



WINDHAM CODE

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**[HISTORY: Adopted by the Town of Windham 12-9-1974, effective 1-1-1975, as amended through 11-5-2024. Subsequent amendments noted where applicable.]**

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ARTICLE I  
**Grant of Powers to the Town**

**Section 1. Incorporation.**

The inhabitants of the Town of Windham, within the limits as now established or as hereafter established in the manner provided by law, shall be a municipal corporation, by the name of the Town of Windham.

**Section 2. Powers and duties.**

The Town shall have, exercise and enjoy all the rights, immunities, powers, privileges and franchises and shall be subject to all the duties, liabilities and obligations provided for herein, or otherwise, pertaining to or incumbent upon said Town as a municipal corporation or to the inhabitants or municipal authorities thereof; and may enact reasonable by-laws, regulations and ordinances for municipal purposes, not inconsistent with the Constitution and laws of the State of Maine, and impose penalties for the breach thereof, to be recovered for such uses as said by-laws, regulations or ordinances shall provide.

The administration of all the fiscal, prudential and municipal affairs of said Town, with the government thereof, except as otherwise provided by this Charter, shall be and is vested in one body of seven members, which shall constitute and be called the Town Council, all of whom shall be inhabitants of said Town, and shall be sworn in the manner hereinafter prescribed.

The Town may acquire property for any Town purpose, in fee simple or any lesser interest or estate, by purchase, gift, devise, lease, or condemnation and may sell, lease, mortgage, hold, manage and control such property as its interest may require.

In this Charter no mention of a particular power shall be construed to be exclusive or to restrict the scope of the powers which the Town would have if the particular power were not mentioned. The Charter shall be liberally construed to the end that the Town may have all the powers necessary or convenient for the conduct of its municipal affairs, including all powers the Town may assume pursuant to state laws and to the provisions of the State Constitution.

**Section 3. Intergovernmental relations.**

The Town may exercise any of its powers or perform any of its functions and may participate in the financing thereof, jointly or in cooperation, by contract or otherwise, with any one or more states or civil subdivisions or agencies thereof, or with the United States or any agency thereof, in accordance with the terms of the Interlocal Cooperation Act<sup>1</sup> and other statutory provisions.

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1. Editor's Note: See 30-A M.R.S.A. § 2201 et seq.

ARTICLE II  
**Town Council**

**Section 1. Number, election, term.**

The Town Council, hereinafter called the "Council", shall be and constitute the municipal officers of the Town and shall be composed of seven (7) members, each of whom shall be elected by the registered voters of the entire Town.

"Area representatives." At least one member shall be a resident of each of the following areas of the Town at the time of their election and shall maintain residency in their respective areas for the duration of their terms of office:

North Windham shall consist of the area bounded on the south by the centerline of Routes 35 and 115, on the east by the Town of Gray, on the north by the Towns of Raymond and Gray and on the west by the Town of Standish;

East Windham shall consist of the area bounded on the north by the centerline of Route 115 from its intersection with the Little Sebago Lake outlet to the Gray line, on the east by the Towns of Gray, Cumberland, Falmouth and Westbrook, on the west by the centerline of Route 302 from Westbrook to its intersection with the Varney Mill Road, thence by the centerline of the Varney Mill Road to its intersection with the Ditch Brook, thence by the thread of the Ditch Brook to Collins Pond, thence by the middle of Collins Pond to the Little Sebago Lake outlet and Route 115;

West Windham shall consist of the area bounded on the north by the centerline of Route 35, on the west by the Towns of Standish and Gorham, on the south by the centerlines of Gambo and Newhall Roads to the point of their intersection with Route 202 and on the east by the centerline of Route 202 from its intersection with the Newhall Road to its intersection with Route 302 and by the centerline of Route 302 from its intersection with Route 202 to its intersection with the Varney Mill Road, thence by the centerline of the Varney Mill Road to its intersection with the Ditch Brook, thence by the thread of the Ditch Brook to Collins Pond, thence by the middle of Collins Pond to the Little Sebago Lake outlet and Route 115;

South Windham shall consist of the area bounded on the northeast by the centerline of Route 302 from the Westbrook line to its intersection with Route 202, on the northwest by the centerline of Route 202 from its intersection with Newhall Road to its intersection with Route 302, and by the centerlines of Gambo and Newhall Roads to their intersection with the town line of Gorham and on the southeast by the town line of Westbrook to its intersection with Route 302.

