

# The Charter

## Chapter C. Charter of the Town of Dewey Beach

### **Section 1 Incorporation.**

The residents of and individuals owning property in Dewey Beach and individuals otherwise-qualified to vote in ~~inhabitants of~~ the Town of Dewey Beach in Sussex County, are hereby constituted a municipal corporation and body politic by and under the name of "Commissioners of Dewey Beach," (hereinafter referred to as the "Town Council" or "Council", "eCorporation" or "~~the~~Town") with power to govern themselves by such ordinances, rules, resolutions and regulations for municipal purposes as they, through their duly-elected officers and agents, may deem proper, not in conflict with the provisions of this Charter of government, nor with the Constitution and Laws of the State of Delaware, or of the United States.

### **Section 2 Territory and Limits.**

(a)

The limits and bounds of the Town of Dewey Beach are hereby established and declared to be as follows:

(b)

Starting at a point at the low water mark of the Atlantic Ocean shoreline, said point being the northerly boundary of Rehoboth-by-the-Sea; thence easterly into the Atlantic Ocean 500 feet; thence southerly and parallel to the shoreline to a point which is on an easterly extension of the southern boundary of Collins Street; thence in a westerly direction along the southern boundary of Collins Street to Route No. 1; thence in a southerly direction along the easterly right-of-way of Highway One, to a point approximately 65 feet south of Anchor Way; thence in a westerly direction to the eastern shore of the Rehoboth Bay; thence in a northerly direction and with the meanderings of the Rehoboth Bay shoreline to a point on the Rehoboth Bay westerly of Bayard Avenue, said point being the boundaries of Rehoboth-by-the-Sea; thence with the boundaries of Rehoboth-by-the-Sea Bayard Avenue, northerly across Route 1; thence with the westerly boundaries of Comegys to its easterly side; thence across Route 1 to the southerly edge of Silver Lake; thence with Silver Lake and the boundaries of Rehoboth-by-the-Sea to a point; thence easterly with the boundaries of Rehoboth-by-the-Sea, said boundary being the southerly line, and extensions thereof, of Block 51 as shown on the plot

plan of Rehoboth-by-the-Sea, to the low water mark of the Atlantic Ocean, the point and place of beginning.

The area designated by this description includes all of Rehoboth-by-the-Sea (as shown on a plot plan on file in Georgetown, Delaware) and all the area south of Rehoboth-by-the-Sea which is bounded on the east by the Atlantic Ocean, on the west by the Rehoboth Bay and which extends southward to the south side of Collins Street on the ocean block and 65 feet southerly of Anchor Way on the bay side and also includes 500 feet of the Atlantic Ocean adjacent to the shoreline.

(c)

The ~~Town Council Commissioners of Dewey Beach~~ may, at any time hereafter cause a survey and plot to be made of said Town, and the said plot or any supplement thereto, when so made and approved by said ~~Town Council the Commissioners of Dewey Beach~~, signed by the ~~Mayor~~ President, who shall affix thereto the municipal corporate seal of the Town, attested by the ~~Town Manager Secretary of the said the Commissioners of Dewey Beach~~, and upon being recorded in the Offices of the Recorder of Deeds of the State of Delaware, in and for Sussex County, shall be, or the record thereof, or a duly certified copy of said record, shall be evidence in all Courts of Law and Equity of this State.

(d)

The ~~Town Council Commissioners of Dewey Beach~~ shall have the power to annex additional territory adjoining the corporate limits of the Town of Dewey Beach as hereinbefore set forth or as hereafter extended pursuant to the procedure hereinafter set forth and to apply to all such additional territory all laws, ordinances, resolutions and policies in force with the Town so far as they may be locally applicable. The ~~Town Council Commissioners of Dewey Beach~~ shall adopt a Resolution proposing to the property owners and the residents of both the Town and of the Territory proposed to be annexed that ~~the~~ Town of Dewey Beach propose~~d~~ to annex certain territory which adjoins its then limits and territory. The Resolution shall contain a description of the territory proposed to be annexed and shall fix a time and place for a public hearing on the subject of the proposed annexation. The Resolution setting forth the information shall be printed in a newspaper having a general circulation both in ~~the~~ Town of Dewey Beach and in the territory proposed to be annexed at least ~~one week~~ thirty (30) days prior to the date set for the public hearing, as well as being posted in the Town of Dewey Beach at Town Hall, the Life Saving Station, and on the Town's website. In addition, a reasonable effort will be made to send a personal letter to all registered qualified voters and individuals who are property owners of record in of the Town of Dewey Beach and all individuals who are property owners of record in the territory proposed to be annexed at least ~~fifteen~~ thirty (30) days prior to the date set for the public hearing. **(78 Del. Laws, c. 346, 7/18/2012)**

Following the public hearing, but in no event later than thirty (30) days thereafter, a Resolution shall then be passed by ~~a~~ majority vote of the Commissioners of Dewey Beach present in a properly-noticed Town Council Meeting ordering a Special Election for Annexation to be held not less than thirty (30) days nor more than sixty (60) days after ~~the said Town Council Meeting public hearing~~ on the subject of the proposed annexation. The passage of this Resolution shall ipso facto be considered the determination of the Town Council Commissioners of Dewey Beach to proceed with the matter of the proposed annexation.

The notice of the time and place of holding the said Special Election for Annexation shall be printed within thirty (30) days immediately preceding the date of the Special Election in two (2) issues of a newspaper having a general circulation in The Town and in the territory proposed to be annexed, as well as posted at Town Hall, the Life Saving Station, and on the Town's website at least ~~thirty fifteen (3015)~~ days prior to the date of the Special Election for Annexation. In addition, a reasonable effort will be made to send a personal letter to all individuals deemed under Section 10 (b) of this Charter to be qualified to vote in qualified voters and property owners of record of the Town of Dewey Beach and all individuals meeting the equivalent qualifications property owners of record in the territory proposed to be annexed, ~~at least thirty fifteen (3015)~~ days prior to the date set for the Special Election. **(78 Del. Laws, c. 346, 7/18/2012)**

At the Special Election for Annexation, every individual qualified under the criteria listed in Section 10 (b) of this Charter to vote in Dewey Beach Annual Municipal Elections property owner or leaseholder as defined in this Charter, whether an individual, partnership or corporation, shall be entitled to cast one vote and every bona fide resident of the Town of Dewey Beach who is not a property owner or leaseholder as defined in this Charter shall be entitled to cast one vote. At the said Special Election for Annexation, every individual meeting the equivalent qualifications in the property owner or leaseholder, as defined in this Charter, of the territory proposed to be annexed, whether an individual, partnership or corporation, shall be entitled to cast one vote ~~and every bona fide resident of the territory proposed to be annexed who is not a property owner or leaseholder as defined in this Charter shall be entitled to cast one vote~~. Property owners or leaseholders, as defined in this Charter, whose property or whose improvement located on leased land is exempt from taxation or is in not assessed shall not be entitled to vote. The books and records of the Town of Dewey Beach in the case of ~~the~~ Town property owners, or leaseholders as defined in this Charter or residents and the books and records of Sussex County in the case of property owners, leaseholders as defined in this Charter, or residents of the territory proposed to be annexed shall be conclusive evidence of the right of such persons, firms or corporations to vote at the Special Election for Annexation.

In the event that an individual, ~~partnership or corporation~~ holds a power of attorney duly executed and acknowledged and specifically authorizing the said individual, ~~partnership or corporation~~ to vote at the said Special Election for Annexation on behalf of an otherwise-qualified voter, a duly authenticated copy of the power of attorney shall be filed in the office of the Town Manager of the Town of Dewey Beach. Said power of attorney as so filed shall constitute conclusive evidence of the right of said person, ~~partnership or corporation~~ to vote in the Special Election.

Voting machines shall be used in any annexation election and the form of the ballot to be inserted in the machine shall be as follows:

\_\_\_\_\_ For the proposed annexation

\_\_\_\_\_ Against the proposed annexation

(CHECK THE ONE BLOCK FOR WHICH YOU CAST YOUR VOTE)

The Mayor of Dewey Beach shall appoint three (3) persons to act as Election Officials, at least one (1) of whom shall reside and own property in the Town, and at least one (1) of whom shall reside and own property in the territory proposed to be annexed. One (1) of the said persons so appointed shall be designated the Presiding Officer. Voting shall be conducted in a designated municipal location in Dewey Beach~~the Municipal Building~~ and the Election Officials shall have available, clearly marked, two (2) ballot boxes. All ballots cast by those persons, ~~partnerships or corporations~~ authorized to vote as residents, property owners or leaseholders in the territory proposed to be annexed shall be deposited in one (1) such ballot box, and all ballots cast by those persons, ~~partnerships or corporations~~ who are authorized to vote as residents, property owners or leaseholders of the Town shall be deposited in the other such ballot box. The polling places shall be opened from 1:00 p.m., prevailing time, until 6:00 p.m., prevailing time, on the date set for the Special Election.

**(77 Del. Laws, c. 42, 6/16/2009)**

Immediately upon the closing of the polling places, the Election Officials shall count the ballots for and against the proposed annexation and shall announce the result thereof; the Election Officials shall make a certificate under their hands of the number of votes cast for and against the proposed annexation, and the number of void votes, and shall deliver the same to the ~~Commissioners of~~ Dewey Beach Town Council. The said certificate shall be filed with the papers of the Town Council~~Commissioners~~ of Dewey Beach.

**(77 Del. Laws, c. 42, 6/16/2009)**

In order for the territory proposed to be annexed to be considered annexed, both a majority of the votes cast by Dewey Beach voters and a majority of the votes cast by voters of both from the Town and from the territory proposed to be

annexed must have been cast in favor of the proposed annexation. In the event that the Referendum results in an unfavorable vote for annexation, a subsequent election may be held at any time. If a favorable vote for annexation shall have been cast, the Town Council~~Commissioners~~ of Dewey Beach shall cause a description and a plot of the territory so annexed to be recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for Sussex County in Georgetown, Delaware, within but in no event shall such recordation be completed more than ninety (90) days following the favorable referendum. The territory considered for annexation shall be considered to be a part of the Town of Dewey Beach from the time of recordation. The failure of the Town Council~~Commissioners~~ of Dewey Beach to record the description and plot within the time hereinbefore specified shall not make the annexation invalid but in such case annexation shall be deemed to be effective at the expiration of the ninety (90) day period from the date of favorable election. **(65 Del. Laws, c. 255, 4/8/1986)**

### **Section 3 Structure of Government.**

The Governance of the Town of Dewey Beach shall be organized under a Council-Manager form wherein an elected governing body, the Town Council, is responsible for functions such as establishing policy, passing local ordinances, voting appropriations, and developing an overall vision. The Town Council shall appoint a professional manager, the Town Manager, to oversee administrative operations, implement its policies, and advise it. The Town Manager shall be politically impartial and provide professional management to the Town Council.

