

## CHAPTERS VII, VIII, & IX: Summary of Revisions

### Section 701. Salaries.

- *Option 1:*
  - Added language to require a mandatory referendum in the event that TC wishes to provide, amend, or eliminate compensation for eligible elected officials.
  - Follows requirements in Section 310 (obligatory referendum on bond issues and appropriations)
  - Requires that at least fifteen percent (15%) of qualified electors participate
- *Option 2:*
  - Added language to require a mandatory referendum in the event that TC wishes to provide, amend, or eliminate compensation for eligible elected officials.
  - Follows requirements in Section 310 (obligatory referendum on bond issues and appropriations)
  - Requires that at least seven and one-half (7.5%) of qualified electors participate

### Section 801. Bonds for officials.

- Removed reference to town treasurer.

### Section 904 Powers and duties of council on budget.

- Removed set dates for annual town meeting and budget adoption; replaced with “no later than” language
  - This allows the town to move faster/earlier but not later than the current timeline

### Section 905. Annual town meeting on the budget.

- Removed set dates for annual town meeting; replaced with “no later than” language
  - This allows the town to move faster/earlier but not later than the current timeline

### Section 906. Referendum on the budget.

- *Option 1:*
  - Petitions for referendum require signatures from four percent (4%) of qualified electors (previously 7.5%)
  - Qualified electors: removed reference to property and residency requirements
  - Qualified ballots defined
  - Referendum requires a majority vote to pass
    - Also requires that at least fifteen percent (15%) of qualified electors participate
  - Limits number of referenda to two (2)
  - Provides for the most recent adopted budget to go into effect upon commencement of the ensuing fiscal year in the event that a referendum occurs after such date (e.g. town will not be without a budget in the event that the adopted budget is contested and goes to referendum)
- *Option 2:*
  - Petitions for referendum require signatures from four percent (4%) of qualified electors (previously 7.5%)
  - Qualified electors: removed reference to property and residency requirements
  - Qualified ballots defined
  - Referendum requires a majority vote to pass
    - Also requires that at least seven and one-half (7.5%) of qualified electors participate
  - Limits number of referenda to two (2)
  - Provides for the most recent adopted budget to go into effect upon commencement of the ensuing fiscal year in the event that a referendum occurs after such date (e.g. town will not be without a budget in the event that the adopted budget is contested and goes to referendum)

## Section 701. Salaries.

### Option 1

Members of the Council, elected officials and members of all boards and commissions shall serve without compensation except as herein provided. The town clerk, members of the board of tax review and the registrars of votes shall be paid salaries in lieu of all fees. Such salary ranges shall be fixed by the Council and all fees which such officers receive shall be paid into the general fund of the town. The salary ranges of other elective officials not now established by special act and the salaries of other officers appointed by the council shall be determined by the council. Salary ranges of all employees in the classified service shall be determined by the Council, upon recommendation of the Town Manager in accordance with a systematic pay plan for the positions involved including wage ranges and other pertinent information. Salary ranges of directors and other employees not within the classified service shall be determined by the Council upon recommendation of the authority appointing such directors and employees in accordance with a systematic pay plan including wage ranges and other pertinent information.

- a. The Council may, by mandatory referendum as herein provided, provide, amend, or eliminate, subject to any limitations imposed by the general statutes, a system of compensation for any or all of the Town's eligible elected officials.
- b. No vote authorizing any system of compensation, or any amendment thereto or elimination thereof, shall become effective until the same has been approved by a majority of qualified ballots cast at a referendum conducted pursuant to this Section.
  1. Qualified ballots shall be construed to mean ballots cast by qualified electors of the Town as defined in Sec. 308(b).
  2. If the number of qualified electors voting at any referendum conducted pursuant to this Section shall be less than fifteen percent (15%) of the qualified electors of the Town, any such proposed system of compensation, or any such amendment thereto or elimination thereof shall not be deemed approved notwithstanding that a majority of qualified ballots cast shall be in favor of said issuance of bonds or making of a nonbudgeted appropriation.
- c. Such referendum may be held at a town election, general election, or special election called by the council for that purpose. Such referendum shall be held not less than ten (10) days and no more than sixty (60) days after publication of the notice of the passage of such vote, except that if a town or general election is to be held within ninety (90) days after such vote, such referendum may be held at the town or general election instead of a special election.
- d. Notice that any such system of compensation, or any amendment thereto or elimination thereof will be submitted to a town, general or special election shall be given at least ten (10) days prior to the date of such election by publication in a newspaper having a circulation in the town and by posting in the town hall.

