

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD, VERMONT  
SELECTBOARD  
96 MAIN STREET  
SPRINGFIELD, VERMONT

RE: CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Notice is hereby given that the Springfield Selectboard, in accordance with 17 V.S.A. § 2645 will hold public hearings on January 30, 2017 and February 6, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the Selectman's Hall, 96 Main Street, Springfield, Vermont regarding the proposed amendments to the Town Charter that was last adopted May 21, 1985.

An official copy of the complete proposed charter amendments is posted on the town website <http://www.springfieldvt.govoffice2.com> , and on file for public inspection in the office of the town clerk and copies thereof shall be made available to members of the public upon request.

The proposed comprehensive amendments were submitted by the Charter Review Committee to the Springfield Selectboard and were accepted by the Selectboard on November 28, 2016.

The charter amendments represent the Selectboard's directive to correct or clarify outdated provisions and unclear terminology, to remove or replace charter provisions that are no longer applicable and to look for opportunities to advance the goals, objectives and programs of the town, such as providing the town with additional authority to address blight and increasing economic development opportunities. Furthermore, language was modernized and made gender neutral in addition to updating of spelling, punctuation, capitalization and grammar. Provisions that duplicate state statutes or are obsolete were removed. Ensuring that the rights of the citizens of Springfield to a transparent government, with scheduled elections and the ability to petition are protected.

The Selectboard has determined that the proposed charter amendments are comprehensive in nature and too long and unwieldy to be set out in amended form, therefore, as required by state statute the following concise summary of the proposed amendments is as follows:

ARTICLE ONE – INCORPORATION, GENERAL LAW, MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- Amendments throughout include standardization of capitalization, titles and gender-neutral terminology; modernization and internal consistency of language and statutory references; all references to days are specified as calendar days; removal of obsolete provisions; added powers of the town to provide the authority to adopt ordinances to address blight; clarification of procedures related to the adoption, posting, codification and effective date of ordinances; revision of the approval process for emergency ordinances; clarification that all public bodies will follow the Vermont Open Meeting

Law; conflict of interest policy to be created by the Selectboard; clarification of terminology related to fees; clarification of authority for acquisition and disposition of town property; adoption of an annual emergency preparedness plan; clarification of the procedures for charter amendments and review committee composition requirements; removal of obsolete transitional powers; requirement that permits to excavate streets be obtained from town manager.

#### ARTICLE TWO – ELECTIONS AND LOCAL OFFICIALS

- Amendments throughout include standardization of capitalization, titles and gender-neutral terminology; modernization and internal consistency of language and statutory references; all references to days are specified as calendar days; removal of obsolete provisions; addition of ordinances and charter amendments to list of governmental authority; annual town meeting to start at 7:00 p.m.; addition of required posting of warning on town website, clarification of terminology concerning town meetings and elections; clarification of the process during an election to appoint an acting clerk in the absence of the town clerk and assistant town clerk; clarification of citizen initiative revote process; clarification of tie vote process; addition of library trustees to list of elected officials; update of elected official meeting attendance expectation; update of vacancy of office procedures; clarification of variances between town policy and the Vermont Open Meeting Law; change of the town constable position from elected to appointed; definition of public funds; updated terms for trustees of public funds; update of appointed non-administrative officials procedures and; update of appointed positions by removing weigher of coal, surveyor of wood and lumber and grand juror; requirement that members of appointed boards and commissions be Springfield registered voters, except for Airport Commission.

#### ARTICLE THREE – THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE

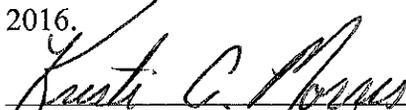
- Amendments throughout include standardization of capitalization, titles and gender-neutral terminology; modernization and internal consistency of language and statutory references; all references to days are specified as calendar days; removal of obsolete provisions; updated title of Article Three to “Town Administration”; updated town manager appointment, residency, evaluation, removal, vacancy, authority and duties; alignment of administrative code policies to current practices; alignment of administrative and policy functions to current practices; alignment of merit system ordinance requirements to current practices; alignment of collective bargaining agreement language and bond language to current practices.

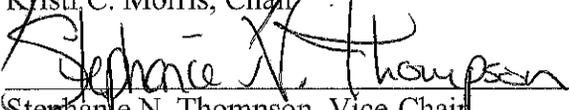
#### ARTICLE FOUR – BUDGETS AND FINANCE

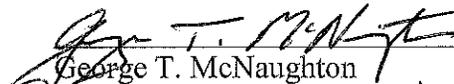
- Amendments throughout include standardization of capitalization, titles and gender-neutral terminology; modernization and internal consistency of language and statutory

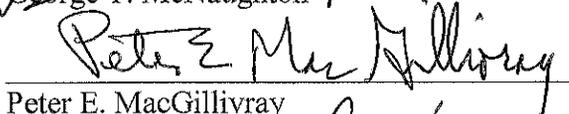
references; all references to days are specified as calendar days; removal of obsolete provisions; alignment of budget procedures to current practices; clarification of special appropriation language; clarification of the Budget Advisory Committee composition requirements and role; clarification of appropriation language; alignment of financial administration language to current practices; clarification of trust funds language to current practices; alignment of taxation language to current practices; removal of outdated tax classification, special nonresidential property tax and repeal of inventory tax language; update and alignment of debt/bonded debt practices.

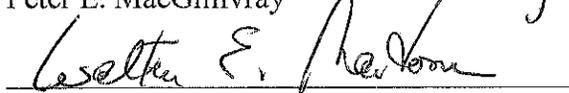
Dated at Springfield, County of Windsor and State of Vermont, this 27th day of December, 2016.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kristi C. Morris, Chair

  
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Stephanie N. Thompson, Vice-Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
George T. McNaughton

  
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Peter E. MacGillivray

  
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Walter E. Martone

Town of Springfield Selectboard

Recorded in Volume \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_ of Springfield Town Acts on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2016.

Notice posted in five public places on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2016.

Peoples Bank Mall  
North Springfield Post Office  
Springfield Chamber of Commerce  
Springfield Municipal Office  
Springfield Town Library  
Springfield Town Website <http://www.springfieldvt.govoffice2.com>

Attest:   
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Barbara A. Courchesne, Town Clerk