The government of the Town and the exercise of all powers conferred by this Charter, except as otherwise provided herein, shall be vested in the Town Council~~Commissioners of Dewey Beach~~. The Town Council~~Commissioners of Dewey Beach~~ shall consist of five Town Commissioners~~members~~, to be chosen as hereinafter provided. One of the said Town Commissioners shall have the title of "Mayor of the Town of Dewey Beach," (hereinafter referred to as "Mayor") with duties hereinafter to be prescribed, and who shall also be the President-presiding officer of the Town Council.

### **Section 4 General Powers.**

(a)

The individuals qualified to vote ~~inhabitants of in~~ the Town of Dewey Beach within the limits and boundaries referred to in Section 2 of this Act, or within the limits and boundaries hereinafter established shall be, and ~~they~~ are hereby, constituted

~~created~~ a municipal corporation and body politic by and under the name of "Commissioners of Dewey Beach" ~~and corporate in law and in equity by the corporate name of "Town of Dewey Beach,"~~ (hereinafter referred to as the "Town Council" or "Council", "Corporation" or "Town"), and under that name shall have perpetual succession, and may have and use a corporate seal which may be altered, changed or renewed at pleasure; may sue and be sued; plead and be impleaded in all Courts of law and equity in the State of Delaware, and elsewhere, by said corporate name; may hold and acquire real property and personal property obtained by purchase, gift, devise or lease within or without its boundaries for any municipal purposes, in fee simple or for lesser estate or interest; and may sell, lease, hold, manage and control such property as its interest may require; and may do all other things which a body politic and municipal corporation ~~corporate~~ may lawfully do to carry out and effectuate the objects and purposes of this Act; subject, however, to other sections of this Act.

Except as hereinafter provided in this Charter relative to the power to issue bonds, the Town shall have all other powers and functions requisite to or appropriate for the governance of the Town; the maintenance of its peace and order; the provision for its sanitation and the maintenance of its infrastructure; the protection of its beauty and surrounding natural environment; the provision for the health, safety, convenience, comfort and well-being of its population and visitors; the protection and preservation of property, public and private, and the preservation of the character of the Town; the assurance of financial sustainability; and the provision of resilience in the face of global climate change (hereinafter referred to as the "goals of Town governance" or "Town Goals"). ~~All~~ ~~and all~~ actions, suits or proceedings shall be brought in the name of the "Town of Dewey Beach."

(b)

The enumeration of particular powers by this Charter shall not be held to be exclusive, or to restrict in any manner the general powers conferred herein, but in addition to the powers enumerated herein, implied hereby, or appropriate to the exercise thereof, it is intended that the Town of Dewey Beach shall have, and may exercise all powers which, under the Constitution of the State of Delaware, ~~which~~ would be competent for this Charter to specifically enumerate. All powers of the Town of Dewey Beach, whether expressed or implied, shall be exercised as prescribed by this Charter; or, if not prescribed herein, as described by ordinance or resolution of the Town Council~~Commissioners~~.

## **Section 5 Qualifications of Mayor and Town Commissioners.**

Delete the existing Section 5 in its entirety and replace with:

(a)

Each candidate for the Office of Town Commissioner and each holder of said Office shall be a **qualified** Dewey Beach voter of at least 21 years of age.

(b)

At all times not fewer than two (2) sitting Commissioners shall qualify as Resident Town Commissioners. A Resident Town Commissioner shall be a bona fide resident and domiciliary of the Town.

(c)

Non-resident Town Commissioners shall satisfy one or more of the voter qualifications listed under Section 10 (b) of this Charter.

(e)

The Town Commissioner with the title of "Mayor of the Town of Dewey Beach" shall qualify for the Office of Town Commissioner as a Resident Town Commissioner.

(f)

If a Resident Town Commissioner no longer satisfies the residency requirement described above at a time when there are only two (2) sitting Resident Town Commissioners said Resident Town Commissioner shall be removed from the Office of Town Commissioner by a majority vote of the remaining Town Commissioners present in a properly-noticed Town Council Meeting. If at such a time a Resident Town Commissioner fails to continue to satisfy the residency requirement described ~~above~~**above**, there are at least two (2) additional sitting Resident Town Commissioners and said Resident Town Commissioner satisfies one or more of the qualifications for Non-resident Town Commissioner said Resident Town Commissioner shall continue to qualify for the Office of Town Commissioner as a Non-resident Town Commissioner. If a Non-resident Town Commissioner no longer satisfies any of the non-residency requirements described above and has not established residency in the Town of Dewey Beach, said Non-resident Town Commissioner shall be removed from the Office of Town Commissioner by a majority vote of the remaining Town Commissioners present in a properly-noticed Town Council Meeting. If such a Non-resident Town Commission who no longer satisfies any of the non-residency requirements described above has established bona fide residency within the Town said Non-resident Town Commissioner shall continue in the Office of Town Commissioner as a Resident Town Commissioner. The Town Council shall be the final judge of the qualifications of its number.

(a)

Each Commissioner shall be at least 21 years of age. **(78 Del Laws, c. 346, 7/18/2012)**

(b)

~~Not less than two (2) of the Commissioners shall be designated Resident Commissioners. A Resident Commissioner shall have the following qualifications: 1) shall be a bona fide resident and domiciliary of the Town; and 2) shall own real estate within the Town or be both a settlor/creator and trustee of a valid trust to which real property which is located within the Town has been conveyed which conveyance is recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds in and for Sussex County, or be a leaseholder of real estate in the Town under a valid lease of a term of five (5) years or more. Any person applying as a leaseholder candidate pursuant to this subsection will be required to include a copy of a valid lease with his or her candidate filing. (76 Del. Laws, c. 273, 6/30/2008; 78 Del Laws, c. 346, 7/18/2012)~~

~~(c)~~

~~Other Commissioners must either have the qualifications of a Resident Commissioner as defined above or be an owner of real estate within the Town or be both a settlor/creator and trustee of a valid trust to which real property which is located within Town has been conveyed which conveyance is recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds in and for Sussex County, or a leaseholder of real estate within the Town under a valid lease of a term of five (5) years or more. Any person applying as leaseholder candidate pursuant to this subsection will be required to include a copy of a valid lease with his or her candidate filing. (78 Del Laws, c. 346, 7/18/2012)~~

~~(d)~~

~~The Commissioner with the title of "Mayor of the Town of Dewey Beach" must be qualified as a Resident Commissioner.~~

~~(e)~~

~~If any one of the Commissioners shall, during his term of office fail to continue to be qualified as above stated, he shall ipso facto vacate his office. The Commissioners shall be the judges of the qualifications of the members.~~

## **Section 6 Board of Elections.**

(77 Del. Laws, c. 42, 6/16/2009)

~~(a)~~

The ~~Town Council~~Commissioners of the Town of Dewey Beach shall appoint the Board of Elections members for a term of one (1) year. The Board of Elections shall consist of three (3) members. All members of the Board of Elections shall meet the appointment qualifications as specified in ~~15 Del. C. § 7501 et seq~~15 Del. Laws, c75.

~~(b)~~

Board of Elections appointees shall be confirmed by swearing or affirming, both orally and in writing, the oath specified in ~~15 Del. C. § 7501 et seq~~15 Del Laws,

c75. Board of Elections appointees shall be sworn or affirmed by the Alderman of the Town of Dewey Beach or the Mayor of the Town of Dewey Beach.

(c)

It shall be the duty of members of the Board of Elections, as empowered by 15 Del. Laws, c75-15-Del. C. § 7501 et seq. and the ordinances of the Town, to perform prescribed duties with fidelity and without favor or electioneering to accomplish the proper conduct of municipal candidate elections within the Town of Dewey Beach.

(d)

Any member of the Board of Elections may be removed from office for cause ~~after a public hearing~~ by a majority vote of the Commissioners ~~of Dewey Beach~~ present at a properly-noticed Town Council Meeting.

(e)

Activities of the Board of Elections shall be consistent with the Delaware Freedom of Information Act, ~~29 Del. C. § 10001 et seq~~ 29 Del. Laws, c100.

### **Section 7 Elective and Appointive Offices.**

(a)

Each Town Commissioner shall be elected for a two-year term such term of office running from the organizational meeting immediately following said Town Commissioner's election to the one two years thereafter. All other offices shall be appointive and the person or persons filling such appointive offices shall be appointed by the ~~Commissioners of~~ Dewey Beach Town Council. **(77 Del. Laws, c. 42, 6/16/2009)**

(b)

In the case of a vacancy created in ~~any office of Commissioner of Dewey Beach or in~~ the office of Commissioner of Dewey Beach having the title of Mayor of the Town of Dewey Beach, either by death, resignation, loss of eligibility for the Office of the Mayor, residence or freeholdership, in the Town of Dewey Beach, or other disqualifying event, or otherwise, the remaining Town Commissioners of Dewey Beach shall fill such vacancy for the remainder residue of the one-year whole term of the vacating Mayor by the election of a sitting Resident Town Commissioner to the Office of Mayor by a majority vote of the remaining Town Commissioners present in a properly-noticed Town Council Meeting. Thereafter the Town Council shall fill the still-remaining vacancy amongst their number by the election of an appropriately-qualified candidate to the vacant office of Town Commissioner by a majority vote of the Town Commissioners present in a properly-noticed Town Council Meeting for the vacant office of Town Commissioner as follows.

In the case of a vacancy created in any office of Town Commissioner of Dewey Beach other than the office of Town Commissioner of Dewey Beach having the title of Mayor of the Town of Dewey Beach either by death, resignation, loss of eligibility for Town Commissioner, or other disqualifying event, or otherwise, the remaining Town Commissioners shall fill such vacancy for the residue of the vacating Town Commissioner's term with an appropriately-qualified candidate by majority vote of the Town Commissioners present in a properly-noticed Town Council Meeting provided such election results in a minimum of two (2) of the Town Council's number qualifying as Resident Town Commissioners. Any and all members of the Town Council shall be eligible to nominate qualified candidates for such a vacancy.

(c)

If any elective or appointive officer, ~~agent or employee~~ shall be found ~~guilty~~ convicted of any felony by a court of law anywhere in the United States, such officer ~~he~~ shall forthwith be disqualified to act as such officer and ~~he~~ shall be removed from such office by a majority vote of Town Commissioners present in a properly-noticed Town Council Meeting. Subsequently such ~~, ipso facto vacate his elective office; which~~ office shall be filled by the Town Council Commissioners of Dewey Beach as in the case of other vacancies.