"At large representatives." Three members shall be considered "at large" who shall be residents of any section of the Town. Each member shall be elected for a term of three years and until his successor is elected and qualified.

**Section 2. Qualifications, vacancies.**

- A. Councilors shall be qualified voters of the Town and shall reside in the Town during their term of office.
- B. Holding other office: Except where otherwise allowed by law, or pursuant to an agreement under the Interlocal Cooperation Act,<sup>2</sup> no Councilor shall hold other Town office or employment during the term for which they were elected to the Council, and no former Councilor shall hold any compensated

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2. Editor's Note: See 30-A M.R.S.A. § 2201 et seq.

appointive Town office or employment until one year after the expiration of the term for which they were elected to the Council.

- C. Forfeiture of office: A Councilor shall forfeit his/her office if he/she:
- (1) Lacks at any time during his/her term of office any qualification for the office prescribed by the Charter or by law,
  - (2) Violates any express prohibition of this Charter,
  - (3) Is convicted of a felony,
  - (4) Is convicted of any other crime or offense involving moral turpitude, or
  - (5) Fails to attend three consecutive regular meetings of the Council, where votes will be taken, without being excused for due cause by the Council.
- D. Filling of vacancies: In case of a vacancy caused by death, resignation or other cause, the vacancy shall be filled at the next regular municipal election for the unexpired term. The Council shall fill vacancies in its number occurring between regular municipal elections, and the term of office of any member of the Council so chosen shall expire at the next municipal election.

### **Section 3. Enumeration of powers.**

Without limitation of the foregoing, the Council shall have the power to:

- A. Appoint, on the affirmative vote of five members, the Manager for an indefinite term and remove him/her by the same vote. At least 30 days before such removal shall become effective, the Council shall, by the affirmative vote of five members, adopt a preliminary resolution stating the reasons for the Manager's removal. The Manager may reply in writing and may request a public hearing, which shall be held not earlier than 20 days nor later than 30 days after the filing of such request. After such public hearing if one is requested, and after full consideration, the Council by the affirmative vote of five members may adopt a final resolution of removal. By the preliminary resolution, the Council may suspend the Manager from duty, but the regular salary of the Manager shall continue to be paid to him/her during the period of suspension. However, in no case shall the Manager receive pay while on suspension or in any form of severance agreement that, in total, exceeds three months' salary.
- B. Appoint and remove on the affirmative vote of five members, the Assessor, the Town Clerk and the Town Attorney. All appointees of the Council shall serve at the will of the Council.
- C. Appoint the members of the Board of Assessment Review, the Planning Board, the Board of Zoning Appeals, and the membership of such advisory committees as the Council shall create, except that by ordinance the Council may make membership of any advisory committee elected.
- D. Create by ordinance, change and abolish offices, departments and agencies, other than the offices, departments and agencies established by this Charter. The Council by ordinance may assign additional functions or duties to offices, departments or agencies established by this Charter, but may not discontinue or assign to any other office, department or agency any function or duty assigned by this Charter to a particular office, department or agency. The Council may, however, where not prohibited by law, vest in the Town Manager all or part of the duties of any office under this Charter.
- E. The Council may make investigations into the affairs of the Town and the conduct of any Town department, office or agency.

- F. Adopt, reject, or modify and carry out plans proposed by the Planning Board.
- G. Approve an annual budget and recommend same to the Town Meeting, subject to the provisions of this Charter, and may appoint a Budget Committee to assist them in this duty.
- H. Provide for an annual audit.
- I. Exercise all the legislative, financial, borrowing and other powers now or hereafter given by statute to inhabitants of towns acting in Town Meeting except as otherwise provided herein, and also exercise all the powers now or hereafter given by statute to municipal officers of towns.

