Essex Merger Vote FAQs
VOTE NOVEMBER 3, 2020
For more information go to: www.greateressex2020.org

Why merge?
The Village Board of Trustees and Town Selectboard believe we will be stronger
together as one united community. We can
work as one to plan for the future, attract and
retain a vibrant business community, protect
our natural resources, restore and enhance our
infrastructure, improve our services, overcome
challenges we face, and establish ourselves as
Vermont’s premier livable community.

Why is the Village tax rate higher than the
Town’s?
The Village is part of the Town so it has the
same tax rate for paying taxes to the Town to
support the Town’s municipal services. Added
to that is the Village tax rate which pays for
municipal services provided by the Village
government. Town residents outside the Village
don’t pay taxes to the Village government.

Aren’t we already merged?
The current governance structure we have now
is two separate municipalities with separate
charters, sharing some municipal services
under contract. The Village of Essex Junction
is an incorporated municipality within the
municipality of the Town of Essex.

Why do the Town and Village share some
services but not others?
Over a hundred years ago the State allowed the
village area of Essex Town to incorporate itself
as a separate taxing and governing authority
within the Town. The village, now known as
Essex Junction, was becoming densely
populated and needed municipal services that
the Town didn’t provide. The State still
considered the Village to be part of the Town.
As the rest of the Town grew and developed the
Village was required to help pay for municipal
services outside the Village as well as paying
for its own municipal services within the
Village. Over the years the Town and Village
governments have integrated some Village
municipal departments into the Town so that
the cost is distributed throughout the
community. But some Village municipal
services – Brownell Library, capital repair
costs, community development, fire
department, and recreation – remain separate.
Village residents support those services in the
Village and also help support Essex Town’s
library, capital repair costs, community
development, fire department, and recreation.
Merging the Town and Village governments
would dissolve the Village government and
integrate those remaining services under a
single town government.

Why are we doing this now?
Each year that passes increases the cost of
merging. Although consolidation efforts
lowered the cost since the 2006/2007 vote, as
long as Village taxes continue to increase, the
tax impact of merger on residents outside the
Village grows.

To continue consolidation efforts, the Town of
Essex Selectboard and the Village of Essex
Junction Board of Trustees have met jointly for
the past few years and much research has been
done by a joint Governance Subcommittee on
possible governance structures of a merged
municipality. Public input was also gathered
via resident surveys and listening sessions.
How has consolidation of some services saved money?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY2014 - FY2019: $2.13 Million</th>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Village</th>
<th>Total Savings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>$367,000</td>
<td>$606,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Finance &amp; Admin</td>
<td>$378,000</td>
<td>$179,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stormwater &amp; Public Works</td>
<td>$344,000</td>
<td>$254,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Savings</td>
<td>$1,089,000</td>
<td>$1,039,000</td>
<td>$2.13M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY2020: $0.69 Million</th>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Village</th>
<th>Total Savings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>$67,200</td>
<td>$113,500</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Finance &amp; Admin</td>
<td>$194,300</td>
<td>$195,600</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stormwater &amp; Public Works</td>
<td>$59,800</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Total Savings</td>
<td>$321,300</td>
<td>$371,400</td>
<td>$0.69M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How would a merger affect development?
Merging the Town and Village governments wouldn’t change their comprehensive plans, but, over time, it would merge them into a single document. If merger happens, the long-term evolution of the newly unified Town-Village comprehensive plan would be under the control of a single planning commission, development office, and elected board. Changes and updates would reflect the coordinated strategic vision of the entire community.

How would merger affect my property taxes?
Residents of the Town outside the Village currently pay municipal taxes only to the Town. Residents of the Village currently pay municipal taxes to both the Village and Town.

- A $280,000 home in the Town outside the Village pays a total of $1,510.88 in municipal taxes.
- A $280,000 home in the Village pays a total of $2,405.76 in municipal taxes.