### **Section 8 Organization.**

(a)

The Town Council Commissioners of Dewey Beach shall hold an annual Organizational meeting of the Town Council no sooner than seven (7) days following the ~~a~~Annual Municipal eElection for the purpose of organization at the usual place for holding meetings of the Town Council Commissioners of Dewey Beach. ~~At that meeting the Commissioners elected shall elect one (1) of the Commissioners as the presiding officer of the Commissioners of Dewey Beach for a term of one (1) year. If the Commissioners are unable to elect one (1) of their number as a presiding officer then such officer shall be chosen for the Commissioners, by lot, by the Commissioners. The presiding officer shall be called the 'Mayor.'~~ **(77 Del. Laws, c. 42, 6/16/2009)**

(b)

During the ~~o~~Organizational ~~m~~Meeting, the newly elected Town Commissioners shall assume the duties of the Office of Town Commissioner~~their respective offices~~, being first duly sworn or affirmed to perform their duties with fidelity, which oath or affirmation shall be taken before a Notary Public, the Alderman of the Town of Dewey Beach, or by a holding-over member of the Commission. Subsequently, the Town Council shall elect one (1) of its number to serve as the

presiding officer of the Town Council for a term of approximately one (1) year, such term running through the subsequent Organizational Meeting. If the Town Council is unable to elect one (1) of its number as the presiding officer, then such officer shall be chosen by lot. The presiding officer shall hold the Office of Mayor of Dewey Beach (hereinafter referred to as "Mayor"). The Town Council Commissioners shall then likewise select a Secretary of the Town Council (hereinafter referred to as "Secretary") from ~~its~~thei own number to serve until the subsequent eOrganizational mMeeting~~after the next succeeding election~~. Said Secretary shall be responsible for taking and keeping minutes of Executive Sessions of the Town Council, coordination with the Town Clerk on the development and keeping of minutes of all Town Council Meetings, presiding over Town Council Meetings when the Mayor is unavailable, and all other responsibilities of the Mayor when the Mayor is unavailable. The Town Council may also likewise elect or appoint ~~choose~~ other officers and employees as may be determined to be necessary to facilitate Town Council operations. **(77 Del. Laws, c. 42, 6/16/2009)**

(c)

The Town Council Commissioners shall by ordinance fix the total amounts of any salaries or compensation paid to of the employees and, officers on a department by department basis as a part of the annual budget approval process. Salaries or compensation of individual employees or officers, consistent with staffing plan approved as part of the annual budget process, shall be set by the appropriate Department Head with the approval of the Town Manager. ~~and agents of the Town, and the time and manner of his or her, or their payment; provided, that the salary or compensation of any such employee, officer or agent shall not be increased, during the term of said office should said appointment thereto be for a designated term.~~ No ~~officer,~~ employee or officer agent of the Town shall in any form have, take, or receive from the Town or otherwise any compensation, in any form, in addition to the salary or compensation so fixed by the Town Council.

(d)

The Town Manager Commissioners shall ~~cause to be kept~~ keep a full and complete record of all officers appointed, and employees and agents hired by the Town, containing the names of such officers, employees and agents, the dates of their employment, any salary ~~of or~~ compensation to be by them received and the date of the termination of their services. ~~In the event that any person holds office for an indefinite term, the record shall so state.~~

### **Section 9 Method of Filing for Office of Town Commissioners.**

No person shall be voted upon as a candidate for the eOffice of Town Commissioner in any Annual Municipal Election unless at least thirty (30) days

before the date set for ~~said the election of said officers that person he~~ shall have filed with the ~~Town Manager Commissioners of Dewey Beach~~ a letter or other certificate setting forth that ~~said person he~~ will be a candidate for Resident Town Commissioner or for Non-resident Town Commissioner a certain designated office. The ~~Town Manager Commissioners of Dewey Beach~~ shall not permit the name of any such candidate to be accepted and included on the election ballot filed except ~~such candidate~~ as shall meet the requirements of Section 5 of this ~~Charter~~ Chapter. The Town Manager shall promptly notify the members of the Town Council of the names and qualifications of such qualified candidates who have filed for candidacy for the Office of Town Commissioner.

### **Section 10 Manner of Holding Elections, Voter Registration and Voter Qualifications.**

(a)

Annual ~~m~~Municipal ~~e~~Elections shall be held on the third Saturday of the month of September, except that, in any year when the third Saturday of the month of September conflicts with either day of Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year) or Yom Kippur (Jewish Day of Atonement), ~~a~~Annual ~~m~~Municipal ~~e~~Elections shall be held on the fourth Saturday of the month of September. Annual ~~m~~Municipal ~~e~~Elections shall be held from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. prevailing time at such place or places as shall be determined by the Commissioners, due notice of which shall be given by posting notices thereof in two (2) conspicuous places within the corporate limits of the Town of Dewey Beach; and by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the community not less than fifteen (15) days before the day of such annual election. Elections for openings to the Office of Town Commissioner, both for Resident Town Commissioners and for Non-resident Town Commissioners as needed, shall be conducted at the Annual Municipal Election. ; provided, however, that i In the event that there is no contest for all any of the ~~several~~ offices up for election in any year such that the result of electing all of the candidates on file will result in a five (5) membered Town Council with a minimum of two (2) Resident Town Commissioners, said candidates shall be declared by the Election Officials to be duly elected; under such conditions the polls shall not be required to open nor shall such notices be required to be given remain open after 10:00 a.m. prevailing time except in the case of there being other items on the election ballot beside the Offices of Town Commissioner in such case the polls shall be open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and the above described notices shall be given.

The Town ~~Council~~ ~~Commissioners~~ shall have the power and authority to enact by ordinance certain voter registration procedures as are deemed reasonably necessary to provide for the orderly and efficient conduct of municipal elections

including provisions for the casting of provisional ballots, provided that no such ordinance shall alter the qualifications of voters as herein below set forth, nor shall such ordinance unduly impair the right to vote in any municipal or special election. No person shall may be eligible to vote unless properly registered. No person shall may cast more than one ballot. **(74 Del. Laws, c. 370, 7/19/2004; 77 Del. Laws, c. 42, 6/16/2009; 77 Del. Laws c. 354, 7/12/2010)**

(b)

Each person eighteen years of age or older, who is a bona fide resident and domiciliary of the Town of Dewey Beach, or who is an owner of real property within the Town, or who holds a valid lease with for a term of five years or more on property within the Town, or who is both a settlor/creator and trustee of a valid trust to which real property which is located within the Town has been conveyed and which conveyance is recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds in and for Sussex County shall be qualified to vote in the Annual Municipal eElection of Dewey Beach of Town officials as herein provided and in all other Special Elections undertaken by the Town of Dewey Beach as may be described elsewhere (such persons hereinafter referred to as "qualified voters"). A leaseholder as described above seeking qualification as a leaseholder to voter under this subsection shall will be required to file a copy of said a valid lease at the time of voter registration and at any and all times when said valid lease is modified or renewed. A nonresident person eighteen years of age or older who is both a settlor/creator and trustee of a valid trust to which real property which is located within the Town has been conveyed which conveyance is recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds in and for Sussex County Similarly, a settlor/creator and trustee as described above seeking qualification as a settler/creator and trustee to vote shall be required to file qualified to vote in the election of Town officials, provided that the said valid Trust document which identifying ies the trustee(s) and the settlor(s)/creator(s) must be presented at the time of registration and at any and all times such valid trust documents are modified or canceled, thus affecting status as settlor/creator and trustee. **(74 Del. Laws, c. 369, 7/19/2004; 78 Del Laws, c. 346, 7/18/2012)**

(c)

Every municipal election including the Annual Municipal Election and all Special Elections except for any Special Election for the annexation of territory as described in Section 2 of this Chapter shall be held under the supervision of the Election Officials. The Election Officials shall consist of one (1) Inspector of the Election and such Officers of the Election as shall be appointed by the Commissioners of Dewey Beach Town Council. The Inspector and such Officers constituting the Election Officials shall be qualified-registered voters of the Town of Dewey Beach and shall be appointed for that purpose by the CommissionersTown Council at least thirty (30) days before such Annual Municipal Election. If, at the

opening of the polls, the Election Officials (or any one of them) are not present, then in such case the persons ~~registered qualified~~ to vote at such election and present at the opening of the polls shall, by viva voce, select a ~~registered qualified~~ voter or voters to act as the Election Officials to fill such vacancies caused by the absence of the Election Officials. Election Officials shall be Judges of the Election, and shall decide upon the legality of the votes offered. The Election Officials shall keep a true and accurate list of all voters voting at the Annual Municipal Election. The Board of Elections shall have the power to subpoena persons and officers of the Town, and to subpoena books, records and papers relative to the determination of the validity of any vote or votes offered. **(77 Del. Laws, c. 42, 6/16/2009)**

(d)

Upon the close of ~~any the~~ election, the votes shall be computed and announced publicly. ~~Upon the close of the Annual Municipal Election wherein candidates for Offices of Town Commissioner of Dewey Beach are up for election, the votes for such candidates shall be computed and announced publicly. and the~~ ~~qualified persons~~ The candidates having the highest number of votes shall be declared, by the Election Officials, to be duly elected provided such declaration results in a Town Council that will be comprised of a minimum of two (2) Resident Town Commissioners; if not, the highest one or two vote-getting Resident-Town Commissioner candidate(s) as required for a Town Council having a minimum of two (2) Resident Town Commissioners plus the otherwise highest-vote getting candidate(s) for the remaining opening(s) on the Town Council shall be declared to be duly elected; ~~and~~ such persons shall take office immediately following their swearing in at the Organizational Meeting and continue in office ~~during the terms for which they were chosen, or until their successors have been duly elected and sworn in or until vacating or being removed from office their successors are duly elected or appointed and qualified.~~ **(77 Del. Laws, c. 42, 6/16/2009)**

If the number of candidates in an election is insufficient to fill all openings on the Town Council and result in a Town Council with at least two (2) Resident Town Commissioners and a total of five (5) Town Commissioners, then the vacancy (ies) shall be filled as described in Section 7 (b).

(e)

In the event of a tie vote for any office, the Election Officials shall determine the tie by lot. **(77 Del. Laws, c. 42, 6/16/2009)**

(f)

The Election Officials, as soon as possible after the polls have closed and the results announced, shall deliver all election documents, envelopes, and absentee ballots to the Board of Elections. The Board of Elections shall secure the

documents, envelopes, and absentee ballots until such time that they need to canvass the election. **(77 Del. Laws, c. 42, 6/16/2009)**

(g)

The Election Officials shall enter in a book, to be provided for that purpose, a minute of the election, containing the names of the persons chosen. The book, containing such matters, shall be preserved by the Town Manager on behalf of the Town Council Commissioners and shall be evidence in any Court of Law and Equity. **(77 Del. Laws, c. 42, 6/16/2009)**

(h)

Ballots may be cast in person or by absentee ballot in all elections. Absentee voting shall be in compliance with the applicable provisions of 15 Del. Laws, c.75 ~~c.75~~ §-7501 et seq. **(77 Del. Laws, c. 42, 6/16/2009)**

### **Section 11 Meetings.**

(a)

The Commissioners of Dewey Beach Town Council shall hold meetings at the call of the Mayor or majority of Commissioners.

(b)

The Town Council Commissioners of Dewey Beach shall have the same power and authority to enact all ordinances, adopt all resolutions, pass all motions, make all orders and transact all business at such Town Council Meeting, called as aforesaid. There shall be not less than one Town Council Meeting held per month except that with a majority vote of Town Commissioners present in a properly-noticed Town Council Meeting one month a year may be designated to be passed over with no such meeting calendar quarter.

