FIRST THING'S FIRST: WHAT ARE WE VOTING ON?

The Town of Essex and the Village of Essex Junction are currently two municipalities with two separate charters, sharing some municipal services under contract. Town and Village residents are all residents of the Town — Village residents are residents of both.

The Town of Essex Selectboard and the Village of Essex Junction Board of Trustees are exploring a potential merger of the governance of the two municipalities under a single charter to form a single government entity.

Following extensive research, collaboration, and a robust public engagement process, the community will vote on November 3, 2020 on whether to proceed.

WHY EXPLORE A MERGER?

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
- Establish ourselves as Vermont’s premier livable community
- Restore and enhance our infrastructure
- Improve our services
- Overcome challenges we face
- Protect our natural resources
- Establish ourselves as Vermont’s premier livable community

KEY CHALLENGES:

There are still a number of issues to resolve leading up to a community decision, including:

- Taxation
- Governing board structure & elections
- Community identity

CURRENTLY:

The Town and Village function TOGETHER in many ways:

- Manager’s Office (One Unified Manager)
- Police Department
- Clerk’s Office
- Finance Department
- Essex Area Senior Center
- Public Works Department

These departments and services are paid for by all members of the Essex community.

Consolidations have saved more than $2.8 million combined from fiscal years 2014-2020.

The Town and Village still budget SEPARATELY for these services:

- Fire Department
- Libraries
- Community Development
- Parks and Recreation
- Capital Planning
- Elected & Appointed Boards

WHAT'S NEXT?

Plan for the future

Resident Surveys & Focus Groups (2019)

Previous Merger Attempts

Thoughtful Growth in Action (2016)

Essex Governance Group (2015)

Shared Service Delivery Model (2014)

Heart & Soul of Essex (2011-14)

FOUNDATIONAL WORK
## Timeline and Process

### March 2018
- Selectboard & Trustees Begin Discussions of One Community

### June - Aug. 2019
- Strategic Planning, First Resident Survey, Focus Groups
- Develop Preferred Governance Model & Merger Plan

### Sept.
- Second Resident Survey
- Draft Charter Proposal & Merger Plan

### Jan. - Feb. 2020
- Finalize Charter Proposal & Merger Plan
- Presentation at Annual Meetings

### March - April
- More Outreach
- Presentation at Annual Meetings

### Aug. - Sept.
- Warn Public Hearings (Sept.) & Hold Public Hearings (Oct.)

### Sept. - Oct.
- More Outreach

### November 3
- greateressex2020.org

### Community Input

Your participation is essential to this process!

The Town of Essex and the Village of Essex Junction want to hear your thoughts, ideas, concerns, and aspirations for the future of our community. Are we on the right track?

- **Share Your Ideas**
- **Talk to Your Neighbors**
- **Read the Weekly Column in The Essex Reporter and FPF**
- **Ask Questions**
- **Browse Our FAQ**

Stay in touch at:

- greateressex2020.org
- greateressex2020.org

### Note on the Word ‘Merger’

When a town and its incorporated village decide to form a single municipality, this is called a merger by VT law — so we can’t abandon that term.

### How Will This Affect Me?

The merger plan will provide details about:

- Representation
- Identity
- Taxation

While maintaining the services we all care about.

**Your participation is essential to this process!**

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