

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

RE: CHARTER AMENDMENTS

**AUGUST 24, 2020 6-7 pm:**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83956530456>

**Meeting ID: 839 5653 0456**

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,83956530456# US (Germantown)

+13126266799,,83956530456# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 839 5653 0456

**SEPTEMBER 14, 2020 6-7 pm:**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83780653645>

**Meeting ID: 837 8065 3645**

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,83780653645# US (New York)

+13017158592,,83780653645# US (Germantown)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 837 8065 3645

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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 August 24, 2020 via Zoom and September 14, 2020 via Zoom 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 June 22, 2020 and signed on July 20, 2020.

The charter amendments represent the Selectboard's directive to correct or clarify outdated provisions and unclear terminology, to remove or replace charter provisions that are no longer applicable and to look for opportunities to advance the goals, objectives and programs of the town, such as providing the town with additional authority to address blight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. These changes are not expected to create additional financial burdens on the town. Where possible changes were made to increase efficiency and hopefully reduce costs.

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 and to be afforded by the legislature those power granted in any other charter, subject to voter approval; clarification of procedures related to the adoption, posting, codification and effective date of ordinances; revision of the declaration and 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; removal of lister from 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; define library trustee board; 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; update of appointed positions by removing weigher of coal, fence viewers, surveyor of wood and lumber and grand juror; requirement that members of appointed boards and commissions be Springfield registered voters, except for Airport Commission and Housing Authority; alignment of boards and commissions established by charter to current practices.

## 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; expansion of authority to reserve funds to meet specific obligations; 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 20 day of July, 2020.

Walter E. Martone  
Walter E. Martone, Chair

Michael E. Martin  
Michael E. Martin, Vice-Chair

George T. McNaughton  
George T. McNaughton

Peter E. MacGillivray  
Peter E. MacGillivray

Kristi C. Morris  
Kristi C. Morris

Town of Springfield Selectboard

Recorded in Volume 20 Page \_\_\_\_\_ of Springfield Town Acts on the 23rd day of July, 2020.

Notice posted in five public places on the 24th day of July, 2020.

- 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: Barbara A. Courchesne Town Clerk, CVC  
Barbara A. Courchesne