(c)

All Town Council Meetings shall be subject to the provisions of  ~~Title-29 Del. Laws, c.100 Chapter 100, Delaware Code.~~

### **Section 12 Quorum.**

A majority of the Town Commissioners appointed or elected to the Town Commissioners of Dewey Beach shall constitute a quorum.

### **Section 13 Rules of Procedures and Minutes of the Town Commissioners.**

The Town Council Commissioners shall determine  ~~its~~ their own rules of procedure and order of business. The Town Manager They shall keep a record  of said rules and procedures and a record of  the Town Council's ~~their~~ proceedings  on its behalf, and  such  ~~the~~ records shall be open to public inspection  both at Town Hall and on

[the Town website](#). Every ordinance shall be introduced in writing. No ordinance shall be passed unless it shall have the affirmative vote of a majority of the [Town Commissioners](#) [present in a properly-noticed Town Council Meeting](#). Vote on any ordinance shall be by voice vote, and the vote of each [Town](#) Commissioner on any ordinance shall be entered on the record.

## **Section 14 Duties and Powers of the Mayor.**

(a)

The Mayor of the Town of Dewey Beach shall be sworn or affirmed to perform the duties of ~~his office~~ [the Office of Mayor](#) with fidelity.

(b)

~~The Mayor shall serve as the presiding officer of the Town Council. As such, it shall be the chief executive of the Town. It shall be Mayor's duty to preside at all meetings of the Commissioners and he the Mayor shall have a vote therein and in case of his absence a President Pro Tempore shall be appointed in his place from the other Commissioners.~~ ~~He~~ [The Mayor](#) shall execute on behalf of the Town when authorized by a majority [vote](#) of the [Town](#) Commissioners [present in a properly-noticed Town Council Meeting](#) all agreements, contracts, bonds, deeds, leases and other documents necessary to be executed. ~~He shall have the power to appoint the other Commissioners to be in charge of any departments or divisions of the Town Government created by the Commissioners. At least one Commissioner must be appointed to each department or division created by the Commissioners.~~ The Mayor shall be a member, ex-officio, of all committees. ~~It shall be the duty of t~~ [The Mayor shall perform all duties imposed upon the office of the Mayor by this Charter and shall assist the Council in its duty](#) to see that the laws and ordinances of the ~~said~~ Town are faithfully executed [and ensure that all affirmative actions taken by the Town Council promote the Town's Goals and adhere to the annual budget,](#) ~~and the Mayor shall perform all duties imposed upon him by this Charter.~~ The Mayor shall also have the power to administer oaths and affirmations. [The Mayor shall also serve as the liaison between the Town Council and the Town Manager and as the official spokesperson for the Town Council on decisions and actions taken by the Council.](#) The Mayor shall also have the power and authority to solemnize marriages within the boundaries of the Town of Dewey Beach. [In cases where the Mayor is absent or incapacitated, the Secretary of the Town Council shall serve in the Mayor's lieu until such time as the Mayor is able to resume the duties of the Mayor's office, the remaining members of the Town Council determine by majority vote of those present in a properly-](#)

noticed Town Council meeting that it is necessary to appoint a new Mayor, or sixty (60) days have elapsed. (72 Del. Laws, c. 425, 7/13/2000)

(c)

As a Commissioner of Dewey Beach ~~and as, the~~ Mayor ~~of the Town of Dewey Beach, he~~ shall have the same right as all other individual Town Commissioners to vote on all matters, and debate any question from the floor.

(d)

Upon the expiration of ~~his~~ the Mayor's term of office or upon resignation or removal from office, ~~he~~ the Mayor shall forthwith turn over all records, books, papers, documents and other things belonging to or appertaining to ~~his office~~ the Office of Mayor of the Town of Dewey Beach. ~~He shall also and~~ pay over to the ~~Treasurer~~ Town all monies ~~in his hands~~ belonging to the Town.

### **Section 15 Town Manager.**

(a)

The Mayor of the Town of Dewey Beach, with the concurrence of ~~a majority~~ an affirmative vote of ~~all the elected~~ a minimum of four (4) Town Commissioners ~~of the in a properly-noticed~~ Town Council Meeting, may appoint a Town Manager who shall be ~~the Chief Administrative Officer~~ responsible for all administrative affairs of the Town ~~and who shall also serve as the Secretary of the Commission of the Town and the Treasurer of the Town Council.~~

(b)

The ~~Commissioners of the Town of Dewey Beach~~ Town Council shall impose such qualifications for Town Manager as may be deemed necessary to include, but not limited to; ~~provided, however, that no.~~ demonstrated knowledge of the operation and administration of municipal governments as evidenced by the candidate's academic background and/or work experience. Candidate experience working with Federal and state emergency management agencies could be considered as an advantage. No person holding the office of Mayor or ~~Commissioners shall be chosen to be Town Manager during his term of office as Mayor or Town Commissioner.~~ shall be eligible to apply for nor be appointed to the position of Town Manager.

(c)

The Town Manager shall be appointed for a fixed term and shall report to the Council on all substantive matters but on a day-to-day basis shall report to the Mayor regarding ministerial and administrative matters. The Town Manager's performance shall be evaluated by the Town Council at least once a year and each

annual evaluation report shall be duly signed by each member of the Town Council and archived with the Town's personnel files. The Town Manager may be removed for just cause by ~~a majority~~an affirmative vote of ~~the a minimum of four (4) Town Commissioners of the in a properly-noticed Town of Dewey Beach Council Meeting.~~ At least thirty (30) days before such removal shall become effective, the Town Council shall, by ~~a majority~~an affirmative vote of ~~alla minimum of the elected four (4) Town Commissioners thereof in a properly-noticed Town Council Meeting,~~ adopt a preliminary resolution stating the reasons for the Town Manager's removal. The Town Manager may reply in writing and may request a public hearing which shall be properly noticed and held not earlier than twenty (20) days nor later than thirty (30) days after the filing of such request. After such public hearing, if one be requested, and after full consideration, the Town Council, by ~~a majority~~an affirmative vote of ~~alla minimum of the elected four (4) Town Commissioners thereof in a properly-noticed Town Council Meeting,~~ may adopt a final resolution of removal. ~~By the preliminary resolution, the Town Council may suspend the Town Manager from duty but shall in any case cause to be paid him forthwith any unpaid balance of his salary for the next three (3) calendar months following the adoption of the preliminary resolution-~~ At the end of the Town Manager's contractual term of employment the Town Council may act so as not to renew or extend the Town Manager's contract without cause by an affirmative vote of a minimum of three (3) Town Commissioners in a properly-noticed Town Council Meeting. (78 Del. Laws, c. 346, 7/18/2012)

(d)

In case of the absence or disability of the Town Manager, the ~~Commission~~Town Council may designate some qualified person who ~~may shall not be an elected the Mayor or appointed official of the a Town of Dewey Beach Commissioner~~ to perform the duties ~~of such office during his absence or disability, normally assigned to the Office of the Town Manager on a temporary basis.~~ The compensation which the Town Manager shall receive ~~for the performance of his duties~~ shall be ~~fixed established~~ by ~~the Commission of resolution by~~ the Town ~~of Dewey Beach Council.~~ (70 Del. Laws, c. 191, 7/10/1995)

## **Section 16 Responsibilities of the Town Manager.**

(a)

The Town Manager shall be responsible to the ~~Commissioners of the Town of Dewey Beach~~Town Council for the proper administration of the affairs of the Town placed in ~~his~~the Town Manager's charge and to that end, ~~he~~the Town Manager shall have the ~~power~~authority to make such appointments ~~and,~~ to hire such employees at such compensations as ~~the Commissioners, by resolution, shall determine~~appropriate for each position or level or qualification, to promote and to

remove from such employment, subject to such rules and regulations as may be adopted by the Town Council, provided in the case of any employee of a department or division with a department head other than the Town Manger that prior to taking any personnel action the Town Manager shall take into consideration the recommendation of the cognizant department head. All such department or division heads shall be responsible for the expedient and efficient operation of their respective department or division, to ensure that such department or division adheres to its budget, and to see that all Town policy and laws under the purview of their department or division are faithfully executed. All employees may be removed by the Town Manager at any time for just cause ~~unless otherwise provided by resolution of the Commissioners. He shall exercise his sole discretion in the appointment or hiring of any such employees.~~ The Town Manager shall seek input from the Town Council for personnel actions regarding heads of departments but otherwise shall be the ~~sole~~ultimate judge of the competence or incompetence of any such person ~~so appointed or hired by him~~recommended for hiring, promoting or termination. The ~~Commissioners of the Town of Dewey Beach~~rights of an employee to appeal any personnel action shall be determined by the Commissioners and shall sit as a Board of Appeal for the protection of Town employees at those times when the majority of all the Commissioners are agreed that a review of the action of the Town Manager would be specified in the best interest of the Town of Dewey Beach. The decision of the Commissioners in such case shall be final and conclusiveTown Employee Manual.  
**(78 Del. Laws, c. 346, 7/18/2012)**

(b)

It is the intention of this Charter that, in the performance of ~~his~~the duties, and ~~in~~the exercise of ~~his~~the powers of the Office of the Town Manager, the Town Manager shall not be influenced by any matters whatsoever of a political or fractional nature. It is the intention of this Charter that the Town Manager shall be guided solely by the matters of expediency and efficiency in the administration of the affairs of the Town placed in ~~his~~the Town Manager's charge. and to see that the policy and ordinances of the Town are faithfully executed. Except for purposes of ~~injury~~investigations under Section 30 of this Charter, the Town Commissioners shall deal with that portion of the administrative service for which the Town Manager is responsible solely through the Town Manager.

(c)

It shall be the duty of the Town Manager to supervise the administration of the affairs of the Town under ~~his~~the charge of the Office of the Town Manager and to make such reports to the ~~Commissioners~~Town Council as are required by ~~it~~the Commission. ~~He~~The Town Manager shall make such recommendations to the ~~Commission~~Town Council concerning the affairs of the Town as may seem ~~to him~~ desirable. He for the expedient and efficient operations and the achievement of

Town policy and goals. The Town Manager shall keep the Commission advised of the financial condition and future needs of the Town. ~~He~~The Town Manager shall prepare and submit to the ~~Commission~~Town Council an annual budget estimate. ~~He~~The Town Manager shall be responsible for operating the Town within the constraints of the budget and shall render to the ~~Commission~~Town Council and the public at the regular ~~monthly meeting of each and every month~~Town Council meetings a true, accurate and detailed account of all the monies collected or received by ~~him in the performance of his duties and shall promptly turn the same over to the Commission.~~the Town. At such regular Town Council Meetings, the Town Manager, at the request of the Commissioners, shall arrange for department heads to be present and to provide the Town Council and the public an overview of departmental activities and a description of active departmental concerns and future needs.

