

**TOWN OF WOODSTOCK
VILLAGE OF WOODSTOCK
PLAN OF MERGER AND CHARTER**

101 Merger of the Village and Town of Woodstock

Following approval of this Plan of Merger by the Vermont Legislature; at 12:01 AM on March 1, 2008, hereafter referred to as the “effective date of the merger”, the village of Woodstock shall merge into the town of Woodstock, the village of Woodstock shall cease to exist as a body corporate, and its charter shall be abolished. This plan will constitute the governance charter of the town of Woodstock, and supersede all previous charter provisions.

102 General Law; Application

Except as modified by this charter, the town of Woodstock shall have all powers granted to towns and villages by the Constitution and the general laws of the state of Vermont, together with all implied powers necessary to carry out such powers.

103 Assets and Liabilities; Trust Property; Transfer of Funds; Fiscal Year

Prior to the effective date of the merger, the officers of the village of Woodstock shall settle so far as possible their financial affairs and on said date shall turn over and deliver to the clerk of the town of Woodstock, and to the other proper officers of the town, all records, books, and documents of the village of Woodstock.

Upon the effective date of the merger of the town and village all of the assets and liabilities of the village of Woodstock shall become the assets and liabilities of the town of Woodstock without any further act, deed, or instrument being necessary. This shall include all real property, easements, rights and interests in land, buildings and other improvements; vehicles, equipment and other personal property; assessed but uncollected taxes, fees, interest, rents, and charges, together with lien rights and enforcement authorities; moneys, rights of action in legal and administrative proceedings; insurance policies; documents and records; debts, claims, bonded and unbonded indebtedness.

Upon the effective date of the merger of the town and village all property held in trust by the trustees of the village or any officer thereof, shall become vested in the town of Woodstock and its successors, or in the respective officer of the said town and his or her successor, as the case may be, and shall continue to be held in trust for the same uses as before the effective date of the merger, all without any further act, deed, or instrument being necessary.

The general and highway funds of the village of Woodstock shall be added to the general and highway funds of the town of Woodstock. All designated funds and reserve funds of the village of Woodstock shall continue as designated funds and reserve funds of the town of Woodstock having the same purpose for which the village funds were originally established.

The fiscal year for the town of Woodstock shall continue to be July 1 to June 30.

104 Officers; Selectboard; Town Manager

The town of Woodstock shall have the officers as provided for towns by the general laws, except as provided herein. The election of town officers shall be by the Australian Ballot system in accordance with Chapter 55 of Title 17 of Vermont Statutes annotated. Upon the effective date of the merger of the town and village, the office of trustees and all other elected Village offices of the village of Woodstock shall cease and the current duly elected Selectboard shall serve as the merged Selectboard of the town of Woodstock until town meeting on March 4, 2008, at which time all Selectboard members shall resign. At annual town meeting held on March 4, 2008, five Selectboard members shall be elected. One member shall be elected for a one year term, two members shall be elected for a two year term, and two members shall be elected for a three year term. All subsequent terms of office shall be for three years. The Town of Woodstock shall operate under the town meeting, Selectboard, town manager form of government.

105 Town and Village Employees

The employees of the village of Woodstock, and the employees who are employed by both the village and/or the town, shall retain employment with the town of Woodstock on the effective date of the merger, in the same position, without loss of pay, benefits, or seniority. The personnel policies of the town and village of Woodstock shall, upon the date of the effective date of the merger, become the personnel policies of the town of Woodstock.

106 Planning and Zoning

The municipal plan, zoning regulations, and official maps of the village of Woodstock shall become and continue in full force and effect as municipal plans, zoning regulations, and official maps of the area of the town of Woodstock that was formerly the area of the village of Woodstock

Whenever a power is granted by any such plan, zoning regulation, or official map to an officer of the village of Woodstock such power shall be exercised by the appropriate officer of the town of Woodstock.

Upon the effective date of the merger, the Development Review Board of the village of Woodstock shall cease to exist, and the sitting town Development Review Board shall be responsible for all actions formerly taken by the aforesaid village Development Review Board. The former village Development Review Board and the village Design Review Board shall become advisory boards to the town Development Review Board.

All members of the following boards and commissions shall resign effective 12:01 am on May 15, 2008.

Town Development Review Board

Planning Commission

Conservation Commission

Village Design Review Board

South Woodstock Design Review Board

The Selectboard shall appoint the following Boards and Commissions who shall assume office at 12:01 am on May 15, 2008.

Development Review Board

Planning Commission

Conservation Commission

Design Review Board

All of these Boards and Commissions shall have jurisdiction over the entire town of Woodstock including the lands within the former village boundaries.

The initial terms of office of these appointments shall be staggered. All subsequent terms of office shall be as established by state statute.

107 Police Department

Upon the effective date of the merger, the village police department will become the police department of the Town of Woodstock and the financial responsibility of the police department will be shared equally by the citizens of the newly formed Town of Woodstock.

108 Ordinances

Any rule, ordinance, regulation, zoning regulation, or bylaw of the town of Woodstock may apply to a limited area and not to the whole town, notwithstanding that the ordinance, rule, regulation, zoning regulation, or bylaw might also have been applied to another area or areas within the town.

All rules, ordinances, regulations, and bylaws of the village of Woodstock in effect on the day before the effective date of said merger shall become and continue in full force and effect as rules, ordinances, regulations, and bylaws of the town of Woodstock for the respective area presently involved unless in conflict with rules, ordinances, regulations and bylaws of the town of

Woodstock already existing, until lawfully amended or repealed.

The current area of the village of Woodstock as set forth in the village zoning map recorded in the land records of the town of Woodstock shall be defined as the geographic area for the administration and enforcement of all pre-existing village ordinances, motor vehicle ordinances, by laws and regulations.

109 Votes Required for Effect

All sections of this plan of merger shall take effect if this plan is approved as follows:

- (1) By majority vote of the town of Woodstock which includes qualified voters of the town and village.
- (2) By majority vote of the village of Woodstock which includes all qualified voters of the village.
- (3) Subject to approval by the general assembly, the merger shall take effect at 12:01 am on March 1, 2008.

110 Severability

If any provision of this chapter shall for any reason be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions. To this end, the provisions of this plan of merger and charter are severable.

Approved by Village Trustees:

Approved by Town Selectboard:

Date

Witness

Date

Witness