	\$95	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
271	\$8,000	\$6,490	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
272	\$14,000	\$17,572	\$17,000	\$17,000	\$17,000
273	\$35,140	\$35,640	\$37,598	\$37,290	\$39,156
274	\$61,500	\$61,500	\$61,500	\$61,500	\$61,500
TOTAL POLICE	\$2,986,586	\$2,907,341	\$3,094,889	\$3,094,581	\$3,237,883
FIRE					
280	\$66,380	\$66,816	\$85,410	\$75,000	\$95,100
281	\$5,078	\$5,106	\$6,534	\$5,738	\$7,275
282	\$250	\$370	\$150	\$250	\$150
283	\$1,735	\$1,713	\$1,735	\$1,735	\$1,710
284	\$3,300	\$3,410	\$3,300	\$3,300	\$3,415
285	\$125	\$172	\$100	\$125	\$100
286	\$2,150	\$2,361	\$2,150	\$2,150	\$2,145
287	\$5,200	\$4,115	\$5,100	\$5,200	\$5,450
288	\$13,825	\$12,921	\$13,825	\$13,825	\$16,515
289	\$8,125	\$16,514	\$8,125	\$8,125	\$9,900
290	\$900	\$1,007	\$900	\$900	\$900
291	\$7,250	\$3,418	\$7,150	\$7,150	\$7,150
292	\$1,600	\$320	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$1,500
293	\$13,725	\$19,658	\$13,725	\$13,725	\$14,325
294	\$19,450	\$21,275	\$19,700	\$19,450	\$20,150
295	\$500	\$322	\$550	\$500	\$550
296	\$2,000	\$3,661	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,200
297	\$850	\$551	\$850	\$850	\$675
298	\$600	\$633	\$700	\$600	\$700
299	\$8,000	\$8,853	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$9,000
300	\$2,100	\$634	\$6,000	\$2,100	\$1,000
TOTAL FIRE	\$163,143	\$173,630	\$187,604	\$172,323	\$199,910

PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET DETAIL FOR FYE 6/30/2009

	BUDGET FYE 2007	ACTUAL FYE 2007	BUDGET FYE 2008	ESTIMATED FYE 2008	PROPOSED FYE 2009	
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT						
310	SALARIES	\$22,403	\$22,915	\$23,386	\$23,386	\$24,315
311	BENEFITS	\$12,177	\$11,502	\$12,584	\$12,584	\$12,779
312	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$150	\$0	\$150	\$150	\$150
313	COMMUNICATIONS	\$300	\$268	\$300	\$267	\$300
314	PRINTING AND BINDING	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$250
315	GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$100	\$0	\$100	\$100	\$100
TOTAL EMERGENCY MGMT						
		\$35,130	\$34,685	\$36,520	\$36,487	\$37,894
HIGHWAYS AND STREETS						
320	SALARIES	\$462,388	\$459,865	\$479,715	\$500,000	\$507,158
321	BENEFITS	\$262,621	\$221,891	\$265,235	\$265,235	\$255,588
322	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$3,500	\$6,725	\$3,500	\$4,500	\$3,500
323	R & M SVCES - VEHICLES	\$19,500	\$16,159	\$23,000	\$23,000	\$23,000
324	R & M SUPPLIES - VEHICLES	\$52,000	\$58,855	\$52,000	\$60,000	\$54,000
325	R & M SVCES - BUILDINGS	\$7,300	\$8,191	\$10,800	\$10,800	\$6,150
326	R & M SUPPLIES - BUILDINGS	\$2,800	\$3,126	\$2,500	\$2,900	\$2,500
327	RENTAL OF EQUIPMENT	\$300	\$88	\$300	\$300	\$300
328	COMMUNICATIONS	\$3,220	\$2,841	\$3,220	\$3,220	\$4,100
329	ADVERTISING	\$1,100	\$300	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$1,000
330	DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$1,900	\$2,335	\$1,900	\$1,900	\$1,450
331	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$6,600	\$9,391	\$6,700	\$7,500	\$7,000
332	TRAVEL	\$1,300	\$1,423	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,300
333	TAXES / LICENSES / REGISTNS	\$340	\$270	\$340	\$340	\$340
334	SMALL TOOLS & EQUIPMENT	\$1,800	\$1,968	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$1,800
335	UNIFORMS	\$11,300	\$8,690	\$11,300	\$10,500	\$10,000
336	OP SUPPLIES - BLDGS	\$6,200	\$6,569	\$6,815	\$6,900	\$6,700
337	OP SUPPLIES - VEHICLES	\$3,200	\$4,559	\$3,800	\$4,500	\$4,300
338	ELECTRICITY	\$10,500	\$10,260	\$10,500	\$10,500	\$10,500
339	NATURAL GAS	\$9,670	\$8,884	\$12,800	\$11,100	\$9,950
340	MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT	\$4,000	\$2,610	\$4,700	\$4,700	\$3,200
341	VEHICLES	\$115,000	\$115,000	\$129,000	\$74,000	\$142,000
342	SUMMER CONST - RENTALS	\$2,300	\$3,152	\$2,300	\$3,000	\$2,900
343	SUMMER CONST - PURCH SVCES	\$175,420	\$246,808	\$183,000	\$183,000	\$170,000
344	SUMMER CONST - SUPPLIES	\$61,925	\$60,467	\$64,115	\$65,000	\$75,600
345	TRAFFIC CNTRL - PURCH SVCES	\$9,350	\$11,237	\$11,250	\$11,250	\$11,500
346	TRAFFIC CNTRL - SUPPLIES	\$8,240	\$5,788	\$8,150	\$7,800	\$7,825
347	SIDEWALKS AND CROSSWALKS	\$40,500	\$43,795	\$39,000	\$39,000	\$23,000
348	WINTER MAINT - PURCH SVCES	\$5,700	\$7,181	\$5,700	\$5,700	\$6,300
349	WINTER MAINT - SUPPLIES	\$165,000	\$125,482	\$177,000	\$177,000	\$183,000
350	BRIDGES AND VIADUCTS	\$2,500	\$0	\$8,000	\$2,000	\$5,000
351	STORM DRAINS - PURCH SVCES	\$22,800	\$66,151	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$19,000
352	STORM DRAINS - SUPPLIES	\$16,000	\$15,772	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$18,700
353	ELECTRICITY - STREET LIGHTS	\$98,000	\$91,389	\$98,000	\$96,000	\$95,000
TOTAL HIGHWAYS & STREET						
		\$1,594,274	\$1,627,222	\$1,660,990	\$1,627,995	\$1,673,661
STORMWATER						
360	SALARIES	\$35,858	\$37,041	\$38,416	\$38,416	\$58,061
361	BENEFITS	\$20,361	\$12,354	\$21,162	\$21,162	\$28,932
362	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$10,000	\$2,712	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$11,000
363	REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	\$27,000	\$10,590	\$27,000	\$27,000	\$24,000
364	CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES	\$35,000	\$32,361	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$35,000
365	ADVERTISING	\$6,000	\$5,059	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$7,000
366	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$5,000	\$3,362	\$15,800	\$15,800	\$16,000
367	TAXES / LICENSES / REGISTNS	\$6,000	\$2,190	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$9,000
368	VEHICLES	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
TOTAL STORMWATER						
		\$165,219	\$125,669	\$192,378	\$172,378	\$208,993

PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET DETAIL FOR FYE 6/30/2009