(d)

In conjunction with the Mayor, ~~of the Town~~ Manager of Dewey Beach, he shall sign warrants pursuant to appropriations or resolutions theretofore made for the ~~Commission~~Town Council. ~~He~~The Town Manager shall prepare and submit to the ~~Commission~~Town Council such reports as may be required by the ~~Commission~~Town Council, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by this Charter or required of ~~him~~the Office of the Town Manager by ordinance or resolution of the ~~Commission~~Town Council.

(e)

The Town Manager and such other officers of the Town as may be designated by vote of the ~~Commission~~Town Council shall be entitled to seats in the meetings of the ~~Commission~~Town Council but shall not have a vote therein.

(f)

The Town Manager shall have charge and supervision of the sewer system, water system, street lighting, streets, gutters, curbs, sidewalks, boardwalks, jetties, piers, parks, and other administrative affairs of the Town and all work relating thereto. ~~He~~The Town Manager shall have charge of and shall collect all taxes, assessments, rentals, franchise fees, license fees, or other charges due the Town. ~~He~~The Town Manager shall have charge of the administration of all provisions of this Charter and ordinances and resolutions of the ~~Commission~~Town Council relating to the affairs of the Town when not otherwise provided for by this Charter or by any ordinance or resolution of the ~~Commission~~Town Council.

(g)

~~He~~The Town Manager shall keepbe responsible for the keeping of a full and strict account of all monies received and all disbursements made by ~~him~~the Town and that such accounts shall, at all times, be open to inspection by the ~~Commission~~Town Council.

(h)

~~He~~The Town Manager shall give to the Town of Dewey Beach a bond, if required by the ~~Commission~~Town Council, in such sum and in form with security satisfactory to the ~~Commission~~Town Council for the faithful performance of the duties of ~~his office~~the Office of Town Manager and the restoration to the Town of Dewey Beach, in case of ~~his~~ death, resignation, or removal from office of all books, papers, vouchers, money other property of whatever kind ~~in his possession~~ belonging to the Town.

(i)

In the event of a vacancy in the Office of the Town Manager for any reason or reasons whatsoever, the duly appointed and qualified successor to that office shall succeed to all the rights, privileges, and powers theretofore reposed in ~~his~~the predecessor or predecessors in said office in the same manner as though all acts, deeds and steps theretofore taken by any such predecessor or predecessors with respect to any matter or thing pertaining to said office had been taken or performed by the successor to such office.

(j)

Upon the death, resignation, or removal from the office of the Town Manager, the Mayor, with the approval of a majority ~~of all elected members~~vote of the ~~Commission~~Town Commissioners present in a properly-noticed Town Council Meeting, shall appoint some suitable person, who ~~may~~shall not be ~~an elected~~the Mayor or appointed official of the Town of Dewey Beach to perform the duties of Town Manager; on an interim basis for ninety (90) days with the option of renewal of the appointment for two (2) additional terms of ninety (90) days or until a Town Manager is appointed, whichever period is shorter. **(70 Del. Laws, c. 191, 7/10/1995; 78 Del. Laws, c. 346, 7/18/2012)**

(k)

The Town Manager shall be responsible for ensuring that a staffing plan for all active employees, officers, and agents is maintained and updated annually as part of the annual budget process or as needed as position descriptions and requirements change. Also, the Town Manager shall ensure that annual performance reviews are conducted for all employees and that such performance reviews are signed off on by the cognizant department or division head and filed in the Town's permanent personnel files. In the case of department heads, such annual performance reviews shall be conducted by the Town Manager after having received relevant input from the Council in Executive Session. With regard to the Town Manager such annual performance review shall be conducted by the Town Council and the results signed off on by all members of the Town Council and communicated to the Town Manager by the Mayor.

## **Section 17 Audit Committee/Auditors.**

**(78 Del. Laws, c. 346, 7/18/2012)**

(a)

The Audit Committee shall be composed of not less than three (3) individuals deemed under Section 10(b) of this Charter to be qualified to vote in the Town of Dewey Beach~~property owners, the majority of whom are bona fide residents of the Town of Dewey Beach~~, who have no relationship to the Town that may interfere with the exercise of their independence from the Town's management and the Town. The Chairperson and members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Town Council ~~at each annual meeting~~ to serve for a term of one (1) year. Each member of the Committee shall be financially competent and at least one (1) member shall have accounting or related financial management experience. The principal purpose of the Committee is to provide oversight of the annual audit of the Town financial statements, to recommend the hiring of an independent financial audit firm, to assess the qualifications and independence of the firm and to negotiate a price for the audit, to review the performance of the independent audit firm, to review the firm's audit report and assessment of the Town's accounting and reporting practices and internal control systems, and to recommend acceptance or rejection by the Town Council of the audit report.

(b)

It shall be the responsibility of the Independent Auditors to perform an audit of the annual financial statements of the Town of Dewey Beach in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. The Auditors, on or before the 15th day of August following the Town's fiscal year end shall deliver their report, including their opinion as to whether the Town's basic financial statements, together with required Supplemental Information, present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Town, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where applicable, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. In addition, other Supplemental Information for the General Revenue and Special Revenue Funds shall be provided with comparative amounts for the preceding ~~three (3)~~ fiscal years. A summary of the report shall be printed by the Town in a newspaper which has general circulation in the Town in the issue immediately succeeding acceptance of the Independent Auditors' their annual report, with a statement that the full text of the report can be viewed on the Town's website, where a full copy of the report shall be accessible to visitors to the website. The financial statements are the responsibility of the Town Manager~~Town's management~~. The Independent Auditor's responsibility is to render an opinion on the Town's financial statements based on its ~~their~~ audit examination.

## **Section 18 Town Solicitor.**

**(78 Del. Laws, c. 346, 7/18/2012)**

The Commissioners may select and appoint a Town Solicitor who shall be removable ~~at the pleasure by a majority vote~~ of the ~~Town Commissioners present in a properly-noticed Town Council Meeting Commissioners of Dewey Beach~~ either with or without due cause stated. The Town Solicitor shall be a member in good standing of the Bar of the State of Delaware. It shall be ~~the Town Solicitor's~~ his duty to give legal advice to the ~~Commissioners and Town Council and any~~ other offices ~~rs-oo~~ of the Town and to perform other legal services as may be required ~~of him~~ by the ~~Town Council Commissioners~~.

## **Section 19 Police Force and Beach Patrol.**

~~(a)~~

~~The Town Commissioners may, in their discretion, establish a police force, make rules and regulations as may be necessary for the organization, government and control of a Police Force. They shall preserve peace and order, and shall compel obedience within the Town limits to the ordinances of the Town and the Laws of the State of Delaware. They shall have such other duties as the Town Commission shall from time to time prescribe. The police force shall be subject to the direction of the Town Manager acting on behalf of the Town Commissioners. (70 Del. Laws, c. 191, 7/10/1995)~~

~~(b)~~

~~The Town Commissioners may, if it is deemed necessary, make such rules and regulations for the organization of a Beach Patrol. The Beach Patrol would, if so organized, enforce regulatory measures ordained by the Commissioners in respect to the cleanliness, uses and enjoyment of the Town Beach front; and, would perform such other duties as the Commissioners may prescribe. In the performance of their duties, they may be vested with all the powers and authorities of a member of the Town Police Force.~~

~~(a)~~

~~Police Force. The Town Council is authorized to establish a Police Force and make such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the organization, governance and control of such a Police Force. The Police Force shall preserve peace and order, compel obedience within the Town limits to all rules, regulations, laws, and~~

ordinances that are enforceable within the jurisdictional limits of the Town, and have such other duties as the Town Council shall prescribe.

(b)

Chief of Police. The Town Council shall appoint a Chief of Police to head the Police Force. The Town Council shall select the Chief of Police from at least three (3) candidates recommended by the Town Manager who meet those qualifications, established by the Town Manager and approved by the Town Council and satisfying the requirements of the Delaware Council on Police Training set forth in DE Title 1:800. To be hired the candidate must garner the votes of at least three (3) members of the Council. The Chief of Police shall report directly to, and be subordinate to, the Town Manager.

(1) The Chief of Police shall serve own under an employment contract with a fixed term not to exceed three (3) years. The employment contract shall not automatically renew, but subject to the Town Council's approval, it may be renewed by the Town Manager for an indefinite number of terms. The Chief of Police shall not be dismissed, demoted, or otherwise removed from office during the term of the employment contract without a finding of just cause at a hearing held pursuant to 11 Del. C. Chapter 93 ("Police Chief Due Process"), as it may be amended and any other existing or future corresponding provisions of law. Subject to the Town Council's approval, the Town Manager may elect to not renew a Chief of Police's contract without a finding of just cause at a hearing held under 11 Del. C. Chapter 93. Town Council approval shall be provided

(2) The Chief of Police shall see that the Police Force enforces all rules, regulations, laws, and ordinances that are enforceable within the jurisdictional limits of the Town. The Chief of Police shall be responsible for the proper administration of all of the affairs of the Police Force and for all matters related to the preservation of peace and order and other duties prescribed by the Town Council. The Police Chief shall be accountable to the Town Manager for operating the Police Force within a prescribed budget and establishing appropriate rules and regulations for efficient and effective departmental operations. Subject to the Town Manager's approval, the Chief of Police shall have authority over all Police Force personnel matters, including removal of any Police Force employee pursuant to 11 Del. C. Chapter 92 ("Law-Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights"), as it may be amended and any other existing or future corresponding provisions of law.

(3) The Police Chief, with the Town Manager's express approval, shall have the authority to issue temporary orders to authorize Town response(s) and the expenditure of Town funds in response to a declared State- or National emergency, which orders shall be in effect until such time as an emergency meeting of the Town Council can be convened or the emergency ends.

(c)

Beach Patrol. The Town Council is authorized to make such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the organization, governance, and control of a Beach Patrol. If organized, the Beach Patrol shall enforce regulatory measures ordained by the Town Council in respect to the cleanliness, uses and enjoyment of the Town Beaches and Beach front; and, would perform such other duties as the Commissioners may prescribe. In the performance of their duties, and subject to the appropriate training, members of the Beach Patrol may be vested with some or all the powers and authorities of a member of the Town Police Force as allowed by law and as defined in the Regulations of the Delaware Council on Police Training

(d)

The Town Council may appoint a Captain of the Beach Patrol to head the Beach Patrol. The Town Council shall select the Beach Patrol Captain from at least three (3) candidates recommended by the Town Manager who meet those qualifications established by the Town Manager and approved by the Town Council. To be hired the candidate must garner the votes of at least 3 members of the Council. The Beach Patrol Captain shall report directly to, and be subordinate to, the Town Manager.

