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H.540

Introduced by Representatives Macaig of Williston and McCullough of
Williston

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Municipal government; municipal charters; Town of Williston;
amendments

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to approve
amendments to the charter of the Town of Williston.

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

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 Williston as set forth in this act. Voters approved the proposals of
amendment on March 5, 2019.

Sec. 2. 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 156 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 156. TOWN OF WILLISTON

* * *

§ 13. TOWN MEETING; ELECTIONS

1 * * *

2 (b) Annual Town meeting.

3 (1) On the Monday preceding the first Tuesday in March, beginning at
4 ~~7:30 p.m.~~ at a time and place designated by the Selectboard, the Town shall
5 start its annual meeting and may transact at that time any business not
6 involving Australian ballot. At this meeting, public discussion of ballot issues
7 and all other issues appearing on the warning, other than the election of
8 candidates, shall be permitted.

9 * * *

10 § 14. LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

11 (a) Local elective offices to be filled by the voters of the Town of Williston
12 shall be only those articulated by this charter, and shall include:

13 (1) Selectboard;

14 (2) Town Clerk;

15 (3) ~~Town Treasurer;~~ [Repealed.]

16 (4) Lister;

17 (5) Moderator;

18 (6) ~~First Constable;~~ [Repealed.]

19 (7)-(9) ~~[Deleted.]~~ [Repealed.]

20 (10) Library trustee.

21 (11);-(12) ~~[Deleted.]~~ [Repealed.]

1 (b) Provisions related generally to all elected local offices.

2 * * *

3 (5) Qualification to run for and hold local office.

4 (A) No person shall be qualified to run for or be elected to hold an
5 elective office unless he or she is a duly ~~qualified~~ registered voter and resident
6 in the Town of Williston.

7 * * *

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

9 * * *

10 (2) ~~Town Clerk and Town Treasurer.~~

11 (A) There shall be a Town Clerk elected on a nonpartisan basis for a
12 three-year term.

13 (B) ~~There shall be a Town Treasurer elected on a nonpartisan basis~~
14 ~~for a three-year term.~~ [Repealed.]

15 (3) Listers.

16 * * *

17 (C) The Town may vote by a majority of the legal voters present at
18 an annual or special meeting duly warned for that purpose to eliminate the
19 office of lister or change the office to an appointed position. If the Town votes
20 to eliminate the office of lister, the Town manager shall contract with or
21 employ a professionally qualified assessor, who need not be a resident of the

1 Town. The assessor shall have the same powers, discharge the same duties,
2 proceed in the discharge thereof in the same manner, and be subject to the
3 same liabilities as are prescribed for lister or board of listers under the
4 provisions of Title 32.

5 (D) A vote to eliminate the office of lister shall remain in effect until
6 rescinded by majority vote of the legal voters present at an annual or special
7 meeting warned for that purpose.

8 (E) The term of office of any lister in office on the date a town votes
9 to eliminate that office shall expire on the 45th day after the vote or on the date
10 upon which the Selectboard appoints an assessor.

11 * * *

12 (5) ~~Town Constable.~~

13 ~~(A) There shall be elected a Town Constable who shall serve a one-~~
14 ~~year term.~~

15 ~~(B) The Constable shall be responsible for assisting the Town Clerk~~
16 ~~in the regulation and licensing of dogs.~~

17 ~~(C) The Constable shall have powers of service equal to a deputy~~
18 ~~sheriff under the Vermont Statutes Annotated. [Repealed.]~~

19 * * *

1 § 15. APPOINTED NONADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS

2 (a) General provisions applying to appointed positions:

3 * * *

4 (9) The Selectboard may create any appointive officers or positions not
5 provided for by this charter or required by law as it deems to be in the best
6 interests of the Town.

7 (b) Appointed positions.

8 (1) The following positions are created by this charter, their functions to
9 be governed by the applicable State statute, as limited by charter or ordinance:

10 * * *

11 (B) ~~Pound Keeper~~; [Repealed.]

12 * * *

13 (D) ~~Town Service Officer~~; [Repealed.]

14 (E) Town Health Officer. The Town Health Officer is appointed by
15 the Commissioner of Health upon the recommendation of the Selectboard;

16 (F) Town Constable.

17 * * *

18 (4) The Board for the Abatement of Taxes.

19 (A) The Board for the Abatement of Taxes shall consist of the Board
20 of Civil Authority and Town Treasurer, plus the listers ~~and Town Treasurer~~
21 unless the Town votes to eliminate the office of lister. The Board is

1 responsible for making decisions on tax abatement pursuant to 24 V.S.A.
2 § 1535.

3 * * *

4 (C) The quorum for the Board of Abatement of Taxes shall consist of
5 a majority of the Board of Civil Authority, Town Treasurer, and Town Listers
6 unless the Town votes to eliminate the office of lister.

7 * * *

8 § 16. THE TOWN MANAGER

9 * * *

10 (h) Responsibilities of the Town Manager and authority:

11 * * *

12 (2) Limits to authority in general.

13 (A) The authority of the Manager shall in no way extend to:

14 * * *

15 (iv) Direct supervision of the Town Clerk ~~or Town Treasurer~~ in
16 statutory duties except as otherwise provided by this charter;

17 * * *

18 (J) To appoint, upon merit and fitness alone, and, when the Manager
19 deems necessary for the good of the service, suspend or remove any
20 subordinate official, employee, or agent, including the Town Treasurer,
21 Assistant Town Treasurer, and administrative officer (Zoning Administrator),

1 under the Manager's supervision as provided for in this charter. All such
2 appointments may be without definite terms unless for provisional, temporary,
3 or emergency service, in which case, terms shall not exceed the maximum
4 periods prescribed by the personnel rules and regulations. The Manager may
5 authorize the head of a department or of an office responsible to the Manager
6 to appoint and remove subordinates in such office or department.

7 * * *

8 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

9 This act shall take effect on passage.