

From: Bridget Downey - Meyer

Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 9:50 AM

To: Andrew Brown <abrown@essexjunction.org>; Elaine Haney <ehaney@essex.org>; Andy Watts <AWatts@ESSEX.ORG>; Vince Franco <vfranco@essex.org>; Dawn Hill-Fleury <dhillfleury@essex.org>; Patrick Murray <PMurray@essex.org>; Raj Chawla <RChawla@essexjunction.org>; Amber Thibeault <AThibeault@essexjunction.org>; Daniel Kerin <dkerin@essexjunction.org>; George Tyler <gt Tyler@essexjunction.org>; Evan Teich <eteich@essex.org>

Subject: Request for separation financials

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To the Selectboard and Trustees,

We were disappointed at the outcome of the policing community conversation during the 7/6 Selectboard/Trustee meeting. It is obvious that relations between the two boards are strained, which now may affect merger discussions. We, the undersigned citizens of Essex, are not with this letter advocating for or against merger but believe we must continue working towards fair and equitable representation and tax structure within our two communities. That means all pertinent information must be on the table.

In order to keep moving toward this goal we need factual data. We request complete and accurate calculations of what the costs would be if our two communities separated.

Please include:

1. Yearly budget of each Town department and the % of each Village and TOV tax that pays for that department
2. On the same spreadsheet as #1 notate the departments that are duplicated in both municipalities and the year each department was established within its own municipality.
3. The tax dollar amount paid by Village residents into the Town Capital Fund. Also provide a yearly estimate of how much of the capital fund is spent within the Village boundary.
4. The tax rate changes for each community and the estimated tax increase or decrease based on an average home value.
5. An estimate of the number of positions and associated salary and benefit costs to backfill positions necessitated by separation and how those fall (TOV / Village).

We realize that this is not a simple task but do request numbers in a timely fashion.

Thank you,

Bridget Meyer, Lori Houghton, Harlan Smith, Richard Smith, Andy Kolovos, Nick Meyer, Melanie Tupaj, Emily Tupaj, Daryl Stultz, Saramichelle Stultz, Jon Houghton, Erin Knox, Linda Waite Simpson, John Crock, Liz Subin, Annie Cooper, Kelly Adams, Gabrielle Ratte Smith, Ann Wadsworth, Ed Malina, Aimee Cronin, Julie Miller Johnson, Renee Dall, Sheila Porter, Mike Sullivan, Joe Knox, Kim Gleason