- (1) The Captain of the Beach Patrol may serve under an employment contract, provided the term of the contract does not exceed three (3) years. The employment contract shall not automatically renew, but subject to the Town Council's approval, the employment contract may be renewed by the Town Manager for an indefinite number of terms. The Beach Patrol Captain shall be disciplined and/or terminated in accordance with the terms of the employment contract, and in the absence of an employment contract, the Beach Patrol Captain shall be an at will employee.
- (2) The Captain of the Beach Patrol shall see that the Beach Patrol enforces all rules, regulations, laws, and ordinances for which the Town Council has charged the Beach Patrol with enforcing. The Captain of the Beach Patrol shall be responsible for the proper administration of all the affairs

of the Beach Patrol and such other duties prescribed by the Town Council. The Beach Patrol Captain shall be accountable to the Town Manager for operating the Beach Patrol within a prescribed budget and establishing appropriate rules and regulations for efficient and effective departmental operations. Subject to the Town Manager's approval and any employment policies adopted by the Town Council, the Beach Patrol Captain shall have the authority over all Beach Patrol personnel matters.

### **Section 20.1 Alderman and Assistant Alderman.**

#### **(78 Del. Laws, c. 232, 5/1/2012)**

The Commissioners are authorized to establish an Alderman's Court in a manner consistent with Constitution and laws of the State of Delaware.

### **Section 20.2 Appointment.**

#### **(78 Del. Laws, c. 232, 5/1/2012)**

An Alderman and Assistant Alderman shall be recommended by the Town Council, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Delaware State Senate. Once confirmed the Alderman and/or Assistant Alderman shall be sworn into office by the Mayor, and evidence of ~~such his or her~~ appointment shall be recorded at the Recorder of Deeds in Sussex County.

### **Section 20.3 Appointment and Reappointment Nomination.**

#### **(78 Del. Laws, c. 232, 5/1/2012)**

When a vacancy occurs, the Town Council shall by majority vote of the Town Commissioners present in a properly-noticed Town Council Meeting, submit a list of one or more qualified candidates and the application(s) and supporting documentation to the Governor for consideration of appointment. Not less than thirty (30) days prior to the expiration date of an Alderman's or Assistant Alderman's term, the Town Council shall by majority vote of the Town Commissioners present in a properly-noticed Town Council Meeting, determine whether or not to recommend reappointment of the Alderman or Assistant Alderman for an additional term. The Town Council shall submit a letter of recommendation to the Governor for consideration of reappointment, or alternatively, its written recommendation of one or more qualified candidates along with their applications and supporting documentation to the Governor for consideration of appointment.

### **Section 20.4 Term of Office.**

**(78 Del. Laws, c. 232, 5/1/2012)**

The Alderman and Assistant Alderman shall serve a two – year term and shall remain in office until either reappointed or a successor is duly qualified.

**Section 20.5 Removal.**

**(78 Del. Laws, c. 232, 5/1/2012)**

An Alderman or Assistant Alderman may be censured or removed subject to the provisions of Article IV, Section 37 of the Delaware Constitution of 1897 and the Rules of the Court on the Judiciary. An Alderman or Assistant Alderman may also be replaced upon expiration of a term, following Senate confirmation of a new Alderman or Assistant Alderman.

If any Alderman or Assistant Alderman has been removed from office by Senate confirmation of a new nominee or by action of the Court on the Judiciary, [said Alderman or Assistant Alderman](#) ~~he/she~~ shall, within five (5) days of the Senate confirmation or Court on the Judiciary action, deliver to the Mayor all the books and papers belonging to the Town, and shall within five (5) days pay over to the Treasurer all ~~Town~~ moneys in [said Alderman or Assistant Alderman's his/her](#) hands. Immediately after the receipt of the books and papers belonging to the office of either the Alderman or Assistant Alderman, the Mayor may require the auditor of the Town to make an audit of the books and papers of the official who has been replaced. Upon the neglect or failure to deliver all the books and papers to the Mayor within the time specified by this Charter, or to pay over all of the moneys to the Treasurer within the time specified, the Alderman or Assistant Alderman, so replaced, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not less than Twenty-five Dollars (\$25) nor more than One Hundred Dollars (\$ 100) for each day that [said Alderman or Assistant Alderman](#) ~~he~~ fails to deliver the books and papers to the Mayor or to pay over all moneys to the ~~Town~~ ~~reasurer~~.

**Section 20.6 Vacancy.**

**(78 Del. Laws, c. 232, 5/1/2012)**

In the absence of the Alderman, or when a vacancy occurs in the office of Alderman, the Assistant Alderman shall exercise all the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Alderman as set forth in this Charter. When a vacancy occurs for an Alderman and there is no Assistant Alderman to act as Alderman, and the Delaware State Senate is recessed for more than 6 weeks, the Town Council may elect by majority vote of Town Commissioners present in a properly-noticed Town Council Meeting to have a retired Magistrate act as Alderman pending confirmation of a nominee with the Delaware State Senate. Such retired

Magistrate must meet the appointment qualifications of 10 Del. C. Section 9211(a) to serve in such capacity, and shall receive such compensation as may be established by the Town Council. A retired Magistrate acting as Alderman shall have all powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Alderman as set forth in this Charter.

**Section 20.7 Qualifications.**

**(78 Del. Laws, c. 232, 5/1/2012)**

Any person appointed to serve as Alderman or Assistant Alderman shall be at least twenty-one (21) years of age, a United States citizen, of good character and reputation, shall live within Sussex County, and shall not be a member of the Town Council or otherwise an officer or employee of the Town of Dewey Beach.

**Section 20.8 Oath of Office.**

**(78 Del. Laws, c. 232, 5/1/2012)**

Within 14 days of Senate confirmation the Alderman or Assistant Alderman shall be sworn or affirmed by the Mayor to perform the duties of office honestly, faithfully, diligently, and to uphold and enforce the Charter of the Town of Dewey Beach and ordinances duly enacted by the Town Council of the Town of Dewey Beach.

**Section 20.9 Duties.**

**(78 Del. Laws, c. 232, 5/1/2012)**

It shall be the duty of the Alderman and Assistant Alderman to adjudicate actions brought under any ordinances legally enacted or established by the government of the Town and to carry into effect all legally binding orders and directions of the Town Council made pursuant to any law of this State or its Constitution. In carrying out the duties of the office, an Alderman or Assistant Alderman shall comply with the ethical responsibilities required of Aldermen in this state and shall operate the court in accordance with the Criminal Rules of Procedure for the Alderman and Mayor Courts of the State of Delaware.

**Section 20.10 Compensation.**

**(78 Del. Laws, c. 232, 5/1/2012)**

The compensation of the Alderman and Assistant Alderman shall be fixed by the Town Council and approved in conjunction with the Town Council's adoption of the Town operating budget. If no change is proposed and approved by the Town Council, the previously established compensation rate shall continue in effect until

revised by a majority vote of the [Town Commissioners present in a properly-noticed](#) Town Council [meeting](#). Such compensation shall not be contingent upon or related to the amount of any civil or penal fines imposed or collected through the Alderman Court and shall not be reduced during the term of office.

### **Section 20.11 Alderman's Docket.**

#### **(78 Del. Laws, c. 232, 5/1/2012)**

The Town Council shall procure suitable records for the use of the Alderman and the Assistant Alderman. Such records shall be known as the "Alderman's Docket". The Alderman and Assistant Alderman shall record all official acts and proceedings in the Alderman's Docket. All criminal matters, but not civil matters, shall be entered into the Delaware Criminal Justice Information System (DELJIS) as required by law.

### **Section 20.12 Jurisdiction.**

#### **(78 Del. Laws, c. 232, 5/1/2012)**

The Alderman and Assistant Alderman shall have jurisdiction and cognizance of all breaches of the peace, offenses and violations of any civil or criminal ordinance of the Town committed within the corporate limits of the Town of Dewey Beach. As to such offenses or violations over which they are given jurisdiction by this Charter or by any other law of the State of Delaware, the Alderman and Assistant Alderman shall be authorized and empowered to hold for bail, set bail, impose fines, or imprison, for each offense or violation in accordance with the penalties provided by this Charter, by any Town Ordinance enacted hereunder, or as provided by any law of the State of Delaware; provided however, that the maximum fine which the Alderman or Assistant Alderman may impose shall never exceed the limits established by this Charter.

### **Section 20.13 Civil and Criminal Penalties; Costs.**

#### **(78 Del. Laws, c. 232, 5/1/2012)**

Neither the Alderman nor the Assistant Alderman shall impose any penalty in excess of ~~One Thousand (\$1,000) Five Hundred Dollars (\$500)~~ exclusive of costs nor imprison any offender for more than thirty (30) days, or both, except as otherwise specifically provided in this Charter or by state statute; but the Alderman and Assistant Alderman may, in addition to any other fine or term of imprisonment permitted to be assessed or imposed, impose and collect such costs as are set by ordinance or resolution of the Town Council.

### **Section 20.14 Monthly Report to Town Council.**

**(78 Del. Laws, c. 232, 5/1/2012)**

The Alderman and Assistant Alderman shall prepare and submit a written monthly report to the Town ~~Manager Council~~ reporting all fines and penalties imposed during the preceding calendar month and shall pay to the ~~Treasurer of the~~ Town all such fines and penalties at such times as the Town ~~Manager Council~~ shall direct. Neither the Town ~~Manager, nor the Town~~ Council nor the Mayor may establish or communicate an expected revenue budget for the Alderman Court.

**Section 20.15 Alderman Court Facilities and Staff.**

**(78 Del. Laws, c. 232, 5/1/2012)**

The Town of Dewey Beach shall provide adequate and appropriate facilities and staff to facilitate the independent judicial operations of the Alderman Court. Facilities shall be separate from conflicting town operations, including, but not limited to, police agency functions. The town may house the Alderman Court in a common municipal building, so long as the Alderman's Court is provided space physically separate from other town functions and is further situated in such a manner to foster public confidence in the independence of the Court. Likewise, staff assigned to the Court shall not be shared with conflicting town government operations.

**Section 21 Remedies, Powers and Methods for the Collection of Assessments and other Charges Due the Town.**

(a)

A remedy by distress as now prescribed by law is hereby preserved to the Town Council Commissioners for the collection of any assessments, fees, warrants or other charges for which they may be responsible.

(b)

At any time after the delivery of the duplicate annual tax list or warrant or any other list of charges due the Town of Dewey Beach, the Town Manager may in the name of the ~~Town of Dewey Beach Commissioners of Dewey Beach~~ institute suit before any Court of the State of Delaware, in any of the Counties of the State, for the recovery of the unpaid tax, assessment, license fee, or other charge, in an action of debt, and upon judgment obtained, may issue Writs of Execution as in case of other judgments recovered. **(70 Del. Laws, c. 191, 7/10/1995)**

(c)

The said execution shall constitute a lien upon any or all the personal and/or real property of the responsible party(ies) taxable within the County where the judgment shall have been obtained, which by virtue of such execution shall be levied upon within thirty (30) days after the issuance thereof, and such lien shall

have priority over all other liens against said personal property created or suffered by the responsible party(ies)taxable, except such liens thereon which may have been created in respect to County Taxes, although such other liens be of date prior to the time of the attachment of the said tax liens.

(d)

No taxes or assessments may be imposed on real or personal property or tax or assessment rates ~~changed-increased~~ unless approved by referendum.