#### **Section 4. Compensation.**

- A. Councilors shall receive \$20 for each Council meeting attended, not to exceed in the aggregate of \$500 per year in full for their services and shall be paid quarterly. Such compensation may be changed by ordinance, but no such ordinance increasing the salary of members of the Town Council shall take effect during the then current municipal year.
- B. The Town Council by order shall fix the salaries of officials appointed by the Town Council, including the salary of the Town Manager.
- C. Salaries of the appointees of the Town Manager shall be fixed by the Town Manager subject to the approval of the Council.
- D. The Council may provide by order for the reimbursement of necessary and actual expenses of Town officers and officials in the exercise of their official duties.

#### **Section 5. Induction of Council into office.**

Councilors-elect shall be sworn to the faithful discharge of their duties by a Justice of the Peace, or by the Town Clerk, at the next regular or special Town Council meeting immediately following the regular Town elections, and a record made thereof.

#### **Section 6. Council to judge qualifications of its members.**

The Council shall be the judge of the election and qualifications of its members, but the decision of the Council in any such case shall be subject to review of the courts.

#### **Section 7. Regular meetings.**

The Council shall meet regularly at least once a month. It shall also provide a method for calling special meetings. During each meeting there shall be opportunity for public discussion by the Council upon each item on the agenda. There shall be an opportunity for the public to speak on each item before a vote is taken by the Council.

#### **Section 8. Rules of procedure; journal.**

The Council shall determine its own rules and order of business. It shall keep a record of its proceedings and the record shall be open to public inspection.

#### **Section 9. The presiding officer.**

At the first meeting after the regular municipal election, the Council shall elect from among its members,

officers of the Town who shall have the titles of Chair and Vice-Chair each of whom shall serve at the pleasure of the Council. The Chair shall preside at meetings of the Council, and shall be recognized as head of the Town government for all ceremonial purposes, and by the Governor for purposes of military law, but shall have no administrative duties. The Vice-Chair shall act as Chair in the absence of the Chair. The Chair and the Vice-Chair shall be entitled to vote on all questions.

### **Section 10. Quorum.**

A majority of the Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. At least four votes shall be registered in favor of passage of an ordinance, order or resolution. A smaller number may adjourn from time to time. At least 24 hours notice of the time and place of holding such adjourned meeting shall be given to all members who were not present at the meeting from which adjournment was taken.

### **Section 11. Ordinances in general.**

- A. Form: Every proposed ordinance shall be introduced in writing and in the form required for final adoption. The enacting clause shall be "The Town of Windham hereby ordains...".
- B. Procedure: A proposed ordinance may be introduced by any member at any regular or special meeting of the Council. Upon introduction of any ordinance, the Secretary to the Council shall distribute a copy to each Council member and to the Town Manager; shall file a reasonable number of copies in the office of the Clerk and such other public places as the Council may designate. A notice setting out the time and place for a public hearing shall be given at least seven days in advance by publication in a newspaper, as defined by relevant Maine statute (1 M.R.S.A. § 601 or its successor, as amended), having a general circulation in said Town before any ordinance shall be passed, but nothing herein shall be deemed to require publication of the ordinance itself. The public hearing may be held separately or in connection with a regular or special Council meeting and may be adjourned from time to time. All persons interested shall have a reasonable opportunity to be heard. After the hearing the Council may adopt the ordinance with or without amendment or reject it; but if it is amended as to any matter of substance, the Council may not adopt it until the ordinance or its amended sections have been subjected to all the procedure hereinbefore required in the case of a newly introduced ordinance.
- C. Effective date: Except as otherwise provided in this Charter, every adopted ordinance shall become effective at the expiration of 30 days after adoption or at any later date specified therein.
- D. Emergency ordinances: To meet a public emergency affecting life, health, property or the public peace, the Council may adopt one or more emergency ordinances. An emergency ordinance may be adopted with or without amendment or rejected at the meeting at which it is introduced, but the affirmative vote of at least the majority plus one member shall be required for adoption. After its adoption the ordinance shall be posted in three public places. It shall become effective upon adoption or at such later time as it may specify. Every emergency ordinance except one authorizing the issuance of emergency notes shall stand repealed as of the 61st day following the date on which it was adopted, but this shall not prevent reenactment of the ordinance in the manner specified in this section if the emergency still exists. An emergency ordinance may also be repealed by adoption of a repealing ordinance in the same manner specified in this section for adoption of emergency ordinances.