### Option 2

Members of the Council, elected officials and members of all boards and commissions shall serve without compensation except as herein provided. The town clerk, members of the board of tax review and the registrars of votes shall be paid salaries in lieu of all fees. Such salary ranges shall be fixed by the Council and all fees which such officers receive shall be paid into the general fund of the town. The salary ranges of other elective officials not now established by special act and the salaries of other officers appointed by the council shall be determined by the council. Salary ranges of all employees in the classified service shall be determined by the Council, upon recommendation of the Town Manager in accordance with a systematic pay plan for the positions involved including wage ranges and other pertinent information. Salary ranges of directors and other employees not within the classified service shall be determined by the Council upon recommendation of the authority appointing such directors and employees in accordance with a systematic pay plan including wage ranges and other pertinent information.

- e. The Council may, by mandatory referendum as herein provided, provide, amend, or eliminate, subject to any limitations imposed by the general statutes, a system of compensation for any or all of the Town's eligible elected officials.
- f. No vote authorizing any system of compensation, or any amendment thereto or elimination thereof, shall become effective until the same has been approved by a majority of qualified ballots cast at a referendum conducted pursuant to this Section.
  1. Qualified ballots shall be construed to mean ballots cast by qualified electors of the Town as defined in Sec. 308(b).
  2. If the number of qualified electors voting at any referendum conducted pursuant to this Section shall be less than seven and one-half (7.5%) of the qualified electors of the Town, any such proposed system of compensation, or any such amendment thereto or elimination thereof shall not be deemed approved

notwithstanding that a majority of qualified ballots cast shall be in favor of said issuance of bonds or making of a nonbudgeted appropriation.

- g. Such referendum may be held at a town election, general election, or special election called by the council for that purpose. Such referendum shall be held not less than ten (10) days and no more than sixty (60) days after publication of the notice of the passage of such vote, except that if a town or general election is to be held within ninety (90) days after such vote, such referendum may be held at the town or general election instead of a special election.
- h. Notice that any such system of compensation, or any amendment thereto or elimination thereof will be submitted to a town, general or special election shall be given at least ten (10) days prior to the date of such election by publication in a newspaper having a circulation in the town and by posting in the town hall.

#### **Section 801. Bonds for officials.**

The Town Manager, town clerk, finance director, tax collector, building inspector and such other officers as may be required to do so by vote of the council shall, before entering on their respective official duties, execute to the town in the form prescribed by the town attorney and file with the town clerk a surety company bond in a penal sum to be fixed by the council conditioned upon faithful performance of their official duties. Premiums for such bonds shall be paid by the town.