The Town and Village coming together means the two different levels of taxation meet somewhere between the two. The tax impact of merger would be spread over 12 years. The annual impact for residents of the Town outside the Village would be an increase between $20 and $30 each year over that time period. Please note:

- Actual numbers depend on assessed value.
- Education tax rates would not be impacted by merger.
- Only users of municipal water and sewer pay for these services. Residents in parts of Essex that do not have municipal water or sewer service do not pay for those services or infrastructure.
- A temporary “Village Debt Assessment District” would be established and sunset once all Village debt is paid in full by Village residents.
Description: Location: Town Residential

OWNER

ASSESSED VALUE

REAL  280,000

TOTAL TAXABLE VALUE  280,000

GRAND LIST VALUES  2,800.00

MUNICIPAL TAXES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TAX RATE NAME</th>
<th>TAX RATE</th>
<th>GRAND LIST</th>
<th>TAXES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Town General</td>
<td>0.5067</td>
<td>x2,800.00</td>
<td>1,418.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Capital</td>
<td>0.0200</td>
<td>x2,800.00</td>
<td>56.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Highway</td>
<td>0.0110</td>
<td>x2,800.00</td>
<td>30.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tax Agreements</td>
<td>0.0019</td>
<td>x2,800.00</td>
<td>5.32</td>
</tr>
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EDUCATION TAXES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TAX RATE NAME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HOMESTEAD EDUCATION</td>
<td>1.5385</td>
<td>x2,800.00</td>
<td>4,307.80</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

MUNICIPAL NET TAX DUE  1,510.88

MUNICIPAL STATE PAYMENT  2,909.34

TOTAL MUNICIPAL TAX  5,818.68

TOTAL NET TAX DUE  5,818.68

TAX SUMMARY

TOTAL EDUCATION TAX  4,307.80

EDUCATION NET TAX DUE  4,307.80

EDUCATION STATE PAYMENT  4,307.80

MUNICIPAL + EDUCATION

TOTAL TAX  5,818.68

TOTAL STATE PAYMENT  0.00

DETACH THE STUBS BELOW AND RETURN WITH YOUR PAYMENT

This is the only bill you will receive. Please forward to new owner if property is sold.
### Town of Essex

**TAX BILL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARCEL ID</th>
<th>BILL DATE</th>
<th>TAX YEAR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>01/27/2020</td>
<td>2019</td>
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**Description:**
Location: Village Residential

**Owner**

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### ASSESSED VALUE

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### TOTAL TAXABLE VALUE

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### GRAND LIST VALUES

<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>0.0019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Village General</td>
<td>0.3206</td>
<td>2,800.00</td>
<td>897.68</td>
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<td>Village Economic Dev</td>
<td>0.0100</td>
<td>2,800.00</td>
<td>28.00</td>
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#### Tax Rate Calculation Information:
- See reverse side for education tax rate calculation information.

### Payments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>3,356.78</td>
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<tr>
<td>03/16/20</td>
<td>3,356.78</td>
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### TOTAL MUNICIPAL TAX

| MUNICIPAL STATE PAYMENT       | 3,356.78 |
| MUNICIPAL NET TAX DUE         | 2,405.76 |

### TOTAL EDUCATION TAX

| EDUCATION NET TAX DUE          | 4,307.80 |
| EDUCATION STATE PAYMENT        | 4,307.80 |

### TAX SUMMARY

| MUNICIPAL + EDUCATION TAX DUE  | 6,713.56 |
| TOTAL STATE PAYMENT            | 0.00     |
| TOTAL NET TAX DUE              | 6,713.56 |

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### Town of Essex

**TAX BILL**

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<tr>
<th>1ST PAYMENT DUE</th>
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<td></td>
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<td>3356.78</td>
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All Town and Village taxes are now included on this bill when applicable.

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### Town of Essex

**TAX BILL**

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<thead>
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<th>2ND PAYMENT DUE</th>
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<th>OWNER NAME</th>
<th>PARCEL ID</th>
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**FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES**

**Description:**
Location: Village Residential

**Owner**