### **Section 12. Town Clerk.**

- A. The Town Clerk shall perform those duties established by law and shall act as Secretary of Council,

and shall keep a public record of all proceedings of the Council, including all roll call votes. The Town Clerk shall be a resident of the Town, unless the Council waives this requirement.

- B. Statutory fees collected by the Town Clerk shall be turned over to the Town.
- C. The Council shall set the salary of the Town Clerk.

**Section 13. Independent annual audit.**

Prior to the end of each fiscal year, the Council shall designate the State Department of Audit or private certified public accountants who, as of the end of the fiscal year, shall make an independent audit of accounts and other evidences of financial transaction of the Town Government and shall submit their report to the Council and the Town Manager. Such accountants shall not maintain any accounts or records of the Town business, but shall post-audit the books and documents kept by any office, officer, department or agency of the Town Government.

ARTICLE III  
**Town Manager**

**Section 1. Town Manager, qualifications.**

The Town Manager shall be chosen by the Council solely on the basis of his/her character and his/her executive and administrative qualifications with special reference to his/her actual experience in, or his/her knowledge of, accepted practice in respect to the duties of his/her office as hereinafter set forth. At the time of his/her appointment, the Town Manager need not be a resident of the Town or state.

**Section 2. Powers and duties of Town Manager.**

The Town Manager shall be the Chief Administrative Officer of the Town. The Town Manager shall be responsible to the Council for the administration of all Town affairs placed in the Town Manager's charge by or under this Charter or by direction of the Council. The Town Manager shall have the following powers and duties:

- A. The Town Manager shall be Tax Collector, Town Treasurer, Overseer of the Poor, and shall have and exercise all powers and perform all the duties conferred or imposed by law upon said respective officers. No Councilor shall receive appointment to the office of Town Manager during the term for which they shall have been elected, nor within one year after the expiration of their term, nor shall any member of the Council act in that capacity. The Town Manager shall give bond for the faithful discharge of his/her duties to the Town of Windham in such sum as the Council shall determine and direct, and with surety or sureties to be approved by the Council. The premium on the Town Manager's bond shall be paid by the Town.
- (1) The Town Manager shall appoint and remove statutory officers and department heads, including but not limited to Chief of the Police Department, Fire-Rescue Chief and Director of Public Works subject to confirmation by the Council; and all other administrative officers and Town employees, except as the Town Manager may authorize the head of a department or office to appoint or remove subordinates in such department or office and except as otherwise provided by law, by this Charter, or by personnel rules adopted pursuant to this Charter.
  - (2) The Town Manager shall direct and supervise the administration of all departments, offices and agencies of the Town, except as otherwise provided by this Charter or by law.
  - (3) The Town Manager or his/her designee shall attend Council meetings, except when the Town Manager's removal is being considered, and shall have the right to take part in discussions but may not vote.
  - (4) The Town Manager shall see that all laws, provisions of this Charter and acts of the Council, subject to enforcement by the Town Manager or by officers subject to the Town Manager's direction and supervision, are faithfully executed.
  - (5) The Town Manager shall prepare and submit the annual budget and capital program to the Council and be responsible for its administration after adoption.
  - (6) The Town Manager shall submit to the Council and make available to the public a complete report on the finances and administrative activities of the Town as of the end of each fiscal year, and cause such annual Town report to be published and made available to the public as promptly as possible after the close of the fiscal year.