	BUDGET FYE 2007	ACTUAL FYE 2007	BUDGET FYE 2008	ESTIMATED FYE 2008	PROPOSED FYE 2009	
SANITATION						
370	LANDFILL MONITORING	\$13,000	\$7,504	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$12,500
	TOTAL SANITATION	\$13,000	\$7,504	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$12,500
HEALTH AND WELFARE						
PUBLIC HEALTH						
380	PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER	\$7,867	\$7,867	\$8,182	\$8,182	\$8,510
381	DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$125	\$0	\$125	\$125	\$125
382	DOG CONTROL	\$20,553	\$20,652	\$21,478	\$21,471	\$22,491
383	ANIMAL CONTROL / SHELTER	\$1,300	\$1,655	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,500
WELFARE AND OTHER						
384	HUMAN SERVICE GRANTS	\$86,367	\$85,542	\$93,515	\$93,515	\$94,371
385	DONATION ESSEX RESCUE	\$5,200	\$5,200	\$5,200	\$5,200	\$5,200
386	CEMETERIES - PURCH SVCS	\$2,000	\$2,272	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
387	E.C. HISTORICAL MUSEUM	\$1,500	\$2,085	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
	TOTAL HEALTH AND WELFARE	\$124,912	\$125,273	\$133,300	\$133,293	\$135,697
RECREATION						
390	SALARIES	\$154,021	\$160,075	\$167,711	\$167,711	\$177,557
391	BENEFITS	\$70,754	\$59,309	\$76,356	\$76,356	\$77,852
392	PROFESSIONAL SVCS	\$2,565	\$2,550	\$2,700	\$2,700	\$2,900
393	COMMUNICATIONS	\$360	\$997	\$700	\$900	\$900
394	ADVERTISING	\$450	\$651	\$450	\$500	\$600
395	PRINTING AND BINDING	\$4,800	\$4,770	\$4,800	\$8,000	\$8,000
396	DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$1,660	\$1,312	\$1,660	\$1,660	\$1,660
397	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$70,000	\$116,601	\$70,000	\$120,000	\$70,000
398	TRAVEL	\$1,760	\$1,855	\$1,760	\$1,760	\$1,760
399	GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$6,000	\$6,609	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,200
400	MACHINERY	\$300	\$353	\$300	\$350	\$350
401	YOUTH SOCCER	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
402	MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
403	HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION	\$600	\$346	\$600	\$600	\$600
404	FOOTBALL - ESSEX LEAGUE	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$700
405	LITTLE LEAGUE/SOFTBALL	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
406	LACROSSE	\$750	\$7,717	\$750	\$5,000	\$750
407	BABE RUTH LEAGUE	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
408	AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM	\$18,000	\$17,656	\$16,500	\$16,500	\$18,000
409	TRANSFER FOR REC FACILITIES	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500
	TOTAL RECREATION	\$341,520	\$390,301	\$359,787	\$417,537	\$376,829
PARKS						
420	SALARIES	\$72,333	\$78,273	\$76,576	\$76,576	\$77,800
421	BENEFITS	\$29,296	\$25,580	\$29,631	\$29,631	\$30,041
422	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE SVCS	\$4,000	\$2,172	\$4,120	\$4,120	\$4,120
423	R & M SUPPLIES	\$10,000	\$11,389	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,360
424	COMMUNICATIONS	\$425	\$252	\$375	\$375	\$375
425	ADVERTISING	\$200	\$98	\$200	\$200	\$200
426	DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$600	\$575	\$600	\$600	\$300
427	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$11,290	\$9,038	\$12,477	\$12,477	\$13,077
428	TRAVEL	\$600	\$924	\$600	\$900	\$300
429	GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$3,808	\$4,064	\$3,800	\$3,800	\$3,915
430	SMALL TOOLS & EQUIPMENT	\$500	\$421	\$500	\$500	\$550
431	UNIFORMS	\$1,452	\$559	\$1,452	\$1,452	\$1,452
432	UTILITIES	\$4,000	\$3,130	\$3,300	\$3,300	\$3,535
433	TRANSFER FOR VEHICLES	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
	TOTAL PARKS	\$163,504	\$161,475	\$170,631	\$145,931	\$173,025

PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET DETAIL FOR FYE 6/30/2009

	BUDGET FYE 2007	ACTUAL FYE 2007	BUDGET FYE 2008	ESTIMATED FYE 2008	PROPOSED FYE 2009
SWIMMING POOLS					
440	\$59,696	\$55,084	\$61,485	\$57,500	\$59,390
441	\$4,567	\$4,214	\$4,704	\$4,410	\$4,568
442	\$700	\$1,926	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$1,500
443	\$500	\$1,823	\$750	\$750	\$1,000
444	\$225	\$145	\$250	\$250	\$250
445	\$625	\$557	\$625	\$650	\$800
446	\$200	\$33	\$200	\$400	\$200
447	\$550	\$1,836	\$900	\$1,800	\$1,800
448	\$3,365	\$1,379	\$3,365	\$3,365	\$3,365
449	\$4,000	\$3,566	\$3,250	\$3,600	\$3,600
450	\$1,150	\$1,178	\$3,250	\$3,250	\$3,250
451	\$700	\$1,075	\$900	\$1,400	\$1,400
452	\$4,000	\$7,456	\$6,000	\$7,500	\$7,500
453	\$0	\$155	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
TOTAL POOLS	\$80,278	\$80,427	\$88,679	\$88,375	\$90,623
SENIOR CITIZEN BUS					
460	\$42,550	\$38,969	\$43,047	\$39,200	\$41,090
461	\$3,255	\$2,980	\$3,293	\$3,007	\$3,143
462	\$2,200	\$2,527	\$2,200	\$3,000	\$3,000
463	\$560	\$393	\$950	\$450	\$450
464	\$125	\$537	\$125	\$125	\$300
465	\$0	\$1,696	\$1,200	\$1,600	\$1,600
466	\$150	\$251	\$180	\$200	\$200
467	\$0	\$1,147	\$8,800	\$8,800	\$8,000
TOTAL SENIOR BUS	\$48,840	\$48,500	\$59,795	\$56,382	\$57,783
LIBRARIES					
ESSEX FREE LIBRARY					
470	\$150,225	\$152,229	\$165,155	\$163,000	\$165,694
471	\$89,647	\$75,884	\$91,658	\$89,500	\$88,341
472	\$15,328	\$15,288	\$21,865	\$21,500	\$15,884
473	\$790	\$803	\$723	\$723	\$1,100
474	\$1,920	\$2,512	\$2,840	\$2,850	\$2,885
475	\$150	\$21	\$100	\$150	\$175
476	\$5,550	\$5,838	\$5,470	\$5,000	\$4,960
477	\$8,000	\$6,729	\$6,205	\$6,500	\$6,800
478	\$2,375	\$2,363	\$2,007	\$2,500	\$2,400
479	\$30,000	\$29,188	\$24,078	\$24,078	\$27,000
480	\$2,000	\$0	\$600	\$600	\$600
481	\$1,900	\$1,004	\$5,070	\$4,900	\$479
482	\$1,000	\$1,060	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
483	\$0	\$10,397	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL ESSEX FREE LIBRARY	\$308,885	\$303,316	\$326,771	\$322,301	\$317,918
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	\$323,885	\$318,316	\$341,771	\$337,301	\$332,918

53

CHAMPLAIN WATER DISTRICT
Peter L. Jacob, Chair, CWD Board of Water Commissioners
Jim Fay, CWD General Manager

Over the past year, the Champlain Water District continued its efforts to complete the phased recommendations from its Twenty Year Master Plan reported by Dufresne & Associates in September 2002. The past fiscal year accomplishments are as follows:

- Completed both phases of CWD's upgrade to its Supervisory Control & Data Acquisitions (SCADA) system that monitors and controls the water treatment process and transmission of water throughout the County service area.
- Completed Phase I installation of additional field security upgrades at critical infrastructure sites in the CWD County service area.
- Completed final design engineering and began the permitting process for an additional source for water intake in Shelburne Bay.
- Continued to serve as the Vermont Training Center for the New England Water Works Association hosting seven separate training sessions in fiscal year 2006-07.
- Champlain Water District was one of three water utilities in the United States to be honored to receive the Ten Year Anniversary Director's Award from the Partnership for Safe Water, co-sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency, for optimizing water treatment and meeting water quality standards that surpass the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act requirements protective of public health.
- Champlain Water District also celebrated its eighth consecutive year in receiving the Partnership for Safe Water Phase IV Excellence in Treatment Award status following the review of the extensive annual package of District information sent to the Partnership Program verifying extensive requirements have been met.
- CWD's leading efforts in optimizing water treatment include the following:
 - First surface supply in Vermont to optimize treatment for minimizing lead solder leaching from home copper plumbing.
 - First in Vermont to employ continual laser particle counting technology to highly optimize and enhance treatment effectiveness.
 - First in Vermont to employ continual organic carbon analyzer technology to highly optimize and enhance treatment removal of organic matter.
 - First in the Nation to obtain the "Excellence in Water Treatment" Award under the Partnership for Safe Water.
 - First in Vermont to modify water disinfection to meet USEPA goal levels for disinfection by-products.

CWD is a regional, municipal organization chartered to provide high quality drinking water to its served municipalities. We supply 68,000 people with safe water that is continually being used for all potable purposes: drinking, cooking, bathing, and showering. Secondary disinfection using monochloramines has enhanced the quality of the CWD water allowing our customers to continue to feel confident in the safety of their water supply. At CWD, "Excellence in Water Treatment" is our overarching mission. We thank our employees and elected officials for their effort and support 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 the Champlain Water District.

54

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 (FHWA), 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, 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, 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.

CCMPO approved the Federal Fiscal Year TIP for 2008 through 2011 in July, 2007. 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 \$166 million in federal dollars are slated for transportation projects within the county during this time period.

CCMPO provides a wide variety of technical and planning services to its membership. To see the list of specific technical assistance and scoping projects underway or completed in Essex, please ask either the MPO or your Town Clerk for a current list of projects. These studies, once complete, can also be found at www.ccmppo.org, which is also where you can find traffic count data generated for your community.

55

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. CCRPC provides planning leadership in both policy guidance and technical analysis. Member communities benefit from the expertise of staff through the Commission's professional and technical assistance services.