## **Section 22 Town Budget.**

(a)

The fiscal year for the Town of Dewey Beach shall begin April 1, and end March 31. **(76 Del. Laws, c. 273, 6/30/2008)**

(b)

Annually each year and not later than the last week in February, the Town Manager Commissioners shall prepare a ~~rough~~ draft of the annual Town Budget and submit the same to the Town Council for approval. From this ~~rough~~ draft, the Town Council shall, not later than the second Saturday of March of each year, prepare and approve by majority vote of the Town Commissioners present in a properly-noticed Town Council Meeting the Town Budget, containing the financial plan for conducting the affairs of the Town for the ensuing fiscal year. **(78 Del. Laws, c. 346, 7/18/2012)**

(c)

The Budget shall contain the following information: **(78 Del. Laws, c. 346, 7/18/2012)**

1.

Staffing for each department and office of the Town and Aa detailed estimate showing the expense of ~~conducting-operating~~ each department and office ~~of the Town~~ for the ensuing fiscal year, including in aggregate the total compensation to be paid to all employees within each department and office.

2.

~~The value of supplies and materials on hand, together with the nature and kind of machinery or other implements and the condition thereof.~~ Estimates for the maintenance of Town buildings and infrastructure.

3.

~~The amount of the debt of the Town, together with a schedule of maturities of bond issues, and the amount of any reserve funds.~~

4.

An itemized statement of ~~any~~ other miscellaneous estimated expense(s) estimated to individually exceed \$5,000 to be incurred in the affairs of the Town.

~~5.~~

~~A statement of the amount required for interest on the bonded debt, the amount necessary to pay any Bond maturing during the year and the amount required for the "Sinking Fund" or "Sinking Funds".~~

~~6.4.~~

~~An Detailed estimates of the amounts of money to be received from taxes, assessments, and all other anticipated income of the Town from any source or sources whatsoever.~~

(d)

The Town Council Commissioners shall, so far as possible, adhere to the Budget so adopted in the making of appropriations and the revising of schedules for the various fees, fines and penalties, and taxes due to the Town. So too, the Town Manager shall, so far as possible, ensure that the operations of each department and the Town as a whole adhere to the budget so adopted and that all monies due the Town are collected in an effective and efficient manner.

## **Section 23 Enumeration of Powers.**

(a)

Not by way of limitation upon the power vested in the Town Council Commissioners to exercise all powers delegated by this Charter to the municipal corporation of the Town Commissioners of Dewey Beach except as may expressly appear herein to the contrary, but, rather by way of enumeration and for purposes of clarity, the Town Commissioners are Council is vested by this Charter with the following powers, which may be exercised by said Commissioners Town Council in the interest of good government and the safety, health, and welfare of the Town, its inhabitants and affairs, that is to say:

1.

~~To provide for and preserve the health, peace, safety, cleanliness, ornament and good order of the Town.~~

To provide for the governance of the Town; the maintenance of its peace and order; the provision for its sanitation and the maintenance of its infrastructure; the protection of its beauty and surrounding natural environment; the provision for the health, safety, convenience, comfort and well-being of its population and visitors; the protection and preservation of property, public and private, and the preservation of the character of the Town; the insurance of financial sustainability; and the provision of resilience in the face of global climate change.

2.

To prohibit, or regulate all public sports, exhibitions, shows, parades, productions, circuses or other public performances, amusements, and games.

3.

To direct the digging down, draining, filling up, cleaning, cutting, or fencing of lots, tracts pieces or parcels of ground in the Town which may be deemed dangerous or unwholesome or necessary to carry out any improvements authorized by this Charter.

4.

To provide for or regulate the numbering of houses and lots on the streets, and the naming of streets and avenues.

5.

For the prevention of fire and the preservation of the beauty of the Town, to regulate and control the number of buildings or removal of dwelling houses and other buildings; to establish a code for the same and to provide for the granting of permits for the same; to establish a building line for buildings to be erected; zone or district the Town and make particular provisions for particular zones or districts with regard to building or building materials; and, generally to exercise all the powers and authorities vested in the legislative body of cities and incorporated towns under by the Constitution and Laws of this State.

6.

To acquire, build, erect and maintain buildings and facilities necessary or required for housing and equipping offices for providing services for the Town.

7.

To regulate or prevent the use of guns, airguns, spring guns, pistols, sling shots, beanshooters, and any other devices for discharging missiles which might cause bodily harm or injury to property; and to regulate or prevent the use of fireworks, bombs, and detonating works of all kinds.

8.

To purchase, take and hold real and personal property when sold for any delinquent tax, assessment, water rent, tapping fee, charge growing out of abatement of nuisances and the like, laying out and repairing sidewalks, or other charge due the Town and to sell the same.

9.

To provide for the collection of and disbursement of all monies to which the Town may become entitled by law, including licenses and fines, where no provision for the collection and disbursement thereof is otherwise provided in the Charter.

10.

To borrow money in the name of the Town for any proper municipal purpose, and in order to secure the payment of the same, to issue bonds or other kinds or forms of certificate or certificates of indebtedness, pledging the full faith and credit of the Town or such other security or securities as the Town Commissioners Council shall select, for the payment of the principal thereof and the interest due thereon, all of which bonds or other kinds or forms of certificates of indebtedness issued by the Town shall be exempt from all State, County or municipal taxes; provided, that in no event shall the indebtedness of the Town, for any and all purposes, at any one time exceed in the aggregate ~~One~~ million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000). **(68 Del. Laws, c. 354, 7/10/1992)**

11.

To appropriate money to pay the debts, liabilities and expenditures of the Town, or any part or item thereof, from any fund applicable thereto, and to transfer temporarily money from one fund to another fund of the Town in case of emergency.

12.

To inquire into and investigate the conduct of any ~~office,~~ officer, ~~office,~~ agent, or employee of the Town ~~or any~~ and to make investigations of all municipal ~~affair~~ affairs, and, ~~for any such purpose or purposes~~ may shall have the power to subpoena witnesses, administer oaths or affirmations, and compel the attendance of witnesses and production of books, papers or other evidence ~~by summary process.~~

13.

To make, adopt and establish all such ordinances, regulations, rules and by-laws, not contrary to the laws of this State and the United States, as the Commissioners Town Council may deem necessary to carry into effect any of the provisions of this Charter or any other law of the State relating generally to municipal corporations or which ~~they~~ the Town Council may deem proper and necessary for the ~~good government~~ effective and faithful execution of ~~the Town's , the protection and preservation~~ Goals of Governance as described above of persons and property and for the preservation of the ~~public health, safety~~ and welfare of the Town ~~and all therein and its inhabitants, or designed to prevent the introduction or spread of infectious or contagious diseases, or to prevent nuisances affecting the same.~~ The fiscal year for the Town of Dewey Beach shall begin April 1, and end March 31. **(76 Del. Laws, c. 273, 6/30/2008)**

a.

Qualified Registered voters of the Town of Dewey Beach, as more specifically defined in Section 10(b) of this Charter, shall have the power to petition to require reconsideration by the Commissions of Dewey Beach

~~(hereinafter "the Commissioners")~~ Town Council of any adopted Ordinance and to approve or reject or repeal it at a referendum election as provided herein: provided, however, that such power of petition and referendum shall not extend to the budget or capital program or any emergency ordinance or any ordinance relating to the appropriation of money.

b.

A Referendum Petition, signed by persons registered eligible to vote in Dewey Beach ~~the annual municipal election as prescribed in this Chapter~~ equal in number to at least thirty-three and one third percent (33 1/3%) of the total number of voters who voted in the aAnnual mMunicipal eElection immediately preceding the execution of the Referendum Petition with the local address of the person so signing, or three hundred (300) such persons as aforesaid, whichever is greater, and authenticated in accordance with subsection c, below, shall be presented to the Commissioners of Dewey Beach Town Council at the next regular Town Council Meeting ~~meeting of the Commissioners~~ following the date of adoption of the ordinance sought to be reconsidered, or the Petition shall fail and it shall not be the subject of a referendum. If there are less than twenty-eight (28) days from the date of the adoption of the Ordinance sought to be reconsidered until the next regular Town Council Meeting ~~meeting of the Commissioners~~, the Petition for Referendum shall be presented at the first regular Town Council Meeting ~~meeting~~ following the expiration of the said twenty-eight (28) day period or the Ordinance sought to be reconsidered shall not be the subject of a referendum. Each copy of such petition shall contain and have attached thereto throughout its circulation the full text of the ordinance sought to be reconsidered.

c.

Each original Referendum Petition shall have attached to it, when filed, a sworn, validly notarized affidavit executed by the circulator of the petition stating that he or she said circulator personally circulated the petition, the number of signatures thereon, that all signatures were affixed in his or hers said circulator's presence, that he or she said circulator believes them to be the genuine signatures of the persons whose names they purport to be, that each such person who signed it is qualified to sign the petition and that each signer had an opportunity, before signing, to read the full text of the ordinance sought to be reconsidered. In addition, if the circulator of the petition sends the petition to a qualified signer to sign not in the presence of the circulator, the qualified signer signature shall be notarized.

d.

Within twenty (20) days after the petition is filed with the Commissioners Town Council as described above ~~at a regular meeting~~, the

Town Manager shall complete a certificate certifying its sufficiency or specifying any insufficiency, and shall promptly send a copy of the certificate to the circulator of such petition or the acknowledged representative of the Petitioners by certified mail with return receipt requested. A petition certified insufficient for lack of the required number of valid signatures may be amended one (1) time if the circulator files a Notice of Intention to Amend with the Town Manager within two (2) days after receiving a copy of the certificate and files a supplementary petition upon additional papers within five (5) days after receiving the copy of such certificate. Such supplementary petition shall comply with the requirements of this Section concerning form, content, and the affidavit of the circulator. Within five (5) days after a supplemental petition is filed, the Town Manager shall complete a certificate as to the sufficiency of the supplemental petition, as amended, and shall promptly send a copy of such certificate to the circulator by certified mail with return receipt requested, as in the case of the original petition.

e.

If a petition has been certified to be insufficient and the circulator has not filed a Notice of Intention to amend, or if an amended petition has been certified insufficient, the circulator may, within two (2) days after receiving the copy of such certificate, file a request that it be reviewed by the CommissionersTown Council. The CommissionersTown Council shall review the certificate at the next regular meetingTown Council Meeting following the filing of such request and approve or disapprove it, and the determination of the Commissioners Town Council as to the sufficiency of the petition shall be final.

f.

Any person or persons, jointly or severally, aggrieved by the decision of the CommissionersTown Council may present to the Superior Court of the State of Delaware, a petition duly verified, setting forth that such decision is invalid, in whole or in part, specifying the grounds of such invalidity. Such petition shall be presented to the Court within thirty (30) days following the determination by the CommissionersTown Council as to the insufficiency of such petition. Upon presentation of the petition, the Court may allow a Writ of Certiorari directed to the CommissionersTown Council to review such decision of the CommissionersTown Council and shall prescribe therein the time within which a return thereto must be made and served upon the petitioner or their attorney, which shall not be less than ten (10) days and may be extended by the Court. The allowance of the Writ shall stay proceedings upon the decision or determination appealed from. The Court

may reverse or affirm, wholly or partly, or may modify the determination brought up for review.

g.