- (7) The Town Manager shall prepare and submit to the Council such reports and shall perform such duties as the Council may require, shall keep the Council advised of the financial condition and future needs of the Town, and shall make such recommendations to the Council concerning the affairs of the Town as the Town Manager deems desirable.
- (8) The Town Manager shall assist, insofar as possible, residents and taxpayers in discovering their lawful remedies in cases involving complaints of unfair vendor, administrative and governmental practices.
- (9) The Town Manager shall act as purchasing agent for all departments of the Town and provide for cooperative purchasing arrangements where feasible, and shall submit to competitive bids any transaction in excess of the amount set by order of the Council.
- (10) The Town Manager shall prepare an Administrative Code, submit it to the Council and be responsible for its administration after adoption by the Council.
- (11) Council not to interfere in appointments or removals. Neither the Council nor any of its members shall direct or request the appointment of any person to or his removal from office by the Manager or by any of his subordinates. Except for the purpose of inquiry, the Council and its members shall deal with the administrative service solely through the Manager and neither the Council nor any member thereof shall give orders to any subordinates of the Manager, either publicly or privately.
- (12) Vacancy in office of Town Manager. During any vacancy in the office of Town Manager, and during the absence or disability of the Town Manager, the Council shall designate a properly qualified person, not a member of the Council, to perform the duties of Manager and fix his/her compensation. While so acting, he/she shall have the same powers and duties as those given to and imposed on the Town Manager. Before entering the Town Manager's duties, he/she shall give bond to the Town of Windham in a sum and with surety or sureties to be approved by the Council. The premium on said bond shall be paid by the Town.

ARTICLE IV  
**Department of Education**

[Superseded by consolidation of the Windham and Raymond school departments pursuant to 20-A M.R.S.A. Chapter 103-A, effective July 1, 2009.]

ARTICLE V  
**Budget**

**Section 1. Fiscal year.**

- A. The fiscal year of the Town Government shall begin the first day of July and shall end on the 30th day of June, or such other fiscal year as the Council may decide. Such fiscal year shall constitute the budget and accounting year as used in the Charter. The term "budget year" shall mean the fiscal year for which any particular budget is adopted and in which it is administered.
- B. The credit of the Town shall in no manner be loaned to any individual, association or corporation, except as provided by law.

**Section 2. Preparation and submission of the budget.**

The Town Manager, ~~not less than 90 days prior to the beginning of the new fiscal year~~ no later than March 1 of each year, shall submit to the Council a budget and an explanatory budget message. The budget authority of the Council shall be limited to the final determination of the total appropriation to be made to each of the several offices, departments and agencies of the Town.

This budget shall contain:

- A. ~~Exact~~ A statement of the financial condition of the Town consistent with the most recent annual audit conducted by the Town's auditor.
- B. An itemized statement of appropriations recommended for current expenses, with comparative statements in parallel columns of estimated expenditures for the current fiscal year and actual expenditures for the next preceding fiscal year. An increase or decrease in any item shall be noted.
- C. Proposed capital expenditures during the ensuing fiscal year detailed by offices, departments and agencies when practicable and the proposed method of financing each such capital expenditure.
- D. An itemized statement of estimated revenue from all sources, other than taxation, and a statement of taxes required, comparative figures from current and next preceding year.
- E. Such other information as may be required by the Council.

**Section 3. Capital program.**

- A. Submission to Council. The Manager, ~~with the assistance of the Planning Board~~, shall prepare and submit to the Council a five-year capital program ~~at least three months prior to the final date for submission of the budget~~ no later than March 1 of each year.
- B. Contents. The capital program shall include:
  - (1) A clear general summary of its contents;
  - (2) A list of all capital improvements which are proposed to be undertaken during the five fiscal years next ensuing, with appropriate supporting information as to the necessity for such improvements;
  - (3) Cost estimates, method of financing and recommended time schedules for each improvement; and
  - (4) The estimated annual cost of operating and maintaining the facilities to be constructed or

acquired.

The above information may be revised and extended each year with regard to capital improvements still pending or in process of construction or acquisition.

#### **Section 4. Review of budget by Council.**

The proposed budget prepared by the Manager shall be reviewed by the Council which shall acknowledge receipt of the budget with or without amendments. The complete Town budget as received or as amended by the Council shall be printed and distributed and the Council shall fix the time and place for holding a public hearing on the budget, and shall give a public notice of such hearing as provided in this Charter. The Council, after holding the public hearing, shall then review the budget and recommend it with or without change to the annual Town Meeting, no later than ~~30-60~~ days prior to the beginning of the new fiscal year.

In the event the Council shall fail to approve the budget at least ~~30-60~~ days prior to the beginning of the new fiscal year, the budget as presented by the Manager shall become the budget recommended to the Annual Town Meeting.

