

JOHNSON MUNICIPAL OFFICES

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PRESS RELEASE

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns has announced that Eric Osgood, Town of Johnson Select Board Chair and Gordon Smith, Village of Johnson Board of Trustee Chair, will be co-recipients of the Municipal Person of the Year Award. Municipal Administrator Duncan Hastings, who with the support of both Boards nominated Osgood and Smith, was notified last Friday that the two would receive this prestigious award during luncheon ceremonies at the League's Annual Town Fair held on October 11, 2007, at Champlain Valley Fairgrounds in Essex Jct.

This award is given to an elected or appointed municipal official who has demonstrated outstanding service to his or her own municipality, and has also shown an active commitment to strong local government and service to the Vermont League of Cities and Towns.

Normally awarded to an individual, Hastings noted that he nominated Eric and "Gordy" because of their strong belief in responsive, responsible and open local government, their commitment to close cooperation between the town and village, combined years of service to the community and their leadership qualities.

The coordination and cooperation between town and village has been so successful that the two entities have in many ways "functionally merged". A shared Municipal Office building, shared administrative support staff, shared computer and software systems, municipal mapping systems, improved working relations between town and village staff and Boards, and shared equipment are some examples of this consolidation of services.

Gordy has served as a Trustee for 15 years, a Selectman for 6 years and Fire Department for 35 or 36 years, app 30 years as Chief. Eric has been on the Selectboard for 11 years, the School Board for 2 years, and was on the Fire Dept for 11 years.

Here are a few examples of accomplishments stemming from the leadership of these two individuals: Built new Municipal Office Building, joint purchase of former Talc Mill for municipal complex (feasibility study underway to determine best use of balance of property), awarded numerous grants including: Main Street Enhancement Project, Pearl St Bridge replacement Johnson/Cambridge Hogback Rd reconstruction, HSU equipment grants for fire and emergency services (these grants total more than \$6 million), \$4.25 million water system improvement project, upgrades to Electric Utility infrastructure/substation re-build, EPA Award WWTF plant, Inter-municipal Agreement for Village/Town sewer services, combined Town/Village Personnel Policy and benefits packages, hosted "Community Visit" by the Vt. Council on Rural Development, hired Community and Economic Development Coordinator, recovered from disastrous fire at Fire Station with new and attractive Station designed to meet future needs.

These are only some of the things that have been accomplished over the past few years. In making the nomination Hastings stated, "These accomplishments would not have been possible in my estimation without the leadership exhibited by Eric and Gordy. I believe they exemplify the traits of outstanding service to community, region and state that are worthy of recognition as Municipal Persons of the Year."