

DRAFT TOWN OF GRAND ISLE CHARTER

§ 1 General Provisions

The Town of Grand Isle shall have all the powers granted to towns and municipal corporations by the Constitution and laws of the State of Vermont and by this charter, together with all the implied powers necessary to carry into execution all the powers granted.

§ 2 Elected Officers

(a) Except as otherwise provided by this charter, the elected officers of the Town of Grand Isle shall be those required for towns by State law and they shall be elected by Australian ballot.

(b) Elected officers shall perform all duties and responsibilities necessary or required to carry out the provisions of this charter as well as those provided by State law generally.

(c) The Selectboard shall constitute the legislative body of the Town of Grand Isle for all purposes required by statute except as otherwise herein specifically provided, and shall have all the powers and authority given to, and perform all duties required of, town legislative bodies under the laws of the State of Vermont.

(1) Organization of the Selectboard shall be done in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 871.

(2) The Selectboard shall elect a Vice Chair at its organizational meeting.

(3) The Chair of the Selectboard shall preside at all meetings of the Selectboard. If the Chair is not present, the Vice Chair of the Selectboard shall serve as acting chair.

(4) If any member of the Selectboard fails to attend at least 70 percent of the meetings in any 12-month period or misses three consecutive meetings without the consent of the Selectboard, the Selectboard may declare the position vacant and fill it in accordance with State law.

(5) The Selectboard shall determine its own rules and orders of business not addressed by this charter and State statute.

(6) The Selectboard may appoint or dissolve any authorities, boards, commissions, or committees created by it and under its purview as authorized by this charter or State statute.

§ 3 Appointed officers

(a) In addition to all other offices that may be filled by appointment by the Selectboard pursuant to State law, the Selectboard shall appoint by majority vote the following officers:

- (1) Town Treasurer;
- (2) Listers or an assessor;
- (3) Delinquent Tax Collector;
- (4) Town Constable;
- (5) Library Commissioners, each of whom shall reside within the boundaries of the Town of Grand Isle [unless waived by action of the Selectboard]; and
- (6) Cemetery Commissioners, each of whom shall reside within the boundaries of the Town of Grand Isle [unless waived by action of the Selectboard].

(b) The number of persons appointed to the offices set forth in subsection (a) of this section shall be determined by majority vote of the Selectboard.

(c) All appointments shall be made in accordance with the Town of Grand Isle Personnel Policy.

(d) General provisions applying to appointed positions.

- (1) Terms of appointment shall begin immediately upon Selectboard action and run for a period as specified herein.
- (2) All appointees shall be administered the oath of office in the form as provided by statute.
- (3) Appointees may be afforded compensation or reimbursement for expenses as determined by the Selectboard.
- (4) The Selectboard shall strive for a balance of opinion on all appointive positions, boards, and commissions.
- (5) All appointive boards and commissions, although operating independently, shall be required to cooperate with the Selectboard in the exercise of their duties in the pursuit of the public good. They shall be required to file an annual report for inclusion in the Town report and also to file any other reports requested by the Selectboard, and be in attendance at any meeting requested by the Selectboard.
- (6) Elected officials shall serve in appointed positions, boards, and commissions if the specific membership of the board or commission calls for their service, subject to the limits outlined herein.
- (7) Town employees may serve in appointive positions as limited by charter but may not vote on any issue directly affecting their position or conditions of employment.

(8) All those serving in appointive positions, either as member of a board or commission or separate office, shall serve “at will” and may be removed for any or no cause upon majority vote and written notice from the Selectboard.

(9) The Selectboard may create any appointive officers or positions not provided for by this charter or required by law as it deems to be in the best interests of the Town, and following their creation and appointment, such appointive officers or positions shall be subject to the provisions of this charter.

(e) From time to time and whenever a job is open in an appointed Town office, the Selectboard shall adopt or revise a general statement of the qualifications necessary to perform the duties and responsibilities of the office and a job description of the office.

§ 4 Local Option Tax

The Selectboard is authorized to impose a one percent sales tax, a one percent meals and alcoholic beverages tax, and a one percent rooms tax upon sales within the Town that are subject to the State of Vermont tax on sales, meals, alcoholic beverages, and rooms. The Town tax shall be implemented in the event the State local options tax as provided for in 24 V.S.A. § 138 is repealed or the 70-percent allocation to the town is reduced. A tax imposed under the authority of this section shall be collected and administered by the Vermont Department of Taxes in accordance with State law governing the State tax on sales, meals, alcoholic beverages, and rooms. The amount of 70 percent of the taxes collected shall be paid to the Town, and the remaining amount of the taxes collected shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for deposit in the Pilot Special Fund first established in 1997 Acts and Resolves No. 60, § 89. The cost of administration and collection of this tax shall be paid 70 percent by the Town and 30 percent by the State from the Pilot Special Fund. The tax to be paid to the Town, less its obligation for the 70 percent of the costs of administration and collection, shall be paid to the Town on a quarterly basis and may be expended by the Town for municipal services only and not for education expenditures. The Town may repeal the local option taxes by Australian ballot vote.

§ 5 Removal of Elected Town Officers

Any elected Town officer may be removed from office in the following manner:

(a) A petition must be filed with the Town Clerk seeking the removal of the elected Town officer or officers. The petition must be signed by at least 15 percent of registered voters.

(b) Within 15 days after receipt of the petition and confirmation from the Town Clerk that it was indeed signed by 15 percent of registered voters, the Selectboard shall warn a special Town meeting, or if the annual meeting is to occur within 90 days of the filing of the petition, the Selectboard shall include an article in the warning for the annual meeting, for the purpose of voting by Australian ballot on whether the officer or officers shall be removed from office.

(c) Removal shall only occur if a majority of the votes cast at the annual or special town meeting approve removal, and the total of all votes cast on the removal question equals or exceeds the total of all votes that were cast to elect the officer.

(d) If an officer is removed, the officer shall immediately cease to hold office and the office shall become vacant. The vacancy shall be filled as provided by law.

(e) Only one petition for removal may be filed against any given elected officer during any 12-month period of his or her term of office.

§ 6 Application of General Law

(a) Except when modified by the provisions of this charter, or by any regulation or ordinance of the Town adopted pursuant to special authority granted by this charter, all statutes of the State of Vermont relating to municipalities shall apply to the Town of Grand Isle.

(b) If any matter mentioned in this charter is said to be controlled by a statute, the reference to such statute shall include the statute as amended or renumbered or any statute substituted therefor and having a similar subject matter.

(c) In this charter, no mention of a particular power shall be construed to be exclusive or to restrict the scope of the powers that the Town would have if the particular power were not mentioned.

§ 7 Severability

If any provision of this charter is held invalid, the other provisions of the charter shall not be affected thereby. If the application of the charter or any of its provisions to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the application of this charter and its provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.