#### **Section 904 Powers and duties of council on budget.**

- a. Within ten (10) days after the manager has submitted the proposed budget set forth in Section 903 above, the Council shall cause sufficient copies to [be] made so that they may be available to the public during business hours in the office of the Town Manager. Full copies shall be available for examination in the town clerk's office, the board of education administrative offices and the town library and its branch(es) and shall be available for sale at the cost of production.
- b. Within fifteen (15) days after the manager has submitted the proposed budget, a public hearing shall be held on the proposed budget.
- c. The Council shall then prepare a budget which complies with any minimum standards or requirements of the State of Connecticut and shall hold the annual town meeting as described in Section 905 to explain the proposed budget, which shall include a period for public comment on the proposed resolution adopting said budget. Said annual town meeting and public comment shall be held no later than the first Monday of May.
- d. Both the public hearing on the manager's budget and the annual town meeting required by this Section shall be at places designated by the council with at least five (5) days' notice given by publication in a newspaper having a circulation in the town and by posting in the town hall and on the town web site, if any. A copy of the estimates and the budget shall be filed in the office of the town clerk, the board of education administrative offices and at the town library and its branch(es) and summary copies shall be made available for general distribution in the office of the Town Manager at least five (5) days before the respective hearing. Full copies of the budget shall be available for sale at the cost of reproduction.
- e. The budget shall be adopted by a majority vote of all the members of the Council at a subsequent meeting after both the public hearing and the annual town meeting have been completed, but in no event later than the second Monday in May.

#### **Section 905. Annual town meeting on the budget.**

An annual town meeting for presentation, explanation and public comment on the budget shall be held no later than the first Monday in May. It shall be called and warned by and over the signature of the Town Manager and in the manner provided by the general statutes, shall be held at such place as may from time to time be designated by vote of the Council, and may be adjourned from time to time as the interests of the Town require. It shall be called to order by the Town Clerk or, in the absence of the Town Clerk, by the Town Manager or the Mayor and shall be conducted as provided by the general statutes. The Town Clerk shall serve as clerk of the town meeting but in the absence of the Town Clerk, an acting clerk shall be appointed by the Town Manager or the Mayor.

#### **Section 906. Referendum on the budget.**

##### ***Option 1***

In the event that a petition, as set forth below, is received by the town clerk within seven (7) days of the adoption of the budget by the Council, the adopted budget shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the town for a "yes" or "no" vote

to approve said budget at a special election called for that purpose by the Council, with the time and place of such election to be determined by the Council.

- a. The petition to submit the adopted budget to a vote of the qualified electors, as defined in subsection 4 below, must be signed by a minimum of four percent (4%) of the total number of registered voters in the town as determined by the last effective list of the registrars of voters, as verified by the town clerk.
- b. The town clerk shall within ten (10) days examine the signatures on the petition and determine their sufficiency. If the town clerk finds there to be a sufficient number of valid signatures, the town clerk shall certify the petition to the Council.
- c. The Council shall meet no later than seven (7) days after said certification to set the date for the vote on the budget, which vote shall be held no less than seven (7) nor more than fourteen (14) days after the Council meets.
- d. For purposes of this section, the qualified electors shall be those residents of the Town of Bloomfield who are registered to vote with the Registrars of Voters.
- e. When such budget shall be so submitted to the electors, it shall not take effect unless a majority qualified ballots cast at any referendum conducted pursuant to this Section shall be cast in favor of the budget.
  1. Qualified ballots shall be construed to mean ballots cast by qualified electors of the Town as defined herein.
  2. If the number of qualified electors voting at any referendum conducted pursuant to this Section shall be less than fifteen percent (15%) of the qualified electors of the Town, the budget shall be deemed approved notwithstanding that a majority of qualified ballots cast shall be in favor of the referendum.
- f. In the event that a majority of qualified ballots cast at a referendum conducted pursuant to this Section and the total number of qualified electors voting is at least fifteen percent (15%) of the qualified electors of the Town, the Council shall prepare and adopt a substitute budget within ten (10) calendar days of the referendum and shall schedule an Annual Town Meeting within ten (10) days of adopting a substitute budget, which shall be subject to the procedures set forth in Section 904c, d and e; Section 905, except that an Annual Town Meeting scheduled for a substitute budget prepared pursuant to this Section may be scheduled after the first Monday in May; and this Section. In all other cases, the budget as adopted by the council shall be deemed to be approved.
- g. In the event that a petition, as set forth above, is received by the town clerk within seven (7) days of the adoption of the substitute budget by the Council, the substitute budget shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the town for a "yes" or "no" vote to approve said budget at a special election called for that purpose by the Council, with the time and place of such election to be determined by the Council.
  1. All requirements of Subsections a-f of this Section apply to a referendum on a substitute budget.
- h. In the event of a referendum on a substitute budget adopted by the Council, such substitute budget shall nonetheless take effect as of the commencement of the ensuing fiscal year, provided however that if a referendum on the substitute budget held pursuant to this Section succeeds, the substitute budget shall remain in effect only until the Council adopts a second substitute budget.
- i. In the event that a referendum on a substitute budget succeeds and the Council adopts a second substitute budget pursuant to the process outlined in Subsection f., such second substitute budget shall not be subject to a referendum.

