

TOWN OF EAST MONTPELIER

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS REGARDING A PROPOSED TOWN CHARTER AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST ORDINANCE

The selectboard of the Town of East Montpelier hereby gives notice pursuant to 17 V.S.A. §2645 of two public hearings to consider adoption of a town charter. The vote on the adoption of the proposed town charter will be by Australian Ballot on March 4, 2014.

Proposed Municipal Charter Town of East Montpelier

§1. Statement of Purpose. To modify the East Montpelier governance structure to improve its functionality while maintaining democratic principles. Except where modified by this charter, all state statutory provisions pertaining to municipal governance remain in effect.

§2. Elected Offices. The offices of town grand juror, law agent, and trustees of public funds are abolished and duties assigned to the selectboard.

§3. Town Treasurer. The town treasurer will be appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the selectboard. A committee, made up of two town residents, a certified public accountant, two selectboard members, the town clerk, and a town auditor, shall be appointed by the selectboard to recommend qualified candidates to the selectboard.

§4. Zoning Administrator. The zoning administrator will be appointed for a term of one year, rather than the three-year term required by state statute.

§5. Separability. Should a charter provision or effect be deemed invalid, all other charter provisions and effects shall remain in force.

Further, the selectboard gives notice of two public hearings to consider the adoption of a town conflict of interest ordinance as authorized under the provisions of 24 V.S.A. §1984. The question on the adoption of a town conflict of interest ordinance shall be considered at the East Montpelier Town Meeting on March 4, 2014.

Proposed Conflict of Interest Ordinance Town of East Montpelier

Article 1. Authority. 24 V.S.A. §1984.

Article 2. Purpose. Prevent improper personal gain by town officers and ensure decisions are made for the good of the community.

Article 3. Definitions. Definition of conflict of interest and other terms.

Article 4. Disqualification. An officer shall not: participate in matters where he or she has a conflict; personally appear on an issue before a public body he or she is a part of; accept gifts or use resources not available to the general public for private gain or personal purposes. A public body has authority to order the recusal of any officer the public body appointed.

Article 5. Disclosure. An officer shall disclose conflicts of interest.

Article 6. Recusal. An officer shall recuse him- or herself from any matter where he or she has a conflict, subject to certain parameters.

Article 7. Enforcement. Boards shall determine issues of disqualification prior to conducting any further business; decisions are by majority vote and a full report shall be included in the meeting minutes.

Article 8. Exception. Article 6 recusal provisions shall not apply if selectboard determines special circumstances so require; Article 5 disclosure provisions will still apply.

Article 9. Appointment of Alternate Officers. Selectboard may appoint alternate to serve in place of disqualified officer.

Article 10. Effective Date. Immediately upon adoption by East Montpelier voters.

Official copies of both the proposed town charter and the conflict of interest ordinance are on file for public inspection in the office of the town clerk, East Montpelier Municipal Office Building, 40 Kelton Road, East Montpelier. Copies of the documents shall be made available to members of the public upon request. The documents may also be viewed on the town website: www.eastmontpeliervt.org

1st Public Hearing: The Selectboard will meet to conduct a hearing on the proposed town charter and conflict of interest ordinance Monday, January 13, 2014, 6:00 p.m. in the public room of the East Montpelier Emergency Services Facility (54 Village Acres; the new fire station). The discussion on the proposed charter will be held first with the discussion on the conflict of interest ordinance immediately following.

2nd Public Hearing: A second hearing on the proposed town charter and conflict of interest ordinance will be held in conjunction with the East Montpelier Town Forum, Saturday, March 1, 2014 in the cafeteria of the U-32 Middle & High School (930 Gallison Hill Road). The Town Forum commences at 9:30 a.m. The East Montpelier Moderator will preside over these discussions. The exact time of these discussions is unknown and we encourage all town residents to take part in the entire forum.

For more information, please contact Bruce Johnson, East Montpelier Town Administrator, at 802-223-3313 x 204 or eastmontadmin@comcast.net.