In 2007, several CCRPC projects benefited all member communities:

- The Chittenden County Brownfields Assessment Program facilitates analysis of petroleum contamination of land so that it can return to productive use
- Analysis of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Circumferential Highway (CIRC-Williston Project)
- Negotiation to prepare legislation encouraging new housing construction
- Update of municipal Emergency Rapid Response and Emergency Operations Plans

CCRPC also provided a wide variety of technical support to its member communities, especially the application of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) services such as:

- Cartographic Services
- Data Development
- Computer modeling of municipal land use plans and regulations

In addition, Essex also has benefited from the following special CCRPC projects:

- Participation in 12-member Chittenden County Regional Stormwater Education Program

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

Maintaining a balanced built and natural environment involves continuous cooperation 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.

56

CHITTENDEN COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
Chris Cole, General Manager

The Chittenden County Transportation Authority (CCTA) had another successful year providing public transportation services to the Town of Essex and the greater Burlington area in FYE07. Services include local fixed-route bus service; commuter park and ride shuttles, supermarket and school shuttles; inter-regional commuter routes; multi-county ridesharing and van pooling; transportation for Medicaid recipients and contracted ADA Para transit service for those who are unable to ride the bus.

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.

CCTA is governed by a 10-member Board of Commissioners with two Commissioners representing each of the following communities: Burlington, Essex, Shelburne, South Burlington and Winooski. Essex's Commissioner to the CCTA Board is Dan Maxon. There is currently an open seat for the second Commissioner.

CCTA's annual operating and capital match expenses in FYE07 were \$10,341,955.65, up from \$9,773,711.17 in FYE06. Equal or greater revenues in FYE07 offset these increased expenses.

Increased Ridership

CCTA is pleased to report that ridership increased by 5% in FYE07, which represents an additional 100,118 riders for a total ridership of 2,009,371. Much of the increase is due to the continued expansion of the Unlimited Access program, the LINK Express, the North Avenue, University Mall/Airport, Essex, Essex Center, Riverside/Winooski, Lakeside, College Street Shuttle, CATMA, Sunday Service, Williston routes, and special services. Additionally, fluctuating fuel costs prompted many customers to look for alternative forms of transportation.

Improved Information and Amenities

CCTA continued to advance several projects to both improve the flow of information to passengers and make our transit system more convenient and user-friendly.

- CCTA completed an airport-style sign system at Cherry Street to inform passengers of the on-line status of arriving and departing buses. This has been a long-standing rider request.
- CCTA continues to add to and enhance the quality of the bus shelters in Chittenden County. In FYE07, seven new shelters were constructed. All new bus shelters have a durable and attractive timber frame and metal roof that meet ADA accessibility requirements.

LINK Express Commuter Routes

CCTA continues to expand and improve the already popular LINK Express services. These commuter routes are designed to connect commuters from Montpelier, Middlebury and St. Albans to Burlington; all LINK routes deliver commuters to FAHC, UVM, Champlain College and Cherry Street in downtown Burlington. LINK ridership grew in FYE07 and the Montpelier LINK expanded its service to include a third morning trip. Total FYE07 ridership on all three LINK routes was 64,329, which is an increase of 9,886 or 18% in FYE06.

Environmental Commitment

CCTA is pleased to announce that in FYE07, it began the use of biodiesel in all CCTA buses. Biodiesel is a safe, clean burning fuel source that is derived from domestically produced, renewable sources such as vegetable oils, is renewable and biodegradable and reduces key greenhouse gas emissions such as carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons. CCTA will operate an 80/20 blend of biodiesel in the spring/summer/fall months and a 95/5 blend during the colder winter months.

CCTA also began replacing its older bus fleet with new state of the art clean diesel buses that reduce particulate emissions by 95%. These new buses have diesel particulate filters and the latest engine technology to be the cleanest diesel buses in the State of Vermont. CCTA is committed to replacing older buses with new cleaner buses as soon as funding is made available to the Authority.

CCTA offers member communities a variety of alternative, environmentally responsible commuting alternatives to the single occupancy vehicle. The LINK routes and Vermont Rideshare services for car-pooling and vanpooling are another way in which CCTA is able to reduce local congestion and improve air quality. CCTA staff worked with local businesses and communities in FYE07 to promote these services and encourage participation.

Unlimited Access Program

CCTA is pleased to announce that the Unlimited Access program continued to grow in FYE07. This program, which allows those with a valid UVM or Champlain College ID card to board any CCTA bus by simply swiping their ID, saw increased ridership from UVM students, faculty and staff. In addition, CCTA welcomed Champlain College to the Unlimited Access family as a full participant in the fall of 2006. The UA program continues to be well received by staff and students and will hopefully continue expansion in FYE08.

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. Each member community appoints one Commissioner. The unaudited FYE07 General Fund expenses were \$7,218,193 and the revenues were \$8,309,832. This represents a 6% increase in expenses and a 5.48% increase in revenues from the FYE06 General Fund.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES/EVENTS

In FYE07, CSWD continued to focus on two parallel tracks: waste minimization/diversion and waste disposal in a proposed regional landfill. Concerning the first track, we finished collecting data for our Recycling Performance Research Plan, negotiated additional recycling materials to be accepted and processed at CSWD's Materials Recovery Facility (mixed plastics and soft cover books), and became very active in promoting responsibility of manufacturers for their products at the end of use. For the landfill project, we completed additional scenarios, discussed them with the majority of our member towns/cities' governing boards, and have now focused on a smaller landfill footprint.

ONGOING OPERATIONS

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

CSWD wants to acknowledge all the time and effort given by Bill Leach over the past 19 years of which 16 were served as the Chair of the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Leach passed away during this fiscal year.

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 3,054 tons of recyclables, a decrease of 4.7% from FYE06, and 7,190 tons of household trash during FYE07, a 0.65% increase from FYE06.

The **Materials Recovery Facility** in Williston is owned by CSWD and is privately operated by Cassella Waste Management. In FYE07, 37,121 tons of recyclables were collected, sorted, baled, and shipped to markets. This represents a 1.2% increase from the previous year. The average sale price for materials was \$93.52 per ton, which is a 21% increase over last year's average.

The **Environmental Depot** and the rover are CSWD's hazardous waste collection facilities for residents and businesses. In FYE07, 8,787 households and 612 businesses brought in 523,350 pounds of waste that were collected and processed at these facilities. This included 47,210 pounds (4,721 gallons) of latex paint re-blended and sold as "Local Color," 13,272 pounds of waste given away through the "Hazbin" reuse program and 95,700 pounds (9,570 gallons) of oil and latex paint processed for recycling in Canada.

CSWD brokered 15,342 wet tons of biosolids for our member communities in FYE07, nearly the identical quantity as last year. Unfortunately, the contract to beneficially compost the County's wastewater treatment plant sludge at facilities in Quebec was abruptly cancelled by a Canadian subcontractor during the year.

59

CSWD's **Marketing Campaign** raised the profile of the Electronics Recycling Program, with a round-up event in conjunction with Small Dog Electronics, collecting close to 100 tons. Other events promoting reduce, reuse, recycle-rethink included Rover round-ups, Spring Move Out Project, Waste Reduction Award, Lake Monsters sponsorship game, Green Up Day, the Appliance and Tire round-ups, Merry Mulch, paint round up, and the Creative ReUse Showcase.

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, workshops, informational pamphlets, free recycling bins and signage, discount compost bins, and waste assessments for businesses are part of this positive community outreach.

Over 14,000 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 6,200 students through the **School Outreach Program**.

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 participation, construction and demolition debris recycling; organics diversion; and alternative disposal technologies, and markets for recyclables.

CSWD provides funding and staff time to support **Green Up Day** efforts in Chittenden County. In May 2007, 56 tons of litter was collected, including 1,754 tires and 21 cubic yards of scrap metal. CSWD also contributed \$4,100 to Green Up Vermont on behalf of its member municipalities.

The fall and spring **Appliance and Tire Round-Ups** brought in 785 major appliances and 7,542 tires at no charge from 2,384 households.

The **Community Clean Up Fund** helps members keep their communities clean and litter free throughout the year. In FYE07, almost \$12,000 was distributed to ten 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 that are a short walk or bike ride from where 110,000 people live and work. Essex is a founding member and has supported the Park District for the last 35 years.

Our 17 natural areas total 1,754 acres; offer many miles of trails, about 13 miles of shoreline, and canoe and fishing accesses. In Essex, this includes two parks along Route 15 – Woodside Park and Essex Overlook both across from Fort Ethan Allen. In addition, the system includes 127 acres in Essex that link Colchester Pond Natural Area with Indian Brook Reservoir. Visit wvpd.org for maps and to learn more.

You can find our office at the Ethan Allen Homestead. A seven member Board of Trustees govern the Park District. Your representative is Mark Berry.

Highlights of the year:

- **New Park Opened.** Winooski Gorge in South Burlington can now be safely reached by bike, car or on foot. The park's path follows the top of one of Vermont's steepest gorges. Roadside parking is along Lime Kiln Road just off Route 15.
- **Historical Ethan Allen House Faces Uncertain Future.** The 1787 farmhouse of Ethan and Fanny Allen was forced to close last fall. However, \$20,000 from the Vermont Legislature and loyal volunteers has rescued it from oblivion for now. As the owners of Allen's historic house, we hope the State will continue to support this important site.
- **Programs at our Parks Hosted By Others.** Over 200 Essex kids and parents attended an end-of-year school picnic at the Homestead. About 350 scouts and adults camped for two nights at the Ethan Allen Homestead then masterfully "left no trace" of their visit. Flynn Arts led tweens and teens in two weeks of historic reenactments. The YMCA held weeklong nature camps in art, natural history, engineering, soil science and geology at various parks.

