



# TOWN OF ST. JOHNSBURY

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## Special Meeting of the St. Johnsbury Select Board Oct. 3, 2022 @ 5:30 pm

Present-

Select Board: Dennis Smith, Tracy Zschau, Steve Isham

Staff: Rachel Waterhouse, Chad Whitehead, Stacy Jewell

Public: Laure Jarvi, Lenny Gerardi, Paul Taylor

### Charter Public Hearing:

- Chad Whitehead, Town Manager provided an overview of the St. Johnsbury Town Charter and the proposed Charter changes. Changes to the Charter include the following:
  - Elimination of the board of assessment
  - Creation of Charter Review Committee to review the Town Charter every 5 years
  - Appointment of the Zoning Administrator by the Town Manager
  - Charter Borrowing Provision
  - Change in requirement for Town Meeting to allow for 10 days before voting
- Lenny asked if when the Charter revisions go to Montpelier if that means the legislative body. Chad said yes and must be approved by the general assembly.
- Lenny asked if the Town wanted to adopt something that another Town has in their Charter if the Town could just adopt it without having to send the Charter back to legislation for approval. Chad said yes it could be approved at the local level.
- Lenny asked if was to hold the current Charter next to this Charter how easy would be see to note the changes. Chad explained that when the Charter Committee revamped it the proposed Charter was put in a different order.
- Steve Isham asked if in the future the Town wanted to include Bay Street in the downtown designation if that would require Charter change at the legislation level. Chad said he believed it would have to go back through the process as the downtown designation is pretty well spelled out in detail.
- Lenny asked if a Charter change was required when the Town changed to Listers. Stacy explained there was no need to change the Charter back when the Town changed to Listers. This was done through voting at Town Meeting. She explained that Listers only hear grievances they do not have any other duties.
- Lenny asked if the Charter would need to be changed when the Assessor hears grievances instead of the Listers. Chad explained that the Listers would be eliminated with the proposed Charter changes. Stacy explained that currently it is more of a he said she said situation since the Listers only here the grievances.
- Stacy explained that the Charter change also eliminates holding a meeting on Monday night at 7:30 pm prior to Tuesday Elections. This would allow the Town and School Board a larger window of

10 days to host Town Meeting. Steve Isham mentioned that he felt this was a good idea as it would give residents time to digest the information.

- The public was encouraged to send their questions regarding the Charter Changes to the Town Manager or Select Board officials prior to the next Public Hearing scheduled for Monday Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.
- Paul asked if the proposed Charter was available on the Town website. Chad said yes under announcements and under Charter documents.

On a motion by Steve Isham and second by Tracy the board adjourned by unanimous decision.