



# TOWN OF ESSEX VERMONT

81 MAIN STREET, ESSEX JUNCTION, VERMONT 05452

## BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY MINUTES OF MEETING NOVEMBER 3, 2021

**Members Present:** Dawn Hill-Fleury, Chair; Diane Clemens; Betsy Dunn; Linda Myers; Tracey Delphia; Brian Sheldon; Alyssa Black; Rajan Chawla; Bernard Couture; Dylan Giambatista; Ryan McLaren; Susan McNamara-Hill, Clerk.

**Guests Present:** Representative Lori Houghton; Representative Marybeth Redmond.

**Audience:** Irene Wrenner.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Dawn Hill-Fleury, Chair

### **Businesss:**

Review and comment on proposed legislative reapportionment maps. The Board members and state representatives discussed the tentative reapportionment proposal from the Legislative Apportionment Board. The proposal was for the state to have 150 single member districts. The proposal for Essex/Westford also included residents in South Burlington and Milton.

Chair Dawn Hill-Fleury read the following email to Clerk Susan McNamara-Hill from the South Burlington City Clerk dated 10/28/21:

I am meeting with my Board of Civil Authority tonight and my 4 state representatives regarding the reapportionment. After a meeting with the 4 representatives and with city leaders, it is their hope that the BCA can make a case for having 5 districts, all contained within South Burlington's borders. We are going to propose to LAB that with the numbers that we have and the already approved permits, that we will be at or more than the suggested 4,287 number per district within 5 years. From a conversation with the chair of the BCA, I believe that is the direction that he will be taking also at tonight's meeting. I don't know what your BCA's are thinking, but wanted to give you a heads up as you are 2 of the towns they want to link us with.

After a lengthy discussion it was the consensus of the board that the existing districts that encompass the town boundaries of Essex and Westford (also Essex-Westford School District Boundaries) should be continued. The board also suggested that this area should have a total of 6 representatives instead of the 5 it has now. An

additional suggestion was made that the municipal boundaries of the Village of Essex Junction and Town of Essex be considered as much as possible.

A motion was made by Dylan Giambatista and seconded by Betsy Dunn that a letter to drafted to express to the apportionment board that is the view of the Essex BCA that the proposal of five [six] single member districts encompassing Essex, Essex Junction, Milton, South Burlington and Westford is not consistent with the existing boundaries of the Essex-Westford School District and existing municipalities, that we would urge adoption of a plan where districts stay within the existing footprint of the Essex-Westford School District and municipalities therein (Village of Essex Junction, Town of Essex, Town of Westford), and to the greatest extent possible because of our population growth, we would urge consideration of six state representatives for that geographic area, including the possibility of two member districts, to ensure that the representation meets the needs of residents of the member municipalities.

Voting on the motion, all ayes, motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Susan McNamara-Hill, Town Clerk