#### **Section 5. Budget establishes appropriation.**

From the date of adoption of the budget, the several amounts stated therein as proposed appropriations shall be and become appropriated to the several agencies and the purposes therein named.

#### **Section 6. Budget establishes amount to be raised by property tax; certification of Town Assessor.**

From the date of adoption of the budget, the amounts stated therein as the amount to be raised by property tax shall constitute a determination of the amount of the levy for the purposes of the Town in the corresponding fiscal year, unless modified by a subsequent vote of a special town meeting held prior to the date that taxes are committed. A copy of the budget as finally adopted shall be certified and filed by the Manager with the Town Assessor, whose duty it shall be to levy such taxes for the corresponding fiscal year.

#### **Section 7. Expenditures ~~and departmental revenue~~.**

The budget for all departments shall include all proposed expenditures, inclusive of current expenses and capital expenditures; and the Council shall make a gross appropriation for each department for the ensuing fiscal year. Town Meeting shall be asked to approve the gross expenditure of each department in separate budget articles, pursuant to the provisions of Article VIII. The gross appropriation for each department shall not be exceeded except by consent by a majority of the Council.

#### **Section 8. Transfers of appropriations.**

At the request of the Manager and within the last three months of the budget year, the Council may by resolution transfer any unencumbered appropriation balance or portion thereof between general classification of expenditures between any offices, departments, or agencies. Following the close of the fiscal year, the Council may also continue unexpended balances in capital accounts.

#### **Section 9. Interim expenditures.**

In the period between the beginning of the fiscal year and the appropriation of funds, the Council may authorize expenditures for current departmental expenses chargeable to the appropriations for the year when made in amounts sufficient to cover the necessary expenses of the various departments.

**Section 10. Work program; allotments.**

Before the beginning of the budget year, the head of each office, department or agency shall submit to the Town Manager, when required, a work program of the year, which program shall show the requested allotments of appropriations for such office, department or agency, by stated periods, for the entire budget year. The Town Manager shall review the requested allotments in the light of the work program of the office, department or agency concerned, and may revise, alter or change such allotments before approving the same. The aggregate of such allotments shall not exceed the total of appropriations available to said office, department or agency for the budget year.

**Section 11. Amendments after adoption.**

- A. Supplemental appropriations: If during the fiscal year, the Manager certifies that there are available for appropriation, revenues in excess of those estimated in the budget, the Council by ordinance may make supplemental appropriations for the year up to the amount of such excess, subject to the limit set forth in Article VIII, Section 2 of this Charter.
- B. Emergency appropriations: To meet a public emergency affecting life, health, property or the public peace, the Council may make emergency appropriations. Such appropriations may be made by emergency ordinance. To the extent that there are no available unappropriated funds to meet such appropriations, the Council may by emergency ordinance authorize the issuance of temporary notes, which may be renewed from time to time, but the temporary notes and renewals of any fiscal year shall be paid not later than the last day of the fiscal year next succeeding that in which the emergency appropriation was made.
- C. Reduction of appropriations: If at any time during the fiscal year it appears probable to the Manager that the revenues available will be insufficient to meet the amount appropriated, the Town Manager shall report to the Council without delay, indicating the estimated amount of the deficit, any remedial action taken and recommendations as to any other steps to be taken. The Council shall then take such further action as it deems necessary to prevent or minimize any deficit and for that purpose it may by ordinance reduce one or more appropriations.

**Section 12. Lapse of appropriations.**

Every general fund appropriation, except an appropriation for a capital expenditure, shall lapse at the close of the fiscal year to the extent that it has not been expended or encumbered. An appropriation for a capital expenditure shall continue in force until the purpose for which it was made has been accomplished or abandoned; the purpose of any such appropriation shall be deemed abandoned if three years pass without any disbursement from or encumbrance of the appropriation.

ARTICLE VI  
**Tax Administration**

**Section 1. Assessor.**

There shall be established a Division of Assessment, the head of which shall be the Town Assessor. The Assessor, appointed as hereinbefore provided, shall perform all duties and responsibilities provided for assessors, and as the Assessor may now or hereafter be subject to, under the laws of the State of Maine.

