

## Williston Charter Changes

Hi Jim and Erin-

There are three Charter changes that were approved by the voters at Town Meeting 2020, I've copied the approved articles from the 2020 warning:

1) Shall the voters approve revisions to Section 2 of the Town Charter as necessary to allow any charter provision approved for any other municipality to be adopted by majority vote of the electorate to be a provision to Williston's Charter without the need to obtain legislative approval? **APPROVED: 1,996 – 833**

2) Shall the voters revise Section 16(h)(3)(J) of the Town Charter to specify that the Library Director shall be appointed or removed by the manager with the advice and consent of a majority of the Library Board of Trustees? **APPROVED: 2,437 – 493.**

3) Shall the voters approve adding Section 21 to the Town Charter to define a process to reach resolution in the event of a contract impasse between the Town and any employee collective bargaining unit? **APPROVED: 2,417 – 387**

#2 regarding the Library Director is pretty straightforward – the Charter lacks specific language about the authority to hire/remove the Director and this puts into the Charter the process that has been undertaken to date by the Town.

Items #1 and #3 are more detailed and present some potential challenges to State law. I've attached a memo that takes information I shared with the Selectboard originally when these proposals were brought forth to provide the rationale behind them. For #1, the discussion of self-governance and a pilot project has been a topic in many Towns and VLCT has been an advocate for a pilot program approved by the Senate last session. That bill did not get taken up in House Gov Ops. In addition, Winooski and Brattleboro passed similar charter change provisions to Williston's. Winooski testified regarding theirs last week so the Committee will be somewhat familiar with this. I am planning to watch that testimony before I am asked to testify.

Happy to chat further about any of these items and answer any questions, and I will be prepared to testify when called. Terry Macaig as Selectboard Chair is the only other Town representative I can think of for possible testimony, and Karen Horn at VLCT has testified regarding the self-governance item many times.

Best regards,

-Erik