

TOWN OF ESSEX

PO Box 355
2313 Main Street
Essex, New York 12936

Edward Gardner
Supervisor

Patricia Gardner
Town Clerk

TOWN COUNCIL:

Claire LaPine
Bryan Garvey
James LaForest
Gretel Schueller

May 4, 2016 Special Joint Town Boards of Essex and Willsboro Meeting

In Attendance:

Town Board Essex

Supervisor Gardner
Councilperson LaPine
Councilperson Garvey
Councilperson LaForest
Councilperson Schueller

Town Board Willsboro

Supervisor Gilliland
Councilperson Sheehan
Councilperson Lustig
Councilperson Sayward
Councilperson Benway

Audience

Gregg Gordon
Nick & Monica Rumsey
Doug Rock
Jane Terlouw
Jay White
Shirley LaForest
Tom & Corey Gilliland
Richard Tietelbaum

Supervisor Gilliland opened the meeting at 7:00 and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Gilliland stated he and Supervisor Gardner had talked that a joint meeting with the two boards with an open discussion of shared services would be helpful for the towns to move forward in further shared services.

Today we do have shared services with the Transfer Station, the Youth Program, Dog Control Officer and in the past the Senior Program. There are three primary areas that we would like to look at for shared service: 1. Code Enforcement Officer 2. Senior Van/Senior Program 3. Town Beach.

It was opened up for discussion the Code Enforcement Officer. Supervisor Gardner asked the boards if they had seen the contract that was worked out earlier. Town Clerk of Essex had some copies of it that were shared. The two supervisors and Doug Rock had looked at the amount of permits/inspections that Essex does in a year and felt that the time needed for Essex could be worked into his time. There will be no keeping track of hours. There might be anything from Essex for a few weeks then have to spend whatever time is needed to respond to an event in Essex. Willsboro has provided Doug with a cell phone dedicated to CEO, they have a secretary for the Code and Planning, which will alleviate some of the paper workload. Another time saver is a computer program that is being looked at that would allow the CEO to use a portable tablet for inspections that would download into the computer and produce the needed reports. Essex has updated their fee schedule to match Willsboro, of course Essex has a unique situation with the Historic District. All records that relate to Essex have to be maintained in the Essex office. He would have to be at planning board meetings and any other meeting required to. The pay would be generated through Willsboro and Essex would pay a contracted agreed upon price. This would be the efficiency saving for Essex.

Next for discussion is the beach. Last year Willsboro applied and got permission to open a second beach here at Noblewood so that the Summer Program and public beaches would be separate. Previously the beach would have to be closed to the public while the Summer Program used the beach. Now there needs to be additional life guards to cover both beaches. Supervisor Gardner had brought up that maybe Essex could share this service because Essex has no town beach. There would be other additional costs for the duplicate equipment needed to open the

second beach. Currently Willsboro uses a free sticker for their residents and non-residents pay \$5 for a day pass. If approved Essex residents would also be given a sticker for park use. A question was asked about what are some of the requirements for opening and operating a town beach. Supervisor Gilliland stated there are APA permits, DEC permits, Dept. of Health comes and actually goes in the water, they run test samples, need a land line phone, radios, access to the beach for emergency equipment, Life Guards have to be classified as RTE, recertify beach every 4 years and permits every year and a lot of administrative work. The cost would be based on the EMS model of 1/3 and 2/3.

Willsboro and Essex are the only towns in Essex County that have a shared service agreement. This works into the efficiencies that the assist the towns with the State Tax Cap and is what that check all can taxpayers receive yearly.

Last is the Senior Program and van. At one time both towns had vans for the seniors. Essex van died a few years ago and they did not replace it. Now the Willsboro van is dying and we have ordered a new \$30,000 van. The van is used to pick up and drop off the seniors to the site, deliver meals on wheels (at which tile Essex has none) and for transportation for trips for shopping and other events. Currently Essex has one resident utilizing the van. As for the senior services, the Reber church charges the town \$5,000 a year for rent for the use of the church. The church spent a lot of money bringing the hall up to par for the seniors. This also should be considered for a shared service at the suggest rate of 1/3 - 2/3.

After some back and forth discussion it was decided that Willsboro will bring back some definitive figures for the beach, senior program and van. I was also decided to tackle one item at a time. It was also agreed that we are 2 towns but one community.

Public comments: Mr. Teitelbaum suggested that the boards not get wrapped around the 1/3 -2/3 concept but to go forward using this until numbers change. Mrs. Ramsey stated that with the economy of need and scale it is so valuable for Essex and Willsboro to continue on with shared services and that the 1/3 – 2/3 rate is fair. Mr. Crowningshield noted that there is more than just purchasing a van but that there are repairs, fuel, mileage and driver charges and that Willsboro is paying for it. He felt that Essex is always trying to come in and share with the Willsboro and he feels Essex should come up with some ideas. Mrs. LaForest just wanted to point out that Essex, for many years provided a place for the Senior's. Mr. Ramsey asked that the forms the code enforcement uses is uniform and that the hours used for the code enforcement be evaluated because it seems like there may be a lot of overtime involved. Mrs. Terlouw wanted to let all know who much she appreciates the openness of this discussion.

It was asked if Essex was starting a youth commission. Essex has a youth committee but no youth commission. Essex will continue to use the Youth Program that Willsboro has.

At this point, each board individually pass a motion to allow each supervisor to enter into negotiations for each of the items discussed tonight.

Willsboro passed a motion made by Mr. Lustig and seconded by Mrs Sayward to allow supervisor to enter into negotiation with Essex over shared services. All in favor.

Bryan Garvey made, James LaForest seconded, a motion to allow the Supervisor to enter into negotiations with the Willsboro Supervisor for shared services. All in favor, no nays.

It was suggested that the boards continue to meet to recap where the towns are with shared services.

Having no other comments the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted
Patricia Gardner, Town Clerk