



**TOWN OF HARTFORD, VT
FIRST PUBLIC HEARING FOR
PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS**

Tuesday, October 4, 2016 at 7:00 pm

Hartford Town Hall

171 Bridge Street

White River Junction, Vermont 05001

I. Call to Order the First Public Hearing for Proposed Charter Amendments

II. Order of Agenda

IV. Selectboard and School Board of Directors

1. Proposed Charter Amendments

- a. Shall the Town of Hartford and the Hartford Town School District amend the Town Charter to provide for the consideration of all budget adoption matters by Australian ballot? The effectiveness of this Article is conditioned upon the approval by both the Town and the Town School District.
- b. Shall the Charter of the Town of Hartford be amended to authorize the levy of a one percent (1%) rooms and meals/alcoholic beverages tax, the net proceeds of which to be deposited in a capital reserve fund until directed otherwise by vote of the Town.

2. Citizen, Selectboard Comments and Announcements: TBD

3. Future Meeting Dates

- a. Second Public Hearing for Proposed Charter Amendments 10/25/16 at a regularly scheduled Selectboard Meeting in the Hartford Town Hall
- b. Special Town Meeting Australian Ballot Vote November 8, 2016 at the Hartford High School Gymnasium

V. Adjournment (Mot. Req.)

All Meetings of the Hartford Selectboard are open to the public. Persons who are seeking action by the Selectboard are asked to submit their request and/or materials to the Selectboard Chair or Town Manager's office no later than noon on the Wednesday preceding the scheduled meeting date. Requests received after that date will be addressed at the discretion of the Chair. Citizens wishing to address the board should do so during the Citizen Comments period; comments from the public

NOTICE TO VOTERS
NEW LANGUAGE UNDERLINED
DELETED LANGUAGE IN [BRACKETS]

§ 123A-104. Local Option Tax

The Town of Hartford is authorized to levy a tax of a one percent (1%) on rooms and meals/alcoholic beverages, the net proceeds of which are to be deposited in a capital reserve fund until directed otherwise by vote of the Town.

§ 123A-201. Town meeting

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(e) Meetings, dates, times, voters, ballots:

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(2) Australian ballot/election day. Australian ballot/election day shall be on Vermont Town Meeting Day, the first Tuesday in March, at which time any business, budgets, and candidate election involving Australian ballots will be transacted beginning at 7 a.m. until closing at 7 p.m. The Town budget as warned by the Selectboard and the School District budget as warned by the School Board shall be submitted to the electorate at this Town election. All matters relating to the adoption of the Town and School District budgets shall be considered by Australian ballot. A majority vote shall be a simple majority of votes cast in this election. Under this subdivision:

(A) The time and place of a recount or a new vote on any question [other than Town and School District budgets] shall be determined by the Board of Civil Authority preceded by warning notice and public hearing. A tie vote on Town or School District budgets shall be deemed to be a negative vote and reconsideration of any defeated budget shall proceed as provided in this subdivision (2).[in subdivision (3) of this subsection.]

(B) Absentee ballots shall be available prior to the election as provided by Vermont and federal election laws and may be mailed or otherwise delivered to a voter, upon a voter's request, and when completed by the voter, mailed or otherwise delivered to the Town Clerk. The voter also may vote by absentee ballot by completing the ballot in the Town Clerk's office. If an absentee ballot is hand-delivered to a voter requiring assistance, then delivery and assistance shall be provided by no fewer than two Board of Civil Authority members from different political parties acting together. Any absentee ballots returned to the Town Clerk by the close of polls on election day shall be counted with all other ballots.

(3) Floor meeting. The annual Town and School District floor meeting shall be called for the fourth Saturday following the Australian ballot/election day held under subdivision (2) of this subsection. [If the Town or School District budget fails in the Australian ballot, deciding votes at the floor meeting shall provide a further opportunity for consideration of any rejected budget and a final vote by the Town voters. In addition to budget votes, the] The floor meeting may consider:

- (A) the state of the Town and of the School District;
- (B) long-range planning, capital improvement projections;
- (C) other business not determined at Australian ballot election.