1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG  
[7:00 PM]

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES

3. APPROVE AGENDA

4. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD
   a. Comments from Public on Items Not on Agenda

5. PUBLIC HEARING  
   [7:05 PM]
   a. Public Hearing on FY2021 Operating Budget

6. BUSINESS ITEMS
   a. Adopt FY2021 Operating Budget
   b. Approve Town Meeting Warning
   c. Approve warning for public hearing on FY2021-2025 Capital Budget and Plan
   d. Discuss and assign Selectboard outreach efforts for Town Meeting
   e. *Evaluation of public employee

7. CONSENT ITEMS
   a. Approve easement for VT Route 117 Bridge Project
   b. Approve minutes: January 6, 2020; January 13, 2020
   c. Check Warrant #17681—01/10/20

8. READING FILE
   a. Selectboard Comments
   b. Email from Charles Cole re: Promotions at Essex Fire Department

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION
   a. An executive session is anticipated for the evaluation of a public employee

10. 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: _______________________________ 01/17/2020
1. CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG
Elaine Haney called the meeting of the Town of Essex Selectboard to order at 7:00 p.m. and invited all in attendance to rise and join in the “Pledge of Allegiance.”

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS/ CHANGES
There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL
With no changes to the agenda approval was not necessary.

4. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD
a. Comments from Public on Items Not on Agenda
Ms. Smith noted that the January 13th minutes had the wrong date and requested that they reflect her comment more accurately, in row 36; prior to “Mr. Levy”, add “She encouraged the Selectboard to consider outreach venues such as arts, music and other events, not just sports.”

5. PUBLIC HEARING
a. Public hearing on FY2021 Operating Budget
Ms. Haney opened the public hearing on the FY2021 Operating Budget.

Mr. Signorello asked for clarification on the 2019 Budget Summary sheet. Ms. Macy and Mr. Watts explained that the $1 million difference between revenues and expenses reflects fund balance reallocation, a discussion of which took place in a previous meeting.

MAX LEVY made a motion, seconded by PATRICK MURRAY, that the Selectboard close the public hearing. The motion passed 5-0.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS
a. *Adopt FY2021 Operating Budget
Mr. Teich reminded the Selectboard that the FY2021 Operating Budget was crafted by staff then presented to the Selectboard for discussion, at which point several items were brought to attention. He said these revisions resulted in a budget that balances the needs of the community. Ms. Haney commended staff for their work on the budget.

MAX LEVY made a motion, seconded by PATRICK MURRAY, that the Selectboard, adopt the proposed FY2021 operating budget in the amount of $15,332,134. The motion passed 5-0.

b. Approve Town Meeting Warning
Mr. Duggan read the articles on the Town Meeting warning, including the addition of article 5, added as the result of an Essex community petition. He said that this article, if passed, would
“expand the Selectboard from 5 at-large members to 6 members, 3 of whom would be elected from inside the Village and 3 of whom would be elected from outside the Village.” He explained that the wording of Article 5 cannot be changed because it was included through a community-driven petition process. The board members discussed Article 5, pointing out that the way it is written is not in the best interest of Essex; the wording “3 would be elected from…” does not mean “3 representatives of… would be elected.” They pointed out that, if this article passes as written, it will limit residents from each area to elect three board members. The Selectboard agreed to support the Town meeting warning, with these reservations.

MAX LEVY made a motion, seconded by ANNIE COOPER, that the Selectboard approve and sign the warning for the 2020 Town Meeting, to be effective January 23, 2020. The motion passed 5-0.

c. Approve warning for public hearing on FY2021-2025 Capital Budget and Plan
Ms. Macy introduced changes to the Capital Budget and plan, edits made to page 3 on a park replacement plan and an updated funding schedule. Mr. Watts said that he has multiple questions about the Capital Budget and Plan and wondered when he could discuss them. He asked how the excess money from the 2 cent capital tax would be used and requested clarification of the Circ. Highway bridge funding. Mr. Lutz briefly discussed how the bridge over the Circ. Highway was conceived. He justified changing this plan and use the money set aside for it for higher priority pathway projects. Mr. Watts pointed out that the Selectboard had not yet discussed the Capital Budget and Plan at length, although some projects were mentioned during the budget day. Mr. Duggan agreed that this was an oversight and suggested putting a discussion on the next meeting agenda, prior to warning a Public Hearing.

ANDY WATTS made a motion, seconded by ANNIE COOPER, that the Selectboard table the discussion of the Capital Budget and Capital Plan. The motion passed 5-0.

d. Discuss and assign Selectboard outreach efforts for Town Meeting
Ms. Haney opened a discussion with the Selectboard to determine who would attend which outreach efforts, in preparation for Town Meeting. Each board member signed up for at least two slots on the event list presented. They discussed when to arrive and depart from the events and the quantity of materials they should bring to be distributed. They discussed outreach possibilities at school drop-off and pick-up times and in school Friday folders. Ms. Cooper offered to attend a Senior Center lunch or bingo. Mr. Duggan agreed to have drafts of the talking point materials available for review and discussion at the January 27th meeting. He said he would talk with the school principals about if they can put materials into Friday folders. Mr. Duggan offered to create a shared google doc. of the Selectboard sign-up sheet, for Selectboard members to access and add their names to if they become available for other times/locations.

e. *Evaluation of public employee
Ms. Haney explained that this executive session would take place after the Joint Meeting.

7. CONSENT ITEMS

MAX LEVY made a motion, seconded by ANNIE COOPER, to approve the Consent Agenda, with Selectboard comments:

a. Approve easement for VT Route 117 Bridge Project
Approval of the easement request for Parcel #1, (135 River Road) within the Essex BF 5400(9) bridge project limits on VT RT 117 by the Vermont Agency of Transportation following the
completion of the process outlined in 24 V.S.A. § 1061, providing public notice and an
opportunity to object, and direct the Unified Manager to execute the easement deed thereafter.

b. **Approve minutes: January 6, 2020; January 13, 2020**
   Including amendments made by Ms. Smith during Public to be Heard.

c. **Check Warrant #17681—01/10/20**
   The motion passed 5-0.

8. **READING FILE**

a. Selectboard Comments
   - Mr. Watts said he attended the Essex Representatives coffee and was very concerned to
     hear the representatives say that others in the state house think Essex is “squabbling like
     children.” Ms. Haney agreed that this is upsetting.

b. Email from Charles Cole re: Promotions at Essex Fire Department

Ms. Haney called a recess of the Selectboard meeting to enter into the Joint Meeting of the
Village of Essex Junction Trustees and Town of Essex Selectboard at 7:36 PM.

Ms. Haney reconvened the Selectboard from a recess of the Joint meeting of the Village of
Essex Junction Trustees and Town of Essex Selectboard, after the Village Trustees
adjourned, at 9:37 PM

9. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

a. “An executive session is anticipated for the evaluation of a public employee

ANDY WATTS made a motion, seconded by ANNIE COOPER, that the Selectboard enter into
executive session to discuss the evaluation of a public employee in accordance with 1
V.S.A. Section 313(a)(3). The motion passed 5-0 at 9:37 PM.

MAX LEVY made a motion, seconded by PATRICK MURRAY, that the Selectboard close
executive session. The motion passed 5-0 at 10:26 PM.

10. **ADJOURN**

MAX LEVY made a motion, seconded by ANNIE COOPER, that the Selectboard adjourn the
meeting. The motion passed 5-0 at 10:27 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cathy Ainsworth
Recording Secretary

Approved this 27th day of January, 2020

(See minutes of this day for corrections, if any)

Patrick Murray, Clerk, Selectboard