In closing, people need wild places to relax, unwind and stay in touch with nature. In turn, wild places need management that assures people and wildlife can peacefully coexist. Each year the Town's support makes it possible for thousands of Vermonters to explore our ecologically diverse system of natural areas.

TOWN OF ESSEX
2007 TOWN MEETING
MINUTES
March 5, 2007

SELECTBOARD: Thomas James, Chair, Jeffrey B. Carr, Thomas Torti, Linda Myers and Alan Nye.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Patrick C. Scheidel, Town Manager; Todd Odit, Assistant Town Manager; Cheryl Moomey, Town Clerk; David Demag, Police Chief; Douglas Fisher, Finance Director; Dennis Lutz, Town Engineer/Public Works Director; Mark Berry, Town Parks and Recreation Director; Bill Ellis, Town Attorney; Howard Rice, Fire Chief, Randy Viens, Town Assessor; Dana Farley, Town Community Development Director.

MODERATOR: Steve McQueen

Mr. McQueen introduced himself as Town Moderator at 7:35 p.m. He called attention to the State Representatives present: Martha Heath, Tim Jerman and Linda Myers and the Village Trustees present: Larry Yandow, Tim Jerman and John Lajza. He stated that the representatives would be available after the meeting to answer any questions.

Next, Mr. McQueen pointed out the location of Senator Bill Doyle's 2007 Town Meeting Day Survey and directed the public to return it to the box or a representative that night. In addition, there was Emergency Management packets and calendars for the public to take home.

Next, Mr. McQueen explained the Articles for discussion at Town Meeting. He announced that once the Town Meeting was adjourned for the night, there would be a warned Public Information Hearing for the bond vote for the Fire Department. There were no questions from the public regarding this information.

Next, Mr. McQueen explained 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, Thomas James, who in turn introduced those people sitting at the head table. Mr. James announced that this was the last Town Meeting for Thomas Torti as a Selectboard member and welcomed the public to recognize his six years of service on the Selectboard and six years service on the Planning Commission. Mr. Torti thanked the residents of the Town, both inside and outside the Village, for allowing him to serve as an elected official on the Selectboard and for supporting him as a member on the Planning Commission. He stated that it had been a privilege and pleasure to serve the community and to work with the present diverse Selectboard members. He thanked his fellow members on the Selectboard for their leadership on some very difficult issues these past years. He thanked the Town staff for their work in making the members "look good" and for their excellent work under substandard working conditions because the issue of the Town Office had not been addressed yet. He thanked his wife, who without her support could not have spent the time and energy outside the home to serve the community.

At 7:40 p.m., Mr. McQueen called the 2006 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.

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

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.

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

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

John Fitzgerald, with regards to the emergency services provided by the Fire Department, Essex Rescue and Village Fire Department, felt there were “three services doing the same thing without management, and he did not fully understand it.”

Bob Marcotte made three suggestions. First, was to include page numbers on the budget part of the report so there could be a number reference, second, for the tax rate over the years to be included in the report so the public could review the trend, and third, that the grand list from year to year also be included in the report.

Moshe Braner stated that the Transit Oriented Design Master Plan (TODMP) was mentioned in the report, but had not been used in the decision related to Lowe's being approved for the Susie Wilson Road area and determining the overall plan for Susie Wilson Road. He urged the Selectboard to address that issue and requested an update in the reports on the recommendation from the Transit Oriented Design Master Plan for the Susie Wilson Road area.

Mr. James reassured Mr. Braner that the Susie Wilson Road area project was still in the planning process and that no projects had been approved for that area at the present time. He stated that the planning was still in process, along with using the recommendations from the TODMP as part of that process. Mr. James added that the Town Manager informed him that most of the projects, like the Susie Wilson project, were multi-year projects, and was not completed at the present time. Mr. James encouraged Mr. Braner to “keep watching” as more of the process continued and more information was provided to the public.

Douglas Kemerer asked for a correction regarding the Homestead Form HS-131 on page 14 under Real Estate Appraisal as he believed that the form had been combined with Form HS-138, the request for a rebate to a single form, Form HS-122 with a different deadline of April 1, 2007. Mr. Viens, the Town Assessor confirmed that Form HS-131 was recently changed to HS-122 with an April 15, 2007 deadline and that this information was provided in the Vermont tax booklet.

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 II: SHALL THE TOWN ADOPT A BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2007 TO JUNE 30, 2008 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECTBOARD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,351,523.00?

PAULA DUKE MOVED AND ROBYN MYERS SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE ARTICLE II.

Mr. James referred the public to question one on the yellow information sheet and quoted, "How much is the budget for FYE 2008 and how does it compare to the current year?" He then quoted the answer, "The proposed FYE 2008 General Fund budget totals \$9,351,523, an increase in expenditures of \$714,768 or 8.28% over the current budget." He explained that there was \$200,000 in the proposed budget for merger expenses and that without the \$200,000; the proposed budget would have a 5.9% increase, which equaled an increase in expenditures of \$714,768.

David Keenan was opposed to the \$455,000 in the Capital Budget for the Susie Wilson Road/David Drive (SWR/DD) traffic signal. He felt the speed of traffic did not warrant as high a need as the intersection at Sand Hill Road and Route 117 (SHR/R117), which was a "death trap waiting to happen." He recommended a transfer of funding from SWR/DD to SHRR117. Mr. Keenan, with regards to the bond for the Fire truck, reported that his neighborhood had a terrible fire last Sunday and although the Fire Department worked admirably in saving many properties, there were so many fire trucks from various Fire Departments, all the trucks couldn't even reach the location of the fire. As a result, Mr. Keenan stated that he was opposed to the addition of a fire truck because there seemed to be sufficient fire equipment between the Village and the Town as proven last Sunday.

In response to Mr. Keenan's comments about the proposed signal at SWR/DD, Mr. Carr clarified that statistics showed that the Susie Wilson Road area was a high, serious-accident area, with a number of businesses complaining that their patrons were having serious difficulty going in and out of their businesses safely along Susie Wilson Road. He explained that part of the \$450,000 was related to other improvements along Susie Wilson Road, such as sequencing all the lights to improve the flow of traffic. He noted that the signal light costs \$175,000 and that there would be federal funds and developer fees contributing to the \$450,000 as well. Mr. Carr reassured Mr. Keenan that the SHR/R117 intersection was in the Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization transportation improvement plan and, as confirmed with Mr. Lutz, would be addressed in two years. He emphasized that he and the other members of the Selectboard were aware of the problems at the SHR/R117 intersection, but reminded Mr. Keenan that like any project, there was a process. He stated that part of the process included using Federal funds combined with Town funds to pay for the project. Mr. Carr concluded by emphasizing that the SWR/DD area needed immediate attention.

In response to Mr. Keenan's comments related to the bond for the fire truck, Mr. Nye clarified that the bond was for the replacement of a fire truck that was currently 17 years old, not a new fire truck. He stated that the Fire Chief and the Selectboard believed it was time to replace that truck because of its age and performance issues, but placed it on the March 6, 2007 ballot for the voters to decide. The Selectboard believed in its responsibility to the community to provide fire safety and were asking for the support from the community to replace that truck. He explained that some of the performance issues such as lower pump pressure affected insurance rates. Mr. Nye explained that \$100,000 of the \$400,000 was existing funds in the Capital Budget and that the Town would seek to borrow the remaining \$300,000 from a low-interest rate loan from the Vermont Equipment and Loan Fund for a period of five years.

Chuck Barry, with regards to page 45, line 105 for Merger Expenses, stated that the proposed \$200,000 for merger expenses was not needed since the merger did not pass.

CHUCK BARRY MOVED AND DAVID KEENAN SECONDED A MOTION TO AMEND ARTICLE II WITH A REDUCTION OF \$200,000 TO THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF \$9,351,523, WITH A NEW PROPOSED BUDGET OF \$9,151,523.

Mr. McQueen asked if there was any discussion on the amendment to Article II.

Mary Post was in favor of the motion and transferring part of the \$200,000 back into the Essex Free Library's budget for books and periodicals, which had been reduced by \$6,000 in the original proposed budget. Ms. Post argued that the library was a part of the town that was the only real town center, a welcoming presence in the community and a gathering place for the public, young and old. She was in favor of giving the Essex Free Library a lot more money because it was the jewel of the Town. She was greatly in support of the Town Library employees, who she felt were fabulous and deserved public appreciation.

Michael Munson requested information on what uses the \$200,000 was budgeted for in relation to merger expenses.

