

## Tammy Getchell

---

**From:** Andy Watts  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 21, 2021 10:04 PM  
**To:** Evan Teich  
**Cc:** Tammy Getchell; Linda Mahns  
**Subject:** FW: Selectboard Meeting Comments/Questions Part 3, January 19, 2021

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Evan,

Could you please include the contents of this email in the reading file for the next Selectboard meeting? It occurred to me that other members of the Selectboard never got a chance to see/hear my concerns with the merger information document.

Also, in the meeting this week, I asked about ordinances enacted by the Selectboard. The merger info document states that the Selectboard can only enact ordinances that apply to the Town outside the Village. My specific question in the meeting was whether the liquor license ordinances apply to the entire Town and Elaine said that my question was subject to interpretation. Could you please explain to me how liquor license ordinances have been interpreted to only apply outside the Village? I thought the Selectboard was the Liquor Control Board for the entire Town. Why did Elaine say that the liquor control ordinances ordained by the Selectboard have been interpreted to only apply outside the Village?

Best regards,  
Andy Watts

---

**From:** Andy Watts  
**Sent:** Monday, January 18, 2021 6:48 AM  
**To:** Evan Teich <ETeich@ESSEX.ORG>; Gregory Duggan <gduggan@ESSEX.ORG>  
**Cc:** Elaine Haney <EHaney@ESSEX.ORG>  
**Subject:** Selectboard Meeting Comments/Questions Part 3, January 19, 2021

Hi Evan, Greg and Elaine,

I see that some of my comments on the earlier version of the outreach materials have been touched. Some still remain.

Item 6f:

Page 5, why is Village tax reduction said to be temporary? I think this will be confusing to anyone who expects that merger will be permanent.

Also on page 5, there is a statement that Village residents are paying for services they don't receive. Can we please be completely transparent (and honest) and explicitly name all of the services that are in question?

Again on page 5, representation comes from the already approved 3+3 citizen led charter change. We should not claim that representation is related to merger.

On page 6, aren't the TOV tax increases permanent? Why are we saying they are temporary? I believe this will be a source of confusion.

Also on page 6, We should be more clear with regard to EJRP waiting list or are we intending to expand EJRP so that there is no waiting list at all? Some will interpret the wording to mean that there will be no waiting list.

On page 7, please remove Australian ballot and informational Town Meeting as a benefit of merger. This has already happened and is not related to merger in any way.

On page 10, there is a statement that says the Village budget is \$3.5M. It is \$5M. Please correct this. *Correction made!*

On page 12, Item 5, the Downtown district does not have a taxing provision. Please correct this.

Also on page 12, the Selectboard and Trustees have not discussed what items will be on the Village-only projects list. In order to protect the best interests of the former Village residents, I think this list of projects should be included in this document so they know what they will be paying for.

On page 13, ending the TOV highway tax is not part of the merger plan. Please correct this.

Also on page 13, there is a comment that the Village general fund is frozen and divided by 12 but then there is a footnote that says it is only frozen for demonstration purposes. This needs to be clarified.

On page 15, it should say new revenue "could" not new revenue "would."

On page 17, there is an assumption stated that the Legislature will approve the charter in June 2021. The Legislature usually adjourns in early May. Also, the dates for the transition period on page 17 do not agree with transition period dates on page 28. These should be consistent.

On page 21, there is a comment that the length of time for the capital district cannot be changed but, in effect, it can since the capital project list is said to be finite or, I suppose, projects could be dropped or supported by the entire Town. If the district runs out of projects, the tax could end before 12 years. On another note, there is no mention to what happens to any funds that are left over if not all projects are completed (we all know capital projects are often delayed due to outside circumstances).

Also on page 21, it says that the Selectboard can only pass ordinances outside the Village. Is this true? What about liquor ordinances related to licenses? I believe those also cover the Village. I'm not sure if there are others.

Page 24, I have no knowledge of the IBM question. I'm not sure how my name was put on this. All I know is that before 1999, net taxes (school + municipal) were lower in the Village than in the TOV. It has only been since 1999 that Village taxes have been higher than TOV taxes. We should say that. Yes, they have been higher for the last 20 years but for at least 50 years before that, they were lower (I only have data back to 1951) and it is not because the Town added new services. It is because the State changed how school taxes are levied. We should be transparent and include this information.

Best regards,  
Andy Watts