

Selectboard Memo
January 16, 2017 SB Meeting

Public Hearing on Proposed Charter Amendments

Discussion on Proposed Charter Amendments

- The East Montpelier Charter Committee has submitted a report with draft charter language that will add the town clerk and delinquent tax collector positions to the list of town jobs appointed by the board
- The Selectboard reviewed the proposal and developed alternative language, although the main thrust of the amendments, to appoint rather than elect the clerk and delinquent tax collector, remains unchanged; alterations include:
 - Adding the Collector of Current Taxes to match the Collector of Delinquent Taxes
 - Both are appointed by the Selectboard after consultation with the clerk and treasurer
 - One year terms set for the town's fiscal year; board can, but does not have to, reappoint office holders when terms end; appointees must follow town policies; appointees can be terminated for cause during their terms
 - Only the treasurer and clerk are subject to the committee process; board handles solicitation of candidates
 - Attorney Barlow reviewed the alternative language; although it is appropriate/legal, he believes the original charter, the committee's amendments, and board's alterations are all too wordy
- Board and committee do not appear to be on the same page regarding allowing currently elected officers to serve out their complete terms; charter language is silent on this issue, as it was in 2014 during the original charter adoption
- Charter language should be finalized no later than January 30th board meeting so that the proposed amendments can be included in the town report

Delinquent Tax Collector Report

- Delinquent Tax Collector Karen Gramer will update the board on delinquent tax status, potential tax sales, and potential collection policy amendments

Town Treasurer Report

- Treasurer Don Welch will provide a FY2017 budget update

Discussion on FY2018 Budget Development

- See updated draft budget and staff analysis for FY2018
 - Current budget has expenditures up 1%; projected tax rate up \$0.0053 (0.9%)
 - Remaining unknown is the Washington County Court Expense budget line

Discussion on 2017 Town Meeting Warning

- Four Corners Schoolhouse Association is requesting \$3,100, down from \$4,200
- EM Signpost is requesting \$7,000, down from \$7,800
- Update on Candidacies:
 - Selectboard (1 3-year & 1 2-year terms)
 - Casey Northrup is not running for reelection (3-year term); Amy Willis is running for his seat
 - Kim Swasey is running for reelection to the 2-year seat
 - Planning Commission (3 3-year terms)
 - All three incumbents (Jay Stewart; Ray Stout; Scott Hess) are running for reelection
 - EMES School Board (1 3-year & 1 2-year terms)
 - Kim Kendall is not running for reelection (2-year term)
 - Rubin Bennett is running for reelection to the 3-year post
 - U-32 School Board (1 3-year term)
 - Emily Goyette is not running for reelection
 - Town Moderator; School Moderator
 - Michael Duane is running for reelection to both posts
 - 1st Constable
 - Sandy Conti is running for reelection

- 2nd Constable
- Town Clerk (1 year of 3-year term)
 - CJ Flynn is running
- Lister (1 3-year term)
 - Rob Chickering is running for reelection
- Auditor (1 3-year term)
 - Cherie Staples is not running for reelection
- Cemetery Commission (1 5-year term)
 - Paulie Coburn is not running for reelection; Tim Lamson is running for her seat
- Update on Proposed Sanctuary Community Policy Article
 - Board Member Etnier will present the update
- No known petition article in the works at this point

Development of 2016 Selectboard Report for Annual Report

- See draft report; needs to be finalized before the newly planned January 30th SB meeting

Town Administrator Report

- Signpost Article for Town Meeting:
 - The Signpost is requesting a report from the board regarding the “special” articles on the 2017 warning; these would likely include the two charter amendment articles, the Cross VT Trail article, and any article on the Sanctuary Community policy; the Signpost deadline for submissions is Friday, January 27th
- Central VT Solid Waste Management District Town Representative:
 - Ginny Callan, our long-time representative, has given notice that she does not wish to be reappointed when her term is up in March
- VLCT Special Meeting & Local Government Day:
 - Local Government Day is scheduled for Wednesday, February 15th, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; cost is \$45 (early bird through February 8th)
 - In conjunction with Local Government Day, VLCT has scheduled a special meeting for 1:30 on the 15th to consider a bylaw amendment that will, hopefully, resolve a problem with how the municipal policy is discussed and adopted at the October annual meeting; the bylaw will have the municipal policy treated as a new document each year, with no policy language carried over from previous years; as with all such meetings, we need to designate an official delegate if we intend to participate at the meeting; if the delegate only wants to attend the meeting and not Local Government Day, no fee is involved
- VLCT Notice of Employee Shifts in its Risk Management Services Division:
 - See document
- VT Land Trust’s 40th Anniversary Celebration:
 - Intends to hold a series of 40 events highlighting all aspects of conservation; looking for event suggestions from owners of conserved properties (the town owns two such properties)
- Issue with Final January SB Special Meeting:
 - Chair Gardner is not available January 23rd; would like to shift the special meeting to finalize the warning back to January 30th
- Meeting Schedule:

○ January 30 th	6:30 pm	Selectboard special meeting; final budget/warning approvals
○ February 6 th	6:30 pm	Selectboard regular meeting
○ February 20 th	6:30 pm	Selectboard regular meeting
○ March 4 th	9:30 am	Town Forum; second hearing on charter amendments
○ March 6 th	6:30 pm	Selectboard regular meeting
○ March 7 th	9:30 am	Town Meeting

Zoning Administrator Report

- No permit applications as yet for 2017
- No DRB meeting scheduled