**Section 2. Board of Assessment Review; appointment; vacancies.**

There shall be a Board of Assessment Review to consist of five members, who shall be appointed by the Council for a term of three years. Members may be removed for cause after hearing by the Council. Vacancies in the membership of such Board shall be filled by appointment of the Council for the unexpired term.

**Section 3. Board of Assessment Review; powers and duties.**

The Board of Assessment Review shall have the power to:

- A. Review, on complaint of property owners, and revise assessments for the purpose of taxation of real and personal property within the Town limits made by the Town Assessor;
- B. Administer oaths;
- C. Take testimony;
- D. Hold hearings;
- E. Adopt regulations regarding the procedure of assessment review not inconsistent with statutory provisions.

ARTICLE VII  
**Nominations and Elections**

**Section 1. Municipal elections.**

The regular election for the choice of members of the Council shall be held on the first Tuesday following the first Monday of November. All such elections shall be conducted on a nonpartisan basis and without party designations on the election ballot.

**Section 2. Nomination.**

Any qualified voter of the Town may be nominated for the Council by the use of nomination papers in accordance with the Statutes of the State of Maine.

**Section 3. Conduct of municipal elections.**

The provisions of the Statutes of the State of Maine relating to the qualifications of voters, the registration of voters, the nomination for any office, the manner of voting, the duties of election officers and all other particulars relative to preparation for, conducting and management of elections, so far as they may be applicable, shall govern all municipal elections, except as otherwise provided in this Charter.

**Section 4. Voting places.**

The voting places for municipal elections shall be those which have been or may hereafter be established for state elections.

**Section 5. Election officials.**

The Town Council shall, not less than 10 days before any election, approve the appointment of an Election Warden and Deputy Warden made by the Town Clerk as required by relevant Maine statute (21-A M.R.S.A. Chapter 7 or its successor) and, not later than May 1 of any general election year, appoint regular ballot clerks for each voting place.

ARTICLE VIII  
The Town Meeting

**Section 1. Annual and Special Town Meeting.**

An Annual Town Meeting for the consideration of the annual budget and the transaction of other Town business which voters are authorized to vote upon shall be held on the ~~first Saturday following the second Tuesday~~second Tuesday in June, ~~in a manner concurrent with the regular municipal election.~~ The review and approval of the budget by the Annual Town Meeting shall be in accordance with Section 5 of this Article. Special Town Meetings may also be called by the Council.

~~Special Town Meetings may be called by the Council.~~

**Section 2. When action by Town Meeting required.**

The annual budget, as provided in Article V and in accordance with Section 5 of this Article; any appropriation of ~~\$25,000~~250,000 or more in addition to or supplementary to the annual budget appropriation; the issuance of bonds or notes, except notes in anticipation of taxes to be paid within the fiscal year in which issued; shall become effective only after adoption ~~it has been adopted~~ at a Town Meeting by ~~the vote of a majority vote of those present~~ a majority vote of those present and voting. ~~those present and entitled to vote at such meeting.~~ The Town Meeting shall not increase the amount of any appropriation recommended by the Council and shall not increase the amount of any bond issue above the amount recommended by the Council.

**Section 3. Application.**

The provisions of this ~~article~~Article shall not apply to any appointments of officers, or members of commissions or of boards made by said Town Council, or to the appointment or designation of officers of the Town Council or to rules governing the procedure of the Town Council.

**Section 4. Method of discontinuing the Town Meeting.**

At any time, not less than 10% of the registered voters of the Town may petition over their personal signatures for a referendum vote on the ballot at a general or special Town election on the proposition of discontinuing the Town Meeting. The proper election officials of the Town shall take such steps as may be necessary to place such question upon the ballot at the next general election or at a special election called for that purpose. If at such general election or special election a majority of the electors of the Town voting on the question shall vote for the discontinuing of the Town Meeting of the Town of Windham, the powers heretofore vested in the Town Meeting shall be conferred upon and exercised by the Town Council.

**Section 5. Review and approval of the annual budget.**

The Annual Town Meeting shall vote on the annual budget by secret ballot. The ballot shall include several budget articles, each setting forth a proposed gross appropriation for a specific department or operating fund of the Town. Each budget article shall be accompanied by a recommendation of the Town Council. The ballot shall further indicate that approval of a proposed budget article shall authorize the raising and appropriating of the proposed amount, but that defeat of a proposed budget article shall authorize the raising and appropriating of the amount so approved for that department or operating fund for the previous fiscal year, which amount shall also be shown. Each budget article must receive a majority of votes cast to be approved.

Should any budget article be defeated at the Annual Town Meeting, the Town Council may call a special town meeting to propose an alternative amount to raise and appropriate, provided that such amount may not be greater than or equal to the amount initially proposed. Any special town meeting called for such purpose shall be conducted as an open town meeting, which must occur prior to the date on which taxes are committed by the Town.

Any request for the issuance of bonds or notes, as required by Section 2 of this Article, may be included on the secret ballot voted upon by the Annual Town Meeting. Alternatively, such requests may be submitted to a special town meeting, which shall be conducted as an open town meeting.

ARTICLE IX  
Initiative and Referendum

**Section 1. Petition for overrule of action of Council.**

All ordinances, resolutions or votes, except those making appointments or removals or regulating exclusively the internal procedure of the Council, shall be subject to overrule by a referendum, by direct vote of the whole people by secret ballot, as follows:

If, within 20 days after the enactment of any such ordinance, resolution or vote, a petition signed by not less than 10% of the registered voters of the Town of Windham is filed with the Town Clerk requesting its reference to a referendum, by direct vote of the whole people by secret ballot, the Council shall call a public hearing to be held within 30 days from the date of the filing of such petition with the Town Clerk and shall, within 30 days after said public hearing, call a special Town Meeting for the purpose of submitting to a referendum vote, by direct vote of the whole people by secret ballot, the question of adopting such ordinance, resolution or vote. Pending action by the Town Meeting, the referred ordinance, resolution or vote shall be suspended from going into operation until it has received an affirmative vote of the majority of the voters voting on said question.

**Section 2. Petition for enactment of ordinances.**

Not less than 10% of the registered voters of the Town may at any time petition for the enactment of any proposed lawful ordinance by filing such petition, including the complete text of such ordinance, with the Town Clerk. The Council shall call a public hearing to be held within 30 days from the date of the filing of such petition with the Town Clerk, and shall within 30 days after said public hearing call a special Town election for the purpose of submitting to a referendum vote, by direct vote of the whole people by secret ballot, the question of adopting such ordinance, unless prior to the call for said Town election, such ordinance shall be enacted by the Council. Such ordinance shall take effect on the 10th day after the conclusion of such referendum, provided a majority of those voting thereon shall have voted in the affirmative.

Any such proposed ordinance shall be examined by the Town Attorney before being submitted to referendum. The Town Attorney is authorized to correct the form of such proposed ordinance for the purpose of avoiding repetitions, illegalities and unconstitutional provisions, and to assure accuracy in its text and references and clearness and preciseness in its phraseology, but he/she shall not materially change its meaning and effect.

**Section 3. Form of ballot.**

The form of ballot for the proposed ordinance, or repeal of such ordinance, resolution or vote shall be substantially as follows:

"Shall the proposed ordinance (resolution, vote or Charter amendment), a copy of which is printed herein or attached hereto, be adopted?"

| For the Ordinance | Against the Ordinance |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| ( )               | ( )                   |

The voter shall write a cross or check mark in the appropriate box.

ARTICLE X  
**General Provisions**

**Section 1. Oath of office.**

Every officer of the Town shall, before entering upon the duties of his office, take and subscribe to the following oath or affirmation, to be filed and kept in the office of the Town Clerk.

"I solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution and will obey the laws of the United States and of the State of Maine; that I will, in all respects, observe the provisions of the Charter and ordinances of the Town of Windham and statutes of the State of Maine, and will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of. "

**Section 2. Short title.**

This Charter shall be known and may be cited as the "Council-Manager Charter of the Town of Windham". The Town Clerk shall cause it to be printed and made available to the public promptly.

**Section 3. Separability clause.**

If any portion of this Charter shall be held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions thereof.