In response to Mr. Munson's request, Mr. James explained four factors that he raised for consideration during a Selectboard discussion on whether or not to keep the \$200,000 in the budget. The four factors were: 1) 50% of the voters voted in favor of merger; 2) many favored merger, but not this particular charter; 3) if the \$200,000 remained in the budget and no merger action took place, the money would not be spent; and 4) the proposed budget would apply to the next 16 months. Mr. James explained that he requested and was given the Selectboard's authorization on February 5, 2007, to contact the Trustees to meet about the next steps for merger. Mr. James stated that on February 6, 2007, he sent the following letter to Trustee president, *"Dear Larry, On more than one occasion, the question has been raised to the Selectboard as to what our next steps would be in the event the recent vote failed to pass. It is the Selectboard's desire to meet with the Trustees to talk about next steps in defining a municipal organization for Essex. It is our hope to meet on February 15, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. at Lincoln Hall to evaluate what the Trustees are thinking and feel about the next steps. The 15th was being suggested because that was the first day most of the Selectboard was available."* Mr. James explained that via the phone, Mr. Yandow informed him that the Trustees were not available on the 13th or the 15th and that he did not know if the Trustees would be available until at least February 23rd. Mr. James explained that he requested a meeting with Mr. Yandow on the 13th in the afternoon to see if they could "make any headway." On the 9th, Mr. Yandow informed him that he could not meet with Mr. James on the 13th and informed Mr. James that the Trustees had taken the merger money out of the Trustee's budget. In reading the minutes of the Trustees meeting on February 13th, Mr. James stated that he was confused because there was considerable discussion in the audience about the merger and in conclusion of the discussion, Mr. Yandow had stated that there had been many comments about the merger and the next steps and that the Trustees planned to again address the issue at a point in the near future. Mr. James stated that he was confused about whether merger money was removed from the Village budget or if it ever existed. He suggested that a Trustee member who was present that night might explain that situation as he felt it related to the Town's decision about the \$200,000 for merger expenses. Secondly, Mr. James referred to page 105 of the proposed budget under Selectboard, Merger Expenses and reviewed the following list of anticipated costs for merger.

A Combined town plan	30,000
Zoning regulations	30,000
Official name, logo changes	10,000
Sewer Allocation Study	10,000
Lincoln Hall and other	20,000
Building renovations/design studies	
Publications	15,000
Legal issues	20,000
Telephone/Communication	5,000
Data processing system	10,000
Consultants for financial reporting	3,000
Fire Chief	27,000

Mr. James, with regards to the \$27,000 for the Fire Chief, explained that the Selectboard and Trustees had agreed about the need for a full time Fire Chief at the end of the first year of merger transition. He stated that \$27,000 was the cost for $\frac{1}{4}$ of one year. He concluded that if no merger action took place, the \$200,000 would not be needed. Mr. James asked for clarification from a Trustee member about the Trustee's proposed budget decision on merger funding.

Trustee member, Tim Jerman responded and stated that at the time of Mr. James' request, the Trustees felt a break from merger action was needed and that it did not make sense to meet until after both the Selectboard and Trustee elections because there might be new members.

Tim Kemerer was in favor of keeping the \$200,000 for merger expenses in the budget. He felt that the Boards had made great headway with the merger effort and would like to see the effort continue to resolve the three major issues. He expressed that he was happy to volunteer should there be another Board convened to pursue the next steps for a merger.

Bob Marcotte stated that at the present time, the results of the elections were unknown, and he felt that it did not make any sense to keep the \$200,000 in the budget if the concern, witnessed by the second merger vote, was to reduce taxes. He stated that an additional \$200,000 in the budget would increase the tax rate by 3% and doubted that there would be any merger action for at least another year. He added that in the first merger vote, both the Town and the Village voted favorably in both elections, which should be in the Town Report next year for the record.

Marla Durham asked, should the public agree to keeping the \$200,000 in the budget, would it remain in the General Fund or was there a way to reserve it specifically for merger? She was concerned that the \$200,000 might be used for other areas in the budget.

Mr. Scheidel agreed that the public could place the \$200,000 in a reserve account specifically for merger.

Ms. Durham asked if there was a way the amendment on the floor could be amended so that the \$200,000 could remain in the budget as a reserved account specifically for merger.

Mr. McQueen replied that there were two ways to approach her suggestion. One was to make a friendly amendment that had to be accepted by the maker of the original amendment or the public could vote down the amendment on the floor and a new motion could be made.

DAVID KEMERER MOVED AND SCOTT BROWN SECONDED A MOTION TO AMEND THE AMENDMENT TO REDUCE THE BUDGET BY AN ADDITIONAL \$150,000 FOR A TOTAL OF \$350,000.

Dave Kemerer referred to page 43 of the Report and argued that areas related to Public Health and Safety, were major functions of Town government, had only increased over the last two years within the 9-12% range, such as Stormwater and Sanitation and Public Safety, etc., yet the overall budget was up 17%. He noted that under Culture and Recreation, the budget was increased at 16% every two years and noted that it was mostly in the Parks, with a 33% increase. He felt that some money could be reduced from Culture and Recreation for a total budget increase of 12% rather than 17%. He pointed out that over a two-year span, General Government had increased 33%, the Selectboard had increased 33%, which included \$200,000 of merger money, Finance had increased 25% and the Town Manager had increased 26%. Mr. Kemerer argued that the increases were "top heavy" leaving the "guys on the streets still getting along with a 5% or 6% increase. He felt the overall sentiment during merger discussions was that the Village supported merger because their taxes would decrease and the Town opposed merger because their taxes would increase. He pointed out the line item, Property Taxes, which had an increase of 26% over two years and with reappraisal, taxes would increase significantly more if property was appraised at more than the average. Mr. Kemerer felt that the Town budget and taxes were out of control and that a considerable

reduction was needed to decrease the rate to the 12% to 13% range, which equaled reducing the budget by \$350,000 as opposed to only \$200,000.

Mr. McQueen asked if there was any further discussion for the motion on the floor to amend the amendment?

Mr. Nye explained that the majority of the Culture and Recreation budget was “money that came in and money that goes out” and that programs paid for themselves by user fees. Therefore, the increase was not in the Town General Fund expenditures for Recreation programs, but that the transaction of funds needed to be recorded. He explained that the Town Manager's budget had a significant increase this budget because the Town Manager's salary was frozen for the last three years, which was a personnel issue and confidential. He argued that other than the \$200,000 in the Selectboard budget for merger, the Selectboard line item had been consistent over the years as well.

Mr. McQueen restated the motion on the floor.

Bob Marcotte was in favor of David Kemerer's motion to reduce the budget an additional \$150,000. He stated that if residents were serious about reducing taxes, they needed to decrease the proposed budget amount and support the reduction of \$350,000.

Grant Corson raised a concern that should the amendment on the floor be approved, the Selectboard had not been given any direction as to where in the budget they should cut the additional \$150,000. He stated that areas such as the senior bus, libraries, etc. were at jeopardy because there would be no objections to reduce those areas, and salaries would not be cut. He warned the voters that if they voted in favor of the motion, they would be supporting cuts in budget items that had no real voice, which had happened four or five years ago with the drug program to keep our kids off drugs, called D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education). He was in favor of the reduction of taxes, but felt that the public “ought to know what would be cut.”

Mr. Scheidel, in response to Mr. Corson's comments, stated that the idea that the Town would cut areas that had no voice was fundamentally wrong. He reminded the public that in 1996, \$250,000 was cut from the budget, and as a result, four positions were eliminated. He stated that cuts were made painfully and with all due respect to Mr. Corson, Mr. Scheidel disagreed that the Selectboard and staff disregarded the tax rate during budget preparations, which was an idea that was also fundamentally wrong. Mr. Scheidel explained that there was no control over certain costs such as gas and steel, and therefore little control over certain areas of the budget. He stated that to say that the staff and Selectboard would disrespect a public vote and their wishes by cutting areas that had no voice was wrong, and he asked the public not to think that would occur.

Jan Abbott took offense to David Kemerer's comments that the Selectboard and Town Manager's line items were the offenders to the increases that year and that the people in the Village voted in favor of the merger because they wanted their taxes to be lower. She stated that the Selectboard members provided a service to the community that she would never wish to do and that the Town staff was working very hard and not making a fortune. She stated that many Village residents voted for merger because they had been “waiting for it for years and years and years.” She urged the voters “not to slash the budget by an additional \$150,000 when they did not have a clue of the results”.

Mr. James referred the public to items 3 and 4 on the yellow information sheet, which provided the major causes for the budget increase and how salaries and benefit costs, specifically health insurance, impacted the budget. He stated that the following areas totaled the increase of \$714,768:

- \$150,000 for anticipated merger expenses
- \$275,164 for salaries and benefits
- \$100,000 for debt service and transfer to capital

\$32,562 for the repair and maintenance of vehicles, machinery and equipment
\$21,939 for increases in Regional Planning and Transportation dues, the County Courthouse budget, Winooski Valley Park District and Chittenden County Transportation Agency
\$27,500 for increases in liability, unemployment and worker compensation insurances
\$22,800 for vehicles and capital equipment

Mr. James explained these were the areas that would lose funding, should the public approve an additional \$150,000 reduction in the budget. He then referred to question 4 that related to salaries and health benefits and explained that salaries were the result of union contracts and non-union equity adjustments. He felt that an increase in salaries of 6.88% was not unreasonable. With regards to Benefits, Mr. James stated that there was an increase of 1.15%, which was minimal as a result of staff efforts. He pointed out that the total increase for salaries and benefits was an increase of 5%, which he felt was not unreasonable and quoted the yellow sheet, "Faced with a proposed 30% increase in health insurance premiums from Blue Cross and Blue Shield, the Town's health insurance provider switched to CIGNA".