Upon the filing of the Petition for a Referendum with the Town Manager, the ordinance sought to be reconsidered shall not be stayed or suspended from taking effect, and shall remain in effect unless and until a majority of the voters vote against the ordinance as outlined in subsection (n) herein.~~and such Petition for a Referendum shall terminate upon the happening of any of the following events:~~

~~(1)~~

~~There is a final determination of insufficiency of the Petition; or~~

~~(2)~~

~~The Petition is withdrawn by the circulators thereof or sufficient copies thereof are withdrawn so that there are insufficient numbers of signatures as required by this Section; or~~

~~(3)~~

~~The Commissioners repeal the ordinance;~~

~~(4)~~

~~Thirty (30) days have elapsed after a vote by the voters on the ordinance; or~~

~~(5)~~

~~There is a final determination by the Superior Court.~~

h.

The ~~Commissioners~~Town Council shall reconsider the referred ordinance at the first regular ~~meeting~~Town Council Meeting after the Petition for a Referendum has been finally determined to be sufficient. If the ~~Commissioners determine~~Town Council determines not to repeal the referred ordinance, the referred ordinance shall be submitted to the voters of the Town of Dewey Beach at an election.

i.

The vote of the eligible voters on a referred ordinance shall be held not less than thirty (30) days and no later than sixty (60) days from the date the ~~Commissioners~~Town Council determined not to repeal the referred ordinance. If the Annual Municipal Election is to be held within the period prescribed in this Section, such referendum shall be considered as part of that election. If the Annual Municipal Election is not to be held within the period prescribed in this Section, the ~~Commissioners~~Town Council shall provide for a ~~s~~Special ~~e~~Election. If the ~~Commissioners fail~~Town Council fails to hold a referendum within the time specified in this Section, the ordinance for which the petition was filed shall be deemed to be repealed at the expiration of sixty (60) days from the date that the ~~Commissioners~~Town

Council determined not to repeal the referred ordinance and such ordinance shall not be passed in the same form for a period of one (1) year from the effective date of repeal.

j.

The notice of the time and place of holding the said Special Election shall be printed in at least two (2) issues of a newspaper having a general circulation in the Town of Dewey Beach within thirty (30) days immediately preceding the date of the Special Election.

k.

In all electoral proceedings, the Special Election shall be conducted in the manner of the ~~a~~Annual Municipal eElection and the Election Judge and Election Board, as specified in Section 10 of this Charter and in Chapter **48** of the Code of Dewey Beach, shall oversee the proceedings of the election and have the authority and power to conduct the election.

l.

Immediately after the closing of the polling place or places, the Election Board shall count the ballots for and against the proposition as presented, and shall announce the results thereof. The Election Board shall make a certificate under their hands of the number of votes cast for and against the proposed ordinance and the number of void votes, and shall deliver the same to the Town Manager who shall immediately inform the Town Commissioners of the results. The said certificate shall be filed with the Office of the Town Manager.

m.

The form of the ballot of the said Special Section shall be as follows: **(78 Del. Laws, c. 346, 7/18/2012)**

- ( ) For the Referred Ordinance
- ( ) Against the Referred Ordinance

n.

If the majority of the voters voting on a referred ordinance vote against such ordinance, it shall be considered repealed upon the certification of the result of the election by the Election Board. No ordinance which has been repealed as the result of a referendum shall be passed again in the same form by the ~~Commissioners of the Town of Dewey Beach~~ Town Council for a period of one (1) year from the date of the referendum.

o.

The ~~Commissioners~~ Town Council may, in ~~its~~ their sole discretion, elect to adopt an ordinance, except for an ordinance specified not to be the subject of a referendum proceeding in subsection a, hereinabove, subject to a referendum. In such event, the ~~Commissioners~~ Town Council shall, at the same time such ordinance is adopted, include in the language of said

ordinance that such ordinance shall be the subject of a referendum. Upon the passage of the ordinance adopted subject to a referendum, such ordinance shall be suspended from taking effect until thirty (30) days after the results of the referendum, ~~such referendum~~ are returned indicating that the ordinance is approved by referendum. **(78 Del. Laws, c. 346, 7/18/2012)**

Nothing contained herein shall operate so as to require the ~~Commissioners~~ Town Council to exercise ~~their~~ its discretion to submit any ordinance to a referendum; and nothing contained herein shall operate to restrict the right of the eligible voters of the Town of Dewey Beach to initiate a referendum pursuant this Section . However, the decision of the ~~Commissioners~~ to submit an ordinance to a referendum shall, in the case of such ordinance, constitute the only referendum to which such ordinance shall be subjected; and there shall be no right to subject such ordinance to an additional referendum. **(78 Del. Laws, c. 346, 7/18/2012)**

14.

The ~~Commissioners of the~~ Town of Dewey Beach Council shall have the authority to raise funds by charging a fee to owners of vehicles which are parked in the streets and other areas accessible to the public.

15.

The ~~Commissioners of the~~ Town of Dewey Beach Council shall have the authority to grant licenses and impose fees for licenses, issue permits, and regulate any activity within the corporate limits specifically including any beach property whether previously dedicated, owned by the State of Delaware, or the Town, except as subsection (b) of this section may apply.

16.

~~To~~ The Town Council shall have the authority to levy and collect tax upon the renting or leasing of residential property located within the municipal boundaries of Dewey Beach, except that no accommodations tax for a residential rental shall be collected upon a valid rental agreement or valid lease agreement with ~~an initial~~ an initial term of at least one (1) year. The accommodations tax on a residential rental shall be as set from time to time by the ~~Commissioners of Dewey Beach~~ Town Council, but not to exceed three percent (3%) of the rent or lease amount unless approved by referendum. ~~This residential rental accommodations tax does not apply to the rental or lease of any property being assessed a public accommodation lodging excise tax under Chapter 30 Del. Laws, c. 61 of Title 30.~~ **(77 Del. Laws, c. 29, 5/18/2009)**

(b)

Notwithstanding any provision in this Section or in this Act to the contrary, the Town ~~Commissioners~~ Council shall have no power or authority to impose or

require any fee, tax, license or permit regarding use of the beaches by persons for individual recreational purposes.

### **Section 24 Collection of Charges Due the Town.**

(a) In the collection of any delinquent taxes or other amounts owed to the Town, the Town shall have all of the same powers, remedies, and authority, including the monition method of the collection, as conferred by Title 9 of the Delaware Code, as the same may from time to time hereafter be amended, or in accordance with any future corresponding provision of law, upon those individuals and/or departments authorized to collect delinquent taxes in Sussex County. The delinquent amounts that may be collected in the same manner as authorized herein for the collection of delinquent taxes shall include, but not be limited to, the following: the cost of removal, abatement, or correction of any violation of local building, property maintenance, zoning, drainage, sewer, housing, or sanitation code done through public expenditure; fines and civil penalties associated with local building, property, maintenance, zoning, subdivision, drainage, sewer, housing, sanitation, or animal code citations, tickets, or violations; any charges incurred by the Town in bringing the property into compliance with the Town Code; weed and grass cutting fees; trash collection fees; costs for laying out or repairing sidewalks; building permit fees, business license fees, and any other assessments, licenses, fines, or penalties pertaining to a specific property.

(b) In the event that the Town Solicitor is employed to bring any legal action in any Court of law or equity on behalf of the Town for the collection of any delinquent taxes or other amounts outlined herein, and if the Town in said action shall recover judgment in any sum, then the Town shall also recover in said action the costs of the suit, including all court costs, sale costs, reasonable and necessary out-of-pocket expenses, and reasonable attorneys' fees incurred by the Town in such collection proceedings. Prior to commencing any collection proceedings authorized herein, the Town shall mail written notice of the delinquent taxes and other amounts to the property owner, which notice shall indicate that the property owner may contest the delinquencies by filing a written appeal with the Town Council within thirty (30) days of the date of the notice.

(c) Whenever it becomes necessary or expedient for the Town to file any legal action or proceeding to enforce compliance with a town ordinance or to prosecute a violation of a town ordinance, if the Town is the prevailing party in such action, the court or administrative agency having jurisdiction shall be authorized, in the exercise of its reasonable discretion, to award judgment to the Town in an amount deemed appropriate by it to reimburse the Town for its costs of prosecution, including court costs, expert witness fees, reasonable attorney's fees, and other documented out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with such prosecution; provided, however, that in order to recover such amounts under this section, the Town shall, prior to the filing of such legal action or proceeding, make written demand upon the responsible party for compliance with the ordinance, which written demand shall include notice of this provision of the Town Charter.

(d) The collection procedures outlined in this Section shall be in addition to any other collection procedures authorized by this Charter or the laws of the State of Delaware. Nothing contained in this Section shall be construed as a limitation upon the Town's ability to establish and fix fines or other penalties for violations of the laws, ordinances, and/or regulations of the Town of Dewey Beach.

~~(a)~~

~~In the collection of license fees, charges growing out of abatement of nuisances, or other charges due the Town and authorized to be levied and charged against the owner or owners of property within the Town, the collection thereof shall be under the supervision of the Town Manager. It shall be the duty of the Town Manager to collect all such rentals, bills, fees, and charges. He shall, in conjunction with the police force keep the Commissioners advised as to any and all failures or neglects to pay the same.~~

~~(b)~~

~~In respect to the amount of any such license fees, charges growing out of abatement of nuisances, laying out and repairing sidewalks, or other charges due the Town and authorized to be levied and charged against the owner or owners of property within the Town, and which owner or owners of property within the Town shall have failed or neglected to apply the same within the time prescribed by the provisions of this Charter, or a duly adopted Ordinance of said Town and should the required procedure, if any there be, have been complied with as regards the imposition thereof against such owner or owners, the Town Commissioners shall issue a warrant to the Town Manager directing him to collect the same against the person or persons, firm or firms, corporation or corporations from which it shall be due, together with interest from the due date and other charges attendant~~

~~thereto. Thereafter, from the date of the issuance of any such warrant or warrants, the amount or amounts therein provided shall be and constitute liens upon the respective property or properties of such owner or owners upon which or for which any such rentals, bills, fees or other charges shall have been made and such liens shall, for a period of two (2) years from the date of such warrant or warrants, have priority over any liens, encumbrances or conveyances except tax liens, general or special sewer assessment liens and prior liens of a like nature.~~

~~(c)~~

~~Nothing contained in this Section shall be construed as a limitation upon the Commissioners of Dewey Beach to establish and fix fines, or other penalty, in a proper case, for neglects or failures nor shall any fines imposed by a judicial officer with reference to any such neglects so enrolled or failures be construed as being within the provisions hereof. (70 Del. Laws, c. 191, 7/10/1995)~~

## **