

**PROPOSED MUNICIPAL CHARTER
TOWN OF EAST MONTPELIER**

§ 1. Statement of purpose

Under the authority granted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont, this charter modifies the organization and functioning of local town government in the town of East Montpelier, Vermont. Except when changed by the provisions of this charter, all provisions of the statutes of the state of Vermont relating to municipalities shall apply to the town of East Montpelier. In this charter, no mention of a particular power shall be construed to be exclusive or to restrict the scope of the powers which the town would have if the particular powers were not mentioned, unless this charter otherwise provides. The modifications are intended to accomplish the following goals:

- (a) to help the selectboard more effectively exercise its ultimate responsibility for town affairs;
- (b) to solve problems that the town currently has, has had in the past, or might have in the future;
- (c) to be consistent with democratic control, particularly observing the principle of checks and balances;
- (d) to avoid or minimize unintended consequences from the modification;
- (e) to include changes that can be accomplished only through a charter; and
- (f) to keep the charter simple.

§ 2. Elected offices

- (a) The offices of town grand juror, town agent, and trustees of public funds, are abolished, and the functions assigned to the selectboard.
- (b) In performing the duties of the trustees of public funds, the selectboard will consult with and have the assistance of the town treasurer.

§ 3. Town treasurer

- (a) The selectboard shall appoint a town treasurer in the manner set forth in subsection (b) of this section. The appointee shall be competent in the keeping of records, investments, and accounting, and shall serve at the pleasure of the selectboard. The person chosen need not be a resident or qualified voter of East Montpelier.
- (b) Prior to appointing a town treasurer and no more than 45 days after the treasurer position is vacated, the selectboard shall appoint a committee to review and recommend to the selectboard qualified candidates for the position of treasurer. The committee shall be composed of two residents, a certified public accountant and the following town officers: two members of the

selectboard, an auditor, and the town clerk. All except the certified public accountant must be residents of the town of East Montpelier. The committee shall have the authority to solicit candidates, advertise notice of a vacancy in the treasurer's position and to make an investigation of a candidate's credentials and background as the committee deems appropriate. Upon completion of the investigation and interviewing of candidates, the committee shall submit to the selectboard the names of those candidates deemed qualified for the position.

(c) The selectboard shall appoint a treasurer or, if applicable, notify the committee that none of the candidates shall be appointed, no later than 30 days following the submission of the names of candidates deemed qualified by the committee.

(d) Members of the committee described in subsection (b) of this section shall serve until a treasurer is appointed by the selectboard. Meetings of the committee shall be warned and conducted as public meetings in accordance with the requirements of Vermont statutes and this charter and the committee shall be entitled to meet in executive session as authorized by 1 V.S.A. §313.

(e) Until such time as a treasurer is appointed pursuant to this section, the selectboard shall appoint an interim treasurer.

§ 4. Zoning administrator

A zoning administrator shall be nominated by the planning commission and appointed by the selectboard for a term of one year. The zoning administrator may be removed for cause at any time by the selectboard after consultation with the planning commission.

§ 5. Separability

If any provision of this charter is held invalid, the other provisions of the charter shall not be affected thereby. If the application of the charter or any of its provisions to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the application of this charter and its provisions to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

Enactment history:

First hearing held on _____

Second hearing held on _____

Vote taken on March 4, 2014