Ms. Myers referred to 5 on the yellow sheet, which stated the fact that the Town lost \$87,000 in revenue from IBM. She stated that this revenue had to be recovered in the budget by the Town to keep the services at least leveled. Ms. Myers wanted the voters to be aware of that information as well as the fact that the grand list was increasing at a very minuscule amount every year and that caused looking for areas to absorb those losses. Ms. Myers, with regards to Stormwater and as a State representative, informed Mr. Kemerer that the State had unfunded mandates for Stormwater. She stated that Stormwater would continue to be a problem that existed and had to be addressed every year according to state and federal regulations, which was why it was an area that was increasing at a very reasonable amount as far as she was concerned.

Steve Dowd was opposed to the additional reduction of \$150,000 in the budget and was opposed to the reduction of the \$200,000 merger expenses from the budget. He felt that, in the long term, the merger would be the best way to reduce the taxes and to reduce expenditures. He recommended keeping the \$200,000 in the budget and working towards solving the merger issues, "Discuss it and get it done."

Henry Gabor was in favor of merging the Fire Departments and combining the equipment, which would equal twice as much pumping power and address the insurance issue, as opposed to replacing the Fire Truck, which would save the Town \$350,000. He was also in favor of earmarking the \$200,000 for merger only.

Mr. Carr explained the reason for the increase in the equipment fund, which he noted was a line item that did not have a voice and included equipment to cut the grass, sweep the streets, line the ball fields, etc. He recalled from last year that there was a question about why this line item was spent every year. Mr. Carr explained that they wanted to stagger the financial impact on the community with regards to equipment purchases, such as a street sweeper or a dump truck or other piece of equipment. If they didn't stagger the cost, there could be a zero dollar equipment line item for a couple of years and then suddenly a significant increase the fifth year because they had no choice but to purchase a new pick up truck at a cost of \$70,000. He felt this was an example of "penny wise, pound foolish" if the public approved an additional reduction of \$150,000 from the budget. Therefore, the gradual budget increase every year was an effort by the Selectboard and Department Heads to be financially responsible in the replacement cycles of the equipment. Mr. Carr also reminded the public that a large part of the Recreation Department was funded by the users and that if the budget increased, it meant that there were more users of the Department, which was a positive sign that the Culture and Recreation programs were working very successfully.

Dave Kemerer stated that his intent was not to offend anyone, and he said "hats off" to the Selectboard and the staff for their many hours of work. He also agreed with Mr. Dowd that the way to really get the costs reduced was to merge. Mr. Kemerer was still in favor of reducing the budget and gave the Selectboard a couple of ideas to consider 1) the charges for services and all the other revenue had decreased in the percentage increase while the tax from taxpayers had increased, and therefore

recommended that the Selectboard look for other ways to bring in revenue other than taxes. He stated that the Budget was increasing 17%, but taxes were increasing 26%. 2) Mr. Kemerer thanked Mr. Scheidel for developing a Capital Budget when Mr. Scheidel became Manager. He confirmed that the current Capital Budget was 2% of the tax base and suggested taking the purchase of equipment out of the Capital Budget. He commented that there were always places to spend money, but urged the Selectboard to remember that there were residents on a fixed income who were paying a 26% increase, with no rebate on the municipal taxes, only the school tax.

Robert Metcalf stated that the estimated tax revenue was \$7.8 million, which equaled \$613,000 more than what was estimated to be raised this year. He pointed out that the list of items on the yellow sheet in 3, which as he had heard that night, were the majority of items out of the Selectboard's control, totaled \$600,000 and included \$150,000 of merger expenses. He understood that with respect to merger, if no merger action occurred, the money would not be spent. However, he argued that the minutes from last year's Town Meeting pointed out that there were \$60,000 budgeted for merger expenses and that the current budget stated that every penny of that money would be spent.

ROBYN MYERS MOVED AND SCOTT BROWN SECONDED A MOTION TO CALL THE QUESTION.

Mr. McQueen stated that the motion to call the question ceased debate if approved by 2/3 of the voters.

THE MOTION PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Next, Mr. McQueen clarified the motion on the floor to amend the amendment to Article II and asked all those in favor of amending the amended motion please signify by saying aye, all those opposed by saying nay.

THE MOTION FAILED BY VOICE VOTE.

Next, Mr. McQueen returned to the original amendment of reducing the budget by \$200,000 and asked if there was any further discussion on the amendment.

Bob Marcotte, with regards to the Chittenden County Transportation Authority (CCTA), asked why Essex was subsidizing Williston because Williston was not a participant and were not paying any money for full bus service. He felt \$20,000 could be reduced from the budget.

Thomas Torti, in response to Mr. Marcotte's comments, clarified that the way the Town has budgeted for CCTA was through a mileage formula and that the Town only paid for the miles that were used through Essex. He explained that when the service was in Williston, it was funded federally under the Job Access Reverse Commute Program. He stated that Essex has not and will not subsidize Williston that Williston was not a member of CCTA and that Mr. Marcotte's point was incorrect.

John Shephard stated that he had voted against merger not because it was a bad idea, but because he did not know if it was a good idea. He felt that there was not enough data to make him feel comfortable that it was a good idea and that it seemed to him that the data provided was just "someone filling a list with numbers." He was opposed to the idea of allocating \$27,000 for a Fire Chief at a time when the future needs for a Fire Chief was unknown and at a time when they did know they were losing \$87,000 from IBM. He stated that, at the present time, the merger was not happening, and therefore, he could not support budgeting \$200,000 for something that was not happening. He expressed frustration for the topic of merger that had been going on for many years.

With no further discussion on the motion to amend Article II, Mr. McQueen clarified the motion on the floor and asked all those in favor of amending Article II, please signify by saying aye, all those opposed by saying nay.

THE MOTION PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

ROBYN MYERS 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 126 in favor of reducing the budget in the amount of \$200,000 and 56 being opposed. **THE MOTION PASSED.**

Next, Mr. McQueen stated that the motion on the floor was Article II as amended.

ARTICLE II: SHOULD THE TOWN ADOPT A BUDGET FOR FYE JULY 1, 2007 TO JUNE 30, 2008 AS AMENDED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,151,523?"

Mr. McQueen asked if there was further discussion on the motion.

George Henry, in response to Dave Keenan's remarks about the fire last Sunday and the fire equipment, wanted to inform the public that the firefighters from Essex who fought that fire made less than \$10.00/hour, and they saved lives and property. He stated that this safety service was only accomplished through professional leadership. He recommended that \$27,000 from the \$200,000 merger expenses be added to the Fire Department budget line item for the purpose of having a full-time Fire Chief. He emphasized the need for emergency preparedness in the Town and believed that Mr. Howard Rice was qualified for the position. Mr. Henry felt that the public should show support for the men and women who dedicated their lives to serving the Essex community.

Mr. McQueen reminded Mr. Henry that a motion could be made for an amount of money, but only a recommendation could be made for where it would be from or spent, since that was in the control of the Town Manager and the Selectboard.

GEORGE HENRY MOVED AND DAVE KEENAN SECONDED A MOTION TO ADD \$27,000 TO THE PROPOSED AMENDED BUDGET.

Mr. McQueen asked if there was any discussion on the amendment on the floor?

Mr. Marcotte pointed out that the Selectboard had the final say on where the money would be allocated and urged the voters to keep the reduction at \$200,000. He added that he was opposed to spending \$197,000 for CCTA.

With no further discussion on the motion on the floor, Mr. McQueen asked, all those in favor, please signify by saying aye, all those opposed by saying nay.

THE MOTION FAILED BY VOICE VOTE.

Next, Mr. McQueen returned the vote to Article II as amended and asked if there was further discussion.

Mary Post noted that \$6,000 was reduced from the library and requested it be put back into the library budget.

MARY POST MOVED AND PAULA DUKE SECONDED A MOTION TO ADD \$6,000 TO THE AMENDED BUDGET.

Mr. McQueen asked if there was further discussion.

John Fitzgerald felt that having two libraries in the town was the same as having three superintendents in the Town and stated that it didn't work. He stated that money would not solve the problem, but that it would be solved with people getting together and fixing the problem. He was opposed to the addition of \$6,000.

Kate Rice expressed support for the \$6,000 for the library. She felt it was a shame that the public was not thinking of the future of the community and for the children's future by "nickeling and diming" the budget. She stated that the infrastructure for the community was needed, which included the Fire Department. She urged the public to reconsider looking at how to reduce the budget and think about the value they were getting for the dollar because they lived in a great community.

