

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”), dated this ____ day of _____, 202_, by and between the Town of Essex, a Vermont municipality located in the County of Chittenden and State of Vermont, (“Essex” or the “Town”) and the Village of Essex Junction, a Vermont municipality located in the County of Chittenden and State of Vermont, (“Essex Junction” or the “Village” and together the Village and Town are collectively referred to herein as the “Municipalities” or the “Parties”).

WHEREAS, the Village is currently an incorporated Village located within the Town;

WHEREAS, the Village is pursuing separation from the Town with the intention of incorporating as an independent City (“City of Essex Junction” or “City”) pursuant to legislative approval;

WHEREAS, the Town Selectboard and the Village Trustees are working amicably to plan for the Village’s separation from the Town;

WHEREAS, the Town Selectboard and Village Trustees have determined that certain agreements will be necessary between the Town and the City of Essex Junction for purposes such as sharing or purchasing municipal services or operations;

WHEREAS, until the effective date of the City’s Charter, there is no authority under which the Village may enter agreements on behalf of the City;

WHEREAS, the Village and the Town desire to prepare these tentative agreements in advance with the understanding that the current Village Trustees will become the future City Councilors and intend to enter these agreements on behalf of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Parties now wish to enter into this Memorandum of Understanding regarding the tentative agreements necessary for separation of the Municipalities and establishment of the City of Essex Junction;

NOW THEREFORE, based on the foregoing premises, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the Town and the Village hereby agree as follows:

1. The Town and Village have prepared the following tentative agreements which are attached as Exhibits to this MOU:
 - a. Police Services Agreement;
 - b. Reappraisal and Assessor Services Agreement;

- c. Clerk/Treasurer's Agreement;
 - d. Information Technology Agreement; and
 - e. Delinquent Tax Agreement.
2. Prior to the execution of the foregoing agreements, the Parties, working in good faith, shall reach agreement, at a minimum, on the following matters: Right of First Refusal for 81 Main Street (Exhibit F); Stormwater Agreement (Exhibit G); Recreation program access/Indian Brook access/Senior Center and Bus (Exhibit H); and shared boards, commissions, and committees (Exhibit I). Should the Vermont Legislature approve the City Charter, the City will enter a transitional period during which the separation of departments, municipal services, and operations will occur. Joint administrative services (Manager; Human Resources, etc.) will be discontinued at such time the Village has retained those services for itself or February 25, 2022, whichever occurs first. By entering into this MOU the Town does not waive the opportunity to oppose separation or ask for certain conditions during the transition phase at the Legislature and expressly reserves the Town's right to do so.
 3. The Town and Village intend that the Town and City will enter the above referenced tentative agreements generally consistent with the form of those attached hereto as Exhibits A-E during the transitional period provided agreement is reached on those issues set forth in section 2, above. The Town and the Village will work in good faith to execute the agreements.
 4. The Parties agree to first mediate any dispute prior to submitting the matter to court, provided that a mediator may be obtained within 60 days of when such a dispute arises. The Parties, however, recognize that the contract for Police Services concerns an essential municipal function, and thus, any dispute between the Parties that arises concerning Police Services and which could cause an interruption of police services is emergent and in need of immediate attention by the court and therefore not subject to a mediation requirement prior to initiating a filing with the court.
 5. This MOU may be amended or modified by mutual written agreement of the Parties. This MOU shall terminate upon the execution of the agreements set forth in Section 1. Should the Vermont Legislature not approve the City Charter by the conclusion of the 2021-2022 legislative session, this MOU shall terminate and have no further force or effect unless extended by mutual agreement of the Parties.

6. Any notice required under this MOU shall be in writing and mailed to the addresses listed below (or such other address as a party may designate) or hand delivered to the other party at a duly warned meeting.

To Town of Essex: Town of Essex Selectboard
 81 Main Street
 Essex Junction, VT 05452

To Village of Essex Junction: Village Board of Trustees
 2 Lincoln Street
 Essex Junction, VT 05452

7. This MOU shall be governed by the laws of the State of Vermont. All rights and remedies provided by this MOU or by law or in equity or by statute shall be cumulative and concurrent and shall be in addition to every other right, power, or remedy now or hereafter existing to enforce this MOU. If any provision of this MOU shall be deemed to be invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this MOU shall not be affected thereby and shall continue in full force and effect and shall be enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.
8. Neither party shall assign this MOU or any interest hereunder without the written approval of the Parties, with the exception that the rights and obligations of the Village of Essex Junction shall flow to the City of Essex Junction once it has been established. This MOU shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the Parties and their respective successors and assigns.
9. No failure by either party to insist upon the strict performance of any term hereunder or to exercise any right, power, or remedy consequent upon a breach thereof shall constitute a waiver of any breach of any such term. No waiver of any breach shall affect or alter this MOU, which shall continue in full force and effect, or the rights of either party with respect to any other existing or subsequent breach.

DATED this ____ day of _____, 202_.

TOWN OF ESSEX

By: _____
 Its Duly Authorized Agent

VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION

By: _____
Its Duly Authorized Agent