

H.127

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of Barre

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. CHARTER AMENDMENT APPROVAL

The General Assembly approves the amendments to the charter of the Town of Barre as set forth in this act. Voters approved the proposals of amendment on June 2, 2020.

Sec. 2. 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 101 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 101. TOWN OF BARRE

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§ 4. CONDUCT

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(b) The Town Clerk shall be the presiding official at all Town elections and shall cooperate with the Board of Civil Authority to assure that all laws relating to elections are faithfully observed. While the polls are open, the Town Clerk may rule on all questions concerning the conduct of the election, and shall not be disqualified from performing any such duties by reason of his or her own candidacy for any office. In the Town Clerk's absence, an Assistant Town Clerk who is a registered voter of the Town shall preside. If neither the Town Clerk or an Assistant Clerk who is a registered voter of the

Town is available, the members of the Board of Civil Authority who are present ~~may~~ shall designate ~~one of their members~~ a registered voter of the Town to perform the Town Clerk's duties under this section.

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§ 10. ELECTED OFFICERS; GENERAL

(a) The following officers shall be elected by the legal voters of the Town of Barre and voting for the officers shall be by Australian ballot:

* * *

(5) One ~~Clerk-Treasurer~~ Clerk.

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(b) The Office of ~~Clerk-Treasurer~~ Clerk may be changed to an appointive office upon approval by the voters at any annual meeting of the Town. ~~The Office of Lister may be abolished and replaced by a single full-time assessor hired by the Selectboard at such salary as the Selectboard may approve, provided the voters authorize such action at any annual Town meeting.~~

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§ 11. SELECTBOARD

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(f) The Selectboard shall adopt a comprehensive personnel policy for all Town employees and shall amend the policy from time to time as is deemed necessary or advisable.

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§ 16. ~~CLERK-TREASURER~~ CLERK

(a) The ~~Clerk-Treasurer~~ Clerk shall be elected for a period of three years. He or she shall ~~keep account of monies, bonds, notes, and evidences of debt paid or delivered to him or her, and of monies paid out by him or her for the Town. In addition, he or she shall:~~

~~(1) record the amount voted for support of highways, special departments, and for general Town purposes;~~

~~(2) collect taxes, assessments, charges, and levies, including delinquencies in the hands of the Tax Collector, and maintain a record of monies collected and uncollected;~~

~~(3) receive fees for filing copies of records and other instruments;~~

~~(4) pay orders drawn on him or her by officials authorized to draw orders;~~

~~(5) provide detailed financial statements and reports, as may be required by the selectmen;~~

~~(6) maintain a record of all action taken at special or annual Town meetings;~~

~~(7)~~(2) maintain all Town records and an index to those records;

~~(8)~~(3) maintain and file all reports required by law; and

~~(9)~~(4) perform any other duties required of him or her by law, this charter, or ordinances.

(b) Before entering upon the duties of his or her office, the ~~Clerk-Treasurer~~ Clerk shall give a bond conditioned for the faithful performance of his or her duties. The bond shall be of a sum and with a surety prescribed and approved by the Selectboard, and the premium for the bond shall be paid by the Town.

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§ 25. ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

(a) Within two years following the effective date of this charter, the Town Manager shall prepare and submit to the Selectboard a proposal for an ordinance to be known as the Administrative Code of the Town of Barre. For the purpose of preparing the proposal, the Town Manager may have the assistance of the Town Attorney and shall have the authority to request a committee of citizens to assist in the preparation of the proposal. The proposal shall be a comprehensive code of administrative organization and procedure for the Town and, at a minimum, shall include the following:

* * *

~~(2) A complete personnel policy for Town employees.~~

~~(3)~~ A detailed outline of financial procedures to be followed by the Town including purchasing policy, expenditure of appropriated funds, the system of accounting for the Town, and the form and frequency of financial reports.

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§ 27. COMMITTEE OF FIVE

Annually, prior to January 31, a committee of five voters shall be appointed to review, with the Selectboard members, the proposed Town budget. Their terms shall expire upon final adoption of the budget. The Selectboard members shall appoint two members and the ~~Clerk-Treasurer~~ Clerk, one member; these three shall appoint two additional members.

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§ 34. BOARD OF ABATEMENT

(a) The Board of Civil Authority, together with the ~~listers~~ Treasurer and the Assessor, shall constitute the Board of Abatement. The Chair and Clerk of the Board of Civil Authority shall serve as the Chair and Clerk, respectively, of the Board of Abatement.

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§ 38. APPOINTED OFFICERS

(a) The Selectboard, by majority vote, shall appoint the following Town officers for the terms indicated:

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(5) An Assessor, who may be hired or contracted upon such terms as the Selectboard shall deem reasonable.

(6) A Treasurer and any Assistant Treasurers as shall be deemed necessary. The Treasurer shall give a bond conditioned for the faithful performance of his or her duties. The bond shall be of a sum and with a surety as prescribed and approved by the Selectboard, and the premium for the bond shall be paid by the Town. In addition, the Treasurer shall:

(A) Keep account of monies, bonds, notes, and evidences of debt paid or delivered to him or her and of monies paid out by him or her for the Town.

(B) Record the amount voted for support of highways, special departments, and for general Town purposes.

(C) Collect taxes, assessments, charges, and levies, including delinquencies in the hands of the Tax Collector, and maintain a record of monies collected and uncollected.

(D) Receive fees for filing copies of records and other instruments.

(E) Pay orders drawn on him or her by officials authorized to draw orders.

(F) Provide detailed financial statements and reports as may be required by the Selectboard.

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§ 39. COMPENSATION AND FEES

(a) The Town election shall annually vote the compensation to be paid to the following officers:

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(2) ~~listers.~~

(~~3~~) auditors.

(~~4~~)(3) Moderator.

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(b) The Selectboard shall annually consider and from time to time shall set the compensation of the following officers:

(1) Town ~~Clerk~~ ~~Treasurer~~ Clerk.

(2) Constable.

(3) Town Attorney.

(4) Tax Collector.

(5) Town Manager.

(6) Board of Civil Authority.

(7) Board of Abatement.

(8) Treasurer.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.