

Proposed Grand Isle Town Charter Highlights

General Notes/Concerns raised:

- **THE CHARTER CANNOT BE CHANGED BY THE SELECTBOARD.** Any changes must be voted on by the voters of the town and then the amended charter is sent to the VT State Legislature for approval before being put in place.
- The charter does not change the way the Selectboard makes decisions or takes votes. The Selectboard is still subject to Vermont open meeting law.

Voters would gain the ability to remove elected officials

- Currently, once someone is elected, they generally remain in office until the next election unless they resign.
- The charter would give voters a way to remove an elected official before their term ends if there is a serious concern about their performance.

Summary: Voters would have more accountability over elected officials.

Town Treasurer would become a full-time appointed/hired position

- The charter would change the treasurer from an elected position to a full-time, hired/appointed position with education/experience requirements.
- Treasurer's employment would follow state statutes.

PROCESS: This has been discussed at length with the town attorney. This is the process the town attorney advised.

- Melissa is running for treasurer this election. She is expected to win. Should this be the case AND the charter passes Melissa will complete her term as treasurer.
- At the end of her term, the treasurer position transitions to a full time appointed/hired position.
- Melissa may (and we expect she will based on conversations) provide her resume to the selectboard and an official hiring process will take place.
- Should Melissa **not** win this election AND the charter passes whoever wins the election will complete their term as treasurer.
- At the end of the term, the treasurer position transitions to a full time appointed/hired position.
- A formal hiring process will be conducted to fill the position.

Summary: The treasurer would eventually become a full-time appointed/hired position rather than a part-time elected office. It is the intent of this selectboard that Melissa continues as the treasurer if she desires.

Board of Listers would be replaced by an Assessor

- The charter would allow the town to move from a Board of Listers to a single assessor.
- Under current state law, if the Board of Listers falls below a majority and no replacement can be found, the Selectboard can temporarily appoint an assessor, BUT only until the next Town Meeting.
- The town could also vote directly to eliminate the listers and hire an assessor, but then the Selectboard would have only **45 days** to find and hire someone.
- The charter approach would give the Selectboard more time and flexibility to:
 - Work with the current listers during the transition.
 - Avoid disrupting the town's work (particularly the reassessment the town is currently undergoing).
 - Plan for the financial impact and budget for the change.

Summary: The charter would provide a more gradual and flexible transition from listers to an assessor.