

TOWN OF ESSEX

PO Box 355
2313 Main Street
Essex, New York 12936

Edward Gardner
Supervisor

William Morgan
Town Clerk

TOWN COUNCIL:

Mark Wrisley
Bryan Garvey
Claire LaPine
James LaForest

Combined Meeting Workshop Essex-Willsboro Town Boards

In Attendance:

Supervisor Gardner
Councilperson LaPine
Councilperson Garvey
Councilperson LaForest
Councilperson Wrisley

Supervisor Gilliland
Councilperson Sheehan
Councilperson Benway
Councilperson Sayward
Councilperson Lustig

Supervisor Gilliland called meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Supervisor Gilliland led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Gilliland asked Deputy Town Clerk Gardner to read the public notice.

There will be a combined Special Meeting Workshop on Wednesday, April 22, 2015, 6:30 p.m. at the Willsboro Town Hall to work on the Transfer Station and any other Shared Service.

**By Order of the Essex Town Board
Dated March 18, 2015
Patricia Gardner
Deputy Town Clerk**

Due to conflict the combined Special Meeting Workshop is now scheduled for Thursday, April 23, 2015, 6:30 p.m. at the Willsboro Visitor Center, Main Street, to work on the Transfer Station and any other Shared Service.

**By Order of the Essex Town Board
Dated March 18, 2015
Patricia Gardner**

Deputy Town Clerk

Shared Services: Supervisor Gilliland explained the purpose of this workshop is to discuss the options available to be able to meet the state's new guidelines, including the efficiencies that would affect the taxpayers. Also it was brought up that the state is mandating the towns to come up with plans for the new tax cap without the any guidance, by June.

Transfer Station: Supervisor Gardner explained how the transfer station currently operates. He explained that we need a new updated version of the agreement. The records are being completed by the bookkeeper and he could bring forth documentation at the next meeting. He explained that user fees have been covering the cost of the transfer station and that at the end of the year there is a small profit, which he feels needs to be kept for updates to the transfer station. It was asked if those funds were kept separate. Mr. Gardner responded that they were not but are now. Mr. Benway asked for some specific updates and Mr. Gardner responded with one example of updating the area at the compactor, raising it enough to get machinery in to unplug jams. He noted that the employees follow protocol by locking down all equipment but that it still meant an employee getting into the compactor to unjam it. Mr. Gilliland explained that this excess in the funds received could be split, report the efficiencies to the state but use this for upgrade. A question was raised asking how long it has been since the tipping charge was increased? They have not been raised but the way the items are weighed has changed being that if it is slightly over the pound, they are charged for the next pound also. It was suggested that the 2 supervisors meet and work over the contract and bring it back to the boards next month. A question was raised asking if cash can be accepted at the site, making easier to pay. It was brought up that the Comptroller's office has deemed this cannot happen at the transfer site. Credit card acceptance was brought up but you would need internet connection in order to accommodate this.

Ambulance Service

Supervisor Gilliland gave a synopsis of what has happened from 2009 in regards to the EMS issue with both towns. He said Senator Betty Little is introducing a bill to allow fire departments to bill insurance companies. One of the big issues is that volunteer EMT's are dwindling and it is inevitable that paid EMT's will be the norm. Now how do we pay for this, do we set up districts, allow it to be funded through general funds. Either way the towns are required to provide ambulance service and it is going to cost the taxpayer's money. Mr. Jackson spoke that they Essex Willsboro EMS, LLC has been formed and they have their non-profit status. Getting a letter from both boards in support of this will allow them to start. He realizes that it is more advantageous to form districts versus having a shared service with both towns with the LLC. Becky Crowningshield spoke of the billing, the scheduling of EMS on duty, the certificate of operations and reporting system the state has that are all mandated. A question arose asking how much money the towns would have to put in their budget. The response was that the budget of the LLC would be taxed the same as a school districts. The town of Willsboro has no ambulance reserve fund where Essex's ambulance is funded through donations. A question of ownership of the ambulance arose and a legal opinion says that the LLC would have to pay the current value of the ambulance. Having districts would allow the towns to own the ambulance and lease to the service. The issue of transferability will be raised with a lawyer. There was a question as to what the insurers in specific Medicare, pay vs

what you may actually get. There is a mandate that all insurance will be billed and if a person has no insurance they will be billed twice and then it can be dropped according to the Medicare rules. Mr. Jackson was asked to write the resolution so that the towns mirror the resolution, subject to the board's approval.

Youth Commission:

Supervisor Gilliland asked Supervisor Gardner to explain why this was put on the agenda. He stated that the board felt that the agreement we have with the Youth Commission is totally acceptable and no discussion is needed.

Other Service:

We currently share the Dog Control Officer and that is working.

Another area that was brought up was the Code Enforcing Officer be interchangeable. It was suggested that sharing this office would allow extra help in times of heavy loads, vacations, illness and the like. No other comments were raised on this issue.

Water Service: The town of Essex and soon the Town of Willsboro will both be under the gun to find a water source other than the lake. The town of Essex has one more drilling to find water in within the town. A next possible option is that there is a possible large amount of water in an old river bed that runs through the town of Willsboro at the tennis court. This could be a shared service if there is enough water to supply both communities, with the shared service being the building, electricity and road construction.

Town Garages was already looked into that would of included both towns and the school. The Town of Essex has backed out because the mileage consumed by being on the school property was too great.

Supervisor Gilliland asked the floor for suggestions. Mr. Jackson suggested getting into the solar power proposition that the county is entering into. He suggested that the edge of the old dump and the extra land that the Fire District have could be used for this. Mr. Gardner also brought up that the towns will be able to piggy back the county with this enterprise.

Mr. Jackson also suggested that the 2 towns consolidate into one. It was brought up that it would bring more clout at the county weighed voting but this would take a lot of work. And it could save a fair amount of money. Mr. Jackson was asked to lead a new joint committee.

Meeting of the joint board was adjourned at 7:50.