

**No. M-2. An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of Springfield.**

(H.271)

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 Springfield as set forth in this act. The voters approved the proposals of amendment on November 3, 2020.

Sec. 2. 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 149 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 149. TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD

\* \* \*

§ 5. ORDINANCES

\* \* \*

(c) Ordinance adoption procedure, other than zoning and subdivision bylaws.

\* \* \*

(2) There shall be five categories of action as follows:

\* \* \*

(D) minor amendment—minor adjustment in meaning, procedure, or definition; and

(E) emergency ordinance as defined herein in subsection (f) of this section;

~~(F) changes in the Town's zoning and subdivision bylaws.~~

\* \* \*

§ 11. PROCEDURES FOR CHARTER REVISION AND AMENDMENT

\* \* \*

(b) The procedure for charter amendment shall be as follows:

(1) The Selectboard shall appoint a Charter Review Committee of not less than 11 members, which shall include two representatives from the Selectboard and two representatives from the administration, one of which must be the Town Clerk, with the majority from the community at large. All voting members must be registered voters of the Town.

\* \* \*

§ 22. TOWN MEETING; ELECTIONS

\* \* \*

(b) Meetings and Elections.

\* \* \*

(5) Presiding officials at Town meeting and elections.

\* \* \*

(F) In the absence of the Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk, should it occur before an election, the Board of Civil Authority shall, upon notice, immediately meet and designate an Acting Clerk for the duration of the election. Should the absence occur on election day, the Board of Civil Authority members present at the election shall designate an Acting Clerk to preside for the duration of the election.

\* \* \*

§ 23. LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

\* \* \*

(c) Elected officers, duties, responsibilities, and conduct.

(1) Selectboard.

\* \* \*

(E) Meetings. All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Vermont's Open Meeting Law, 1 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 2.

\* \* \*

(iv) Quorums; votes.

\* \* \*

(II) ~~All voting shall be by individual roll call vote~~ The minutes of the meeting will record the vote of each Selectboard member.

\* \* \*

§ 34. ADMINISTRATIVE AND POLICY FUNCTIONS PRESCRIBED BY  
CHARTER

\* \* \*

(b) Town Clerk, Town Treasurer, Town Attorney.

(1) The Selectboard shall appoint and remove, on the basis of qualifications and performance alone, a Town Clerk, ~~Grand Juror~~, Town Treasurer, and Town Attorney.

\* \* \*

§ 42. TOWN MANAGER'S PROPOSED BUDGET TIMETABLE AND  
PREPARATION

\* \* \*

(d) Drafting of annual budget.

(1) Unified administrative request. The Town Manager shall, after consultation with department heads, submit to the Selectboard and the Budget Advisory Committee a single budget request from the administration for all departments.

\* \* \*

§ 44. RESERVE FUNDS

(a) The Selectboard may raise and appropriate money for the establishment of ~~capital~~ reserve or equipment reserve funds for the financing of all or part of:

\* \* \*

§ 49. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION AND TOWN BUDGET

(a) Finance Director.

\* \* \*

(2) The Finance Director shall be a member of the Town administration and be subject to all rules and regulations of the Town administration, and may not be the Town Treasurer or a Selectboard member.

\* \* \*

(c) Independent audit.

(1) The Selectboard shall provide for an annual independent audit of all Town accounts and may require for any special audit it deems necessary.

\* \* \*

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

Date Governor signed bill: May 4, 2023