## **Option 2**

In the event that a petition, as set forth below, is received by the town clerk within seven (7) days of the adoption of the budget by the Council, the adopted budget shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the town for a "yes" or "no" vote to approve said budget at a special election called for that purpose by the Council, with the time and place of such election to be determined by the Council.

- j. The petition to submit the adopted budget to a vote of the qualified electors, as defined in subsection 4 below, must be signed by a minimum of four percent (4%) of the total number of registered voters in the town as determined by the last effective list of the registrars of voters, as verified by the town clerk.
- k. The town clerk shall within ten (10) days examine the signatures on the petition and determine their sufficiency. If the town clerk finds there to be a sufficient number of valid signatures, the town clerk shall certify the petition to the Council.

- I. The Council shall meet no later than seven (7) days after said certification to set the date for the vote on the budget, which vote shall be held no less than seven (7) nor more than fourteen (14) days after the Council meets.
- m. For purposes of this section, the qualified electors shall be those residents of the Town of Bloomfield who are registered to vote with the Registrars of Voters.
- n. When such budget shall be so submitted to the electors, it shall not take effect unless a majority qualified ballots cast at any referendum conducted pursuant to this Section shall be cast in favor of the budget.
  - 1. Qualified ballots shall be construed to mean ballots cast by qualified electors of the Town as defined herein.
  - 2. If the number of qualified electors voting at any referendum conducted pursuant to this Section shall be less than seven and one-half percent (7.5%) of the qualified electors of the Town, the budget shall be deemed approved notwithstanding that a majority of qualified ballots cast shall be in favor of the referendum.
- o. In the event that a majority of qualified ballots cast at a referendum conducted pursuant to this Section and the total number of qualified electors voting is at least seven and one-half percent (7.5%) of the qualified electors of the Town, the Council shall prepare and adopt a substitute budget within ten (10) calendar days of the referendum and shall schedule an Annual Town Meeting within ten (10) days of adopting a substitute budget, which shall be subject to the procedures set forth in Section 904c, d and e; Section 905, except that an Annual Town Meeting scheduled for a substitute budget prepared pursuant to this Section may be scheduled after the first Monday in May; and this Section. In all other cases, the budget as adopted by the council shall be deemed to be approved.
- p. In the event that a petition, as set forth above, is received by the town clerk within seven (7) days of the adoption of the substitute budget by the Council, the substitute budget shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the town for a "yes" or "no" vote to approve said budget at a special election called for that purpose by the Council, with the time and place of such election to be determined by the Council.
  - 1. All requirements of Subsections a-f of this Section apply to a referendum on a substitute budget.
- q. In the event of a referendum on a substitute budget adopted by the Council, such substitute budget shall nonetheless take effect as of the commencement of the ensuing fiscal year, provided however that if a referendum on the substitute budget held pursuant to this Section succeeds, the substitute budget shall remain in effect only until the Council adopts a second substitute budget.
- r. In the event that a referendum on a substitute budget succeeds and the Council adopts a second substitute budget pursuant to the process outlined in Subsection f., such second substitute budget shall not be subject to a referendum.