

STATE OF WISCONSIN
TOWN OF WASHINGTON, VILAS COUNTY
CODE OF ORDINANCES

**CHAPTER 12: ORDINANCE TO CONVERT THE ELECTED OFFICES OF
TOWN CLERK AND TOWN TREASURER TO APPOINTED
OFFICES AS AMENDED JANUARY 3, 2022**

12.01 Title and Purpose

This ordinance is entitled the Town of Washington Ordinance to Convert the Elected Offices of Town Clerk and Town Treasurer to Appointed Offices. The purpose of the ordinance is to convert to appointed positions in order to provide the Town of Washington flexibility to procure individuals with the necessary qualifications and experience to meet the responsibilities of the positions.

12.02 Background

1. The duties and responsibilities of Town Clerks and Town Treasurers are significant.
2. The function of local government has become more complex with new regulations and requirements.
3. Elected Clerks and Treasurers must reside in the Town of Washington.
4. The Town of Washington may have a difficult time finding town residents to run for elected Clerk and Treasurer offices.
5. Appointed Clerks and Treasurers do not have residency requirements, giving the Town access to a larger candidate pool.
6. Converting to appointed positions provides the Town flexibility to find qualified individuals to provide quality services to residents.
7. Whereas Wisconsin state statutes require voters to approve this ordinance via a referendum question, and the referendum failed at the April 6, 2021 election, this ordinance is being amended.

12.03 Authority

Pursuant to § 60.30(1e)(a), the town board may appoint a person to fill the office of town clerk, town treasurer, or both, or to fill the combined office of town clerk and town treasurer.

12.04 Provisions

1. Pursuant to § 60.30(1e)(a), the office of town clerk shall be filled by appointment of a majority of the members-elect of the town board.

2. Pursuant to § 60.30(1e)(a), the office of town treasurer shall be filled by appointment of a majority of the members-elect of the town board.
3. The term of office for the appointed positions shall be set by the town board but may not exceed 3 years per § 60.30(1e)(c). The town board may reappoint the officers for additional terms. However, removal by the town board during a given term of office may only be for "cause" as defined under § 17.001 and required by § 60.30(1e)(f).
4. This ordinance is subject to approval by the town electors in a referendum, which is hereby called by the Town Board to be held on April 5, 2022. The referendum questions shall be:
 - a. "Shall the person holding the office of Town Clerk in the Town of Washington be appointed by the town board?"
 - b. "Shall the person holding the office of Town Treasurer in the Town of Washington be appointed by the town board?"
5. The salary of the appointed positions shall be set by the town board and may not be reduced during the term of office.

12.05 Severability

If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this ordinance that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are severable.

12.06 Adoption of Ordinance

This ordinance, adopted by a majority of the town board with a quorum present and voting and proper notice having been given, formally adopts the Town of Washington Ordinance to Convert the Elected Offices of Town Clerk and Town Treasurer to Appointed Offices.

12.07 Effective Date

This ordinance repeals and replaces all former ordinances pertaining to the conversion of the elected offices of town clerk and town treasurer to appointed offices. It shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of its town board passage per § 60.80 and also its referendum approval by the town electors as required by § 60.30(1e)(b).

Adopted this 3rd day of January 2022.



Jim Egan, Town Chairperson

Attest:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Michele Sanborn", written over a horizontal line.

Michele Sanborn, Clerk

Published/Posted: _____