PAULA DUKE MOVED AND CHUCK BARRY SECONDED A MOTION TO CALL THE QUESTION.

THE MOTION PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. McQueen clarified the motion on the floor and asked, all those in favor, please signify by saying aye, all those opposed by saying nay.

THE MOTION FAILED BY VOICE VOTE.

A MEMBER FROM THE PUBLIC REQUESTED 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 60 in favor of adding \$6,000 to the amended budget and 156 being opposed. **THE MOTION FAILED.**

Marla Durham, with regards to Debt Service, asked if the \$100,000 was related to the bond vote for the fire truck.

Mr. Scheidel replied, no, that the \$100,000 was the direct result of the action in 1994 of freezing the debt service rate at 1.33 cents on the tax rate to help build the Capital Fund. The \$100,000 was raised against the new grand list of about 20 million and was what they expected to transfer into the capital fund based on the new grand list in effect April 1, 2007. Mr. Scheidel clarified for Ms. Durham that the figure in Debt Service was unclear at the present time because the grand list in 1994 was different than what it was now.

Ms. Durham asked for clarification on the \$69,000 in the undesignated funds?

Mr. Scheidel confirmed that the \$69,000 earned interest as much as the banks allowed and was invested conservatively at a low risk to the taxpayers. He explained that the undesignated funds were reviewed each year when the Capital Plan and the Capital Program of the Selectboard was assessed. He gave the fire truck bond as an example of using \$100,000 from the Undesignated Capital Fund and borrowing \$300,000 and concluded that undesignated funds were put to use for the public at a point in the future.

Ms. Durham assumed that the Town would be discussing the new Town Offices issue now that the merger had failed. She asked if the Town had a reserve set aside for the Town Offices. Mr. Scheidel stated that there was a reserve of \$500,000, since the Lang Farm Development in 1988, for 81 Main Street and Public Safety funds.

Ms. Durham asked why the \$500,000 was not included in the report.

Mr. Scheidel replied that the \$500,000 was recorded in the audit as a designated fund for the purpose of 81 Main Street.

Ms. Durham commented that the only reason she knew that there was money for the Town Offices was when she and Mr. Dan Overton met with the Selectboard to invite them to a collaborative meeting regarding space issues, for which the Selectboard chose not to participate, and at that time, she remembered a remark from Ms. Myers about money for the Town Offices. Ms. Durham recommended that the information about the \$500,000 be included in the report for clarity purposes.

Mr. Scheidel replied that, in the past, the audit, including restricted and unrestricted funds was a part of the Town Report, but that the requirements now had made the audit a lengthy document, and it was decided not to include it in the Report. He informed the voters that the audit was on the Town's web page and at 81 Main Street for their review.

Ms. Durham stated that she felt it made sense to have that information included in the Town Report.

Ms. Myers clarified that the \$500,000 was not to be used for a new Town Office but was designated for the renovation and improvement of 81 Main Street for the Police Department, who worked in very tight quarters at the present time.

Bernie Lemieux was concerned with the increase of 6.9% in salaries and asked for clarification about bargaining units.

Mr. Scheidel replied that the bargaining units were negotiated separately for all matters of collective bargaining that were required by State law and that the salary adjustments were at 4% a year for the next four years. He stated that in addition, there were other percentage increases that would take place as a function of collective bargaining, such as the non-union salary adjustment in the middle of the year that was presented on the yellow information sheet. Mr. Lemieux expressed that he was in favor of decreasing the budget by \$70,000 in salaries to an increase closer to 5%.

The Moderator reminded Mr. Lemieux that he could make a motion on a dollar amount, but could only make a recommendation on specifics.

BERNIE LEMIUEX MOVED AND LEO COUTURE SECONDED A MOTION TO REDUCE THE BUDGET AS AMENDED BY \$70,000.

Mr. McQueen asked if there was any discussion on the amendment to the amended budget.

Doug Horne asked for clarification and Mr. McQueen clarified the motion and Mr. Lemieux's recommendation for Doug Horne and the public.

Robyn Myers asked if there were any union contracts to be renegotiated for the next fiscal year or if the salary cut would have to come from individual salaries.

Mr. Scheidel replied that the union contracts expired on June 30, 2010. He stated that the only items that were being addressed by Bernie Lemieux affected the non-union, department heads and non-union management who had no representation and had no negotiated contracts.

Mr. Lemieux argued that he was in favor of reducing the overall salary increase by \$70,000 and felt that somewhere taxes needed to be reduced.

AL FOICE MOVED AND CHARLIE PAUL SECONDED A MOTION TO CALL THE QUESTION.

THE MOTION PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

With no further discussion on the motion on the floor, Mr. McQueen asked, all those in favor, please signify by saying aye, all those opposed by saying nay.

THE MOTION FAILED BY VOICE VOTE.

The moderator returned to the amended Article II and asked if there was further discussion.

Al Foice, the Deputy Fire Chief for the Essex Fire Department, explained that many of the public did not understand that the Town and Village Fire Departments were total volunteer organizations. He argued that budget line item for the Fire Department was well under what was spent in other communities of similar size. He guaranteed that there was no better value for the money than in the Town and the Village. He stated that there was not a lot of fat, if any, in either one of the budgets. He encouraged the public not to be rash in their decisions to try to cut costs associated with the current budget and confusing their frustration with past inequities, etc. with the need to continue to support their emergency services. The Town and Village Fire Departments respond automatically in a mutual way substantially to every single call, so it did not matter where they lived in the community because the Fire Departments viewed it as one community. He stated that they respond to each and every call with the same level of professionalism and dedication that a volunteer organization could possibly do each and every day and that it was done with stretched resources. Mr. Foice was baffled and offended by comments related to the expense of \$187,000 for a Fire Department, which was much less than other communities, even though Essex was the second largest community in Vermont. He stated that there was no competition as they were “hands-down,” the most efficient and cost-effective solution to the community and they provided that service on a day-to-day basis. He expressed that it was very offensive to withstand such unsupportive commentary. In response to Mr. Keenan's comments about too much equipment at a fire, Mr. Foice explained that there were nine trucks at that fire, five of which were in use, each apparatus carrying firefighters for a total of 20 to help fight the 4 ½ hour fire and deal with the aftermath and clean up of that fire. To conclude, Mr. Foice applauded the voters' effort to try to manage costs, but stated that the Fire Department was not the place to look. He asked the voters to “please balance their goals with reason”.

Chuck Barry agreed with Al Foice's comments and echoed many of his explanations from his experience as a member of the Village Fire Department for 24 years. He reminded the public that the service from the firefighters and the Departments was to save the residents' properties. He stated that “if you added both the salaries of both departments, they were getting very cheap labor with very professional help” and commended both Fire Chiefs for their leadership. He supported Ms. Durham's request to have any amount of money be accounted for in the annual report and having the figures for the unrestricted and restricted funds included in the Annual Report.

Henry Gabor reminded the public that they voted on these motions and the dollar amounts. He remarked on how people were voting similarly to the merger vote, mostly because of the tax implications. He stated that he voted against the amendment for \$150,000 additional amendment not because he did not support his recommendation, but because he felt a \$200,000 reduction was sufficient. He voted for the reduction of \$200,000, but not from the merger expenses, but for reducing salaries and other line items previously mentioned. He was in favor of earmarking \$200,000 for merger expenses if and when it occurred, as he was 100% in favor of merger.

GRANT CORSON MOVED AND FRED NORTON SECONDED A MOTION TO CALL THE QUESTION.

THE MOTION PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE II : SHALL THE TOWN ADOPT THE BUDGET FOR FYE JULY 1, 2007 TO JUNE

30, 2008 AS AMENDED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,151,523?

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

THE MOTION PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

DAVID KEENAN MOVED AND RICHARD ALLEN SECONDED A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 9:40 P.M UNTIL 7:00 A.M. ON MARCH 6, 2007.

THE MOTION PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

PUBLIC INFORMATION HEARING

Mr. McQueen invited the public to remain if they wished for the Public Information Hearing. Mr. McQueen called the Public Meeting to order at 9:50 p.m. to discuss the bond vote. He explained that this was an opportunity for members to ask questions specific to Article III, the bond vote on March 6, 2007 for \$400,000. He referred the discussion to Mr. James.

Mr. James referred to item 8 on the yellow information sheet. He read the question, "Are there any special articles that the voters are being asked to consider at Town meeting?" He read the answer, "Yes. Article III asks voters to authorize the purchase of a fire truck not to exceed \$400,000 to be financed for a period not to exceed five years. It is anticipated that the Town would use \$100,000 in existing capital funds and borrow the remaining \$300,000. The Town would apply to the Vermont Equipment Loan Fund for the maximum loan amount of \$110,000 at 2% interest for a period of five years and borrow the remainder from a commercial lending institution." He added that they would look for a loan with as low a rate as possible. He confirmed Mr. Nye's earlier remarks that the bond was specifically for the replacement of a 17-year-old truck.

Mr. Scheidel explained that the Town had an informal goal of becoming debt-free in 2010 in the General Fund, which would almost necessitate a three-year borrowing of the balance from a commercial money institution at the most favorable rate allowable at that time.

Mr. McQueen asked if anyone from the public had any specific questions for the Manager, the Selectboard or the representatives from the Fire Department.

A member of the public asked why only \$100,000 from the Capital Fund was being used when there was more in the Capital Fund to avoid paying as much overall interest on the loan for the remainder of money.

Mr. Scheidel explained that the Capital Fund had \$30 million worth of needed infrastructure improvements and in order to be fair and to equally distribute the Town's limited resources over the huge demand for capital projects, the Town "picks and chooses along the way." He stated that the Operating Budgets (OB) that received a direct benefit from the Capital Improvement, should have to bear the cost by making transfers from their Operating Budgets into the Capital Fund. In this case, however, the Town would probably receive a decent rate for the loan because of the availability of reduced rates from the state, so a transfer of funds from the Fire Department's Operating Budget was not necessary.

Ms. Myers, having just finished the state capital budget for the coming year, explained that there was always some money in the budget, referred to as "contingency of state funds or major maintenance funds", for unexpected emergencies that did not have designated funding. This was the same intent from the Town Manager with the Town Budget, and she believed that it was always smart to have some money in the Capital Budget for an unexpected emergency.

One public member asked if the truck would be needed in a merged community.

Mr. Scheidel replied that the simple answer was yes, and he deferred the technical answer for the replacement need to the Fire Chief, Mr. Howard Rice.

Mr. Rice stated that the firetruck to be replaced was 17 years old and was the first truck out of the station on the way to a fire. He told of two situations when the fire truck failed in its performance on the way to a fire. During one time, the tank broke and they lost water for the fire and during another time, the gas tank broke and they lost all the gas onto the ground. He stated that at least two or three connections pump hoses on the fire truck did not work because the valves were broken and corroded and on numerous occasions, the doors are broken and rusted out. The firefighters had attempted to fix the doors with wires and shims, but it really was not a safe situation. He stated that the fire truck was of the best quality in 1990, had 60,000 miles on it and was the first truck out of the station on the way to the fire. He explained that, originally, the request was to replace it last year, but they had to wait another year. However, they could not wait any longer and even if it were not replaced, the truck would not be used due to safety reasons. He noted that there was another truck that stalled twice on the way to a call last month and was towed to the Ford Dealer. Chief Rice argued that his department had not asked for a lot of things to do their job and they wanted their first truck that went to a call to get there, to not have firefighters falling out of the truck or water tanks breaking on the way to the fire. He stated that Essex was a big community, which received 907 calls last year, and it should have a truck that could meet the community's needs and would be a dependable resource for the next 20 years.

The public member did not think Mr. Rice answered his question and asked for further clarification on the need in a merged community.

Mr. Rice replied, yes it would be needed in a merged community. He stated that the Essex Fire Department was half of the entire community and the truck was needed. Both departments respond to every call and it was needed as the first truck out whether they were going to the Village or Town to fight a fire.

Mr. Scheidel explained that the Town had mutual arrangements with many neighboring fire departments and were required to "live up to their end of the bargain". He argued that the cost to replace a piece of apparatus once every 17 years was a far better deal than having a full-time fire department. Even in a merged scenario, Mr. Scheidel argued that Essex was still obligated to use all the vehicles and apparatuses to respond. He felt a new fire truck was a less expensive option in order to keep the Department operating the current way and still meet their obligations, which was similar situation in the Village.

Chuck Barry stated that the Village Fire Department was also in the process of buying a new pumper truck to replace a 20 year-old truck and that both trucks were needed. He stated the 60,000 miles on the trucks did not account for engine hours. He explained that once that truck arrived at a scene, was parked, the break on, the pumpers turned on and into drive, engine hours were being used, which added to the wear and tear of the truck. He supported Chief Rice's argument for the need for new trucks.

The public member asked if there were trucks that the Village was using that the Town could use. Would there be advantages or disadvantages for a merged fire department?

Chief Rice stated that the two Fire Departments were almost merged. They had different leadership in both, but they worked closely together because both the Village and Town respond to every call. He explained that the Town had an agreement with the Village to use it's ladder trucks in any structural call because the Town did not have an aerial truck. There was money in the Capital Budget three to four years ago to buy an \$800,000 platform truck and it was a need for the Town because it did not have that agreement with the Village. He felt this was an example of steps they were taking to work together and save money. It was the same scenario with other communities as well, with regards to resources and manpower. Therefore, the truck was needed whether they merged the communities or not. During the merger discussions, the Village and the Town Fire Departments presented a very good and agreed-upon plan on how to merge and were ready and waiting. He thought there could be some efficiencies in the

75

future for equipment in a merged fire department but it would be unknown until they started working together with one financial budget because they were still going to need the 37 members in the Town and the 37 members from the Village to address the needs of the community. At the present time, they were in fact short a number of people and in order to increase the number of people to fight a fire, they needed trucks. He added another fault of the truck to be replaced, was that the pump capacity was not as sufficient as it needed to be and could not supply a sprinkler system or a couple lines to the inside of a building for firefighters. It was 1000 gallon pump, whereas new trucks were now 1500 to 2000 gallons/minute, allowing greater water flow. He emphasized that it was an old, big truck and if it did not get replaced, it would just sit outside because it was getting to the point where it was not safe to use.

One member asked about the replacement schedule for the fire trucks.

Chief Rice explained that they were on a five-year replacement schedule for all their apparatuses. He informed the public that they had four bucket-trucks and the one to be replaced was the Engine 1 bucket. The next bucket to be replaced five years from now was actually a much smaller one and less expensive.

Mr. Barry stated that every call was different and the departments shared their resources as needed.

Deputy Chief Foice commented that the Junction and the Town were both buying fire rescue apparatus, with multi purpose engines, which would in essence, replace three trucks, eliminating the need to purchase a truck. This was an example of gained efficiencies through a collaborative process and shared resources.

David Kemerer commented that he thought the Capital Fund, which earned 2% of the grand list, was to pay for big expense items like fire trucks. He asked for an explanation about the transactions in the budget, related to this issue, so he could understand how that worked.

Mr. Scheidel explained the 2 cents on the tax rate and the frozen penny, .0133, in addition, that was put towards the Capital Fund. He explained that those departments with heavy equipment, such as fire, police, etc., competed for funding and that bond money could only be placed into a reserved capital fund for the purposes of buying what was an anticipated need in the future. He explained that in 1990 there was no capital replacement fund, therefore, since then, the Town had been playing catch up as best they could and if possible, some years, they transferred money from the Operating Budget to the Capital Budget. With regards to the Fire Truck Debt Service line items, 492 and 497, David Kemerer requested further clarification.

Mr. Scheidel stated that the item on line 497 was \$0 probably because the interest on that particular debt or item was \$0 and confirmed with the Town Finance Director that there would be no principal or interest payment due in the next fiscal year or it would have been recorded in this budget. He confirmed to Mr. Kemerer that on page 42, under Capital Budget, there was \$400,000 for the fire truck because these items were ones that were anticipated, that they were hoping to accomplish and hoping to fund from a myriad of different sources, such as the operating Budget, developer contributions and state and federal grants. In the event that all the money fell into place, the projects were going to be anticipated and the Town share of the \$455,000 for the replacement fire truck was \$266,000, as previously mentioned by Mr. Carr.

Mr. Kemerer asked for further clarification on the Capital Budget because it did not show the sources of funding for these projects and was in favor of having that information in the Town Report so it would be less confusing and easier to understand.

Mr. Scheidel referred to page 42, under Capital Budget, which listed Funding Sources. Further deliberation occurred with regards to this issue. Mr. Scheidel informed Mr. Kemerer that there are public hearings on the Capital Budget annually and on the Capital Plan every five years.

Ms. Myers replied to Mr. Kemerer that the Selectboard had a public hearing on the Capital Budget last

week, which he had been invited to attend, and at that time, the entire Capital Plan had been explained.

With no further discussion, the Moderator moved to adjourn the meeting with no objections at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Saramichelle Stultz

Saramichelle Stultz
Recording Secretary

Approved this 19th day of March 2007.

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

Linda Myers, Clerk, Selectboard

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

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

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

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY OF TOWN SERVICES

<u>For Information Regarding</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>Number</u>
Bicycle Registration	Police Department	878-1333
Birth & Death Certificates	Town Clerk	879-0413
Building & Zoning Permits	Zoning Administrator	878-1343
Burning Permits	Police Department	878-1333
Chittenden Central School District	Superintendent	878-1370
Detectives	Police Department	879-4923
Dog Complaints	Police Department	878-1333
Elections (Town & General)	Town Clerk	879-0413
Essex Town School District	Superintendent	878-8168
Health Complaints	Community Development	878-1343
Library	Essex Free Library	879-0313
Licenses (Hunting, Fishing, Marriage, Dog)	Town Clerk	879-0413
Planning & Subdivisions	Community Development	878-1343
Public Works/Streets	Public Works	878-1344
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>	