

Reasons why the Town Clerk should be appointed vs elected:

Windham's population is about 18,500. The Town Clerk's position should have someone who has Clerk experience and who can be dedicated to this full-time position, including night meetings, and working evenings and weekends during election time.

As an appointed position you can advertise and have the ability to choose the best qualified candidate. If the Clerk is elected, anyone in town is able to run, and you may only have one person running who could absolutely have no experience or have any idea of what goes on in the Clerk's office. You cannot require qualifications when electing a Clerk.

This position has many responsibilities and involves several different jobs, most of which are State mandated. Learning these jobs requires going to classes and workshops and repeating those classes due to laws and regulations continually changing.

It takes 2-3 years to feel comfortable and knowledgeable in this position because there are so many things to learn and become familiar with. Elections are one of the most important things a Clerk has to oversee, and you need to know what you are doing.