



Woodstock, Vermont *The Shire Town of Windsor County*

TOWN-VILLAGE MANAGER GOVERNMENT

Town Hall • P.O. Box 488 • Woodstock, Vermont 05091 • 802/457-3456

March 18, 2014

Ms. Jeanette K. White
Chair, Senate Committee on Government Operations
c/o Cheryl Ewen Assistant. Cewen@leg.state.us

Dear Se. White:

We are writing to you as the Board of Village Trustees of the Village of Woodstock to offer our support for H.584, and to encourage you to take the bill up in your Senate committee during this session of the Legislature.

H.584 if approved by the Legislature would repeal the provisions of 24 V.S.A. Chapter 53 subchapter 3. Section 1865 of this subchapter stipulates that revenues from parking meters and parking meter enforcement must be kept separate from all other Village revenue and may only be spent on a parking program.

24 V.S.A. section 1865 was adopted by the Legislature in 1957, Its purpose was to allow a municipality to borrow money to construct parking lots and to pledge revenues from the parking program to be used solely for the purpose of repaying debt incurred in the construction of a parking lot.

This entire subchapter of statute is extraordinarily restrictive on the authority of a municipality to construct parking facilities. For example; a strict reading of V.S.A. 24 section 1865 restricts a municipality from issuing general obligation bonds to construct parking facilities. The only municipal revenues that can be spent on the construction of parking facilities must be limited to net revenues of a parking management program. Realistically, it is not likely to be economically feasible to construct a parking lot in current real estate market conditions using only net income from a parking program to repay the debt incurred.

This subchapter of statute applies to all parking revenues regardless of whether a municipality has debt from a parking meter program, or not. Woodstock began having parking meters in 1948, well before this statute became law. Woodstock does not have any debt on lands used for parking facilities.

Municipalities should be allowed to decide for ourselves how we wish to pay for public improvements, and how we are allowed to spend our revenues.

We hope that you take up H.584 during this session of the Legislature. If you do, we would like an opportunity to speak to your committee about this bill.

Sincerely,

Woodstock Board of Village of Trustees

Candace Coburn, Chair

Emo Chynoweth,

Patricia Compton,

Christopher Miller

Eric Nesbitt

Philip B. Swanson, Municipal Manager

cc: Windsor County Senators

