



TOWN OF ESSEX SELECTBOARD
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Online
Essex Junction, VT 05452
Thursday, March 11, 2021
6:30 PM

E-mail: manager@essex.org

www.essexvt.org

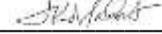
Phone: (802) 878-1341

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, **this meeting will be held remotely**. Available options to watch or join the meeting:

- **WATCH:** the meeting will be live-streamed on [Town Meeting TV](#).
- **JOIN ONLINE:** [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#). Depending on your browser, you may need to call in for audio (below).
- **JOIN CALLING:** Join via conference call (*audio only*): (802) 377-3784 | Conference ID: 653 436 718#
- **PROVIDE FULL NAME:** For minutes, please provide your full name whenever prompted.
- **CHAT DURING MEETING:** Please use "Chat" to request to speak, only. **Please do not use for comments.**
- **RAISE YOUR HAND:** Click on the hand in Teams to speak or use the "Chat" feature to request to speak.
- **MUTE YOUR MIC:** When not speaking, please mute your microphone on your computer/phone.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** [6:30 PM]
2. **AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES**
3. **APPROVE AGENDA**
4. **PUBLIC TO BE HEARD**
 - a. Comments from Public on Items Not on Agenda
5. **BUSINESS ITEMS**
 - a. Consider approval of warning for Special Town Meeting on April 13 in response to voter-backed petition.
6. **ADJOURN**

Members of the public are encouraged to speak during the Public to Be Heard agenda item, during a Public Hearing, or, when recognized by the Chair, during consideration of a specific agenda item. The public will not be permitted to participate when a motion is being discussed except when specifically requested by the Chair. This agenda is available in alternative formats upon request. Meetings of the Selectboard, like all programs and activities of the Town of Essex, are accessible to people with disabilities. For information on accessibility or this agenda, call the Town Manager's office at 878-1341.

Certification:  3/10/2021

Memorandum

To: Essex Selectboard; Evan Teich, Unified Manager
Cc: Susan McNamara-Hill, Town Clerk
From: Greg Duggan, Deputy Manager
Re: Warning a Special Town Meeting for a voter-backed petition
Date: March 10, 2021

Issue

The issue is whether the Selectboard will approve a warning for a Special Town Meeting for a voter-backed petition.

Discussion

The Clerk's Office received a voter-backed petition asking for a revote on whether the Town of Essex shall adopt the Plan of Merger of the Town of Essex, Vermont and Village of Essex Junction, Vermont dated January 11, 2020 and the proposed Charter for the merged municipalities.

The Town Clerk is reviewing the signatures on the petition to ensure the petition meets legal requirements.

If the petition meets the legal requirements, the Selectboard will need to hold a Special Town Meeting. Staff recommends that such a meeting take place on April 13, 2021 in order to coincide with the Essex-Westford School District's annual meeting, and the Village of Essex Junction annual meeting. Holding the Special Town Meeting on a separate date would require staff and volunteers to send out ballots to all registered voters yet another time, and will incur the cost of holding a separate election.

Cost

If the meeting is held on April 13, cost will be a few hundred dollars to meeting posting requirements. If it is held at a later date, the cost will be thousands of dollars for a separate mailing of ballots and to hold a separate election.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Selectboard approve a warning for a Special Town Meeting on April 13, 2021, provided the Town Clerk verify the that signatures on the petition meet the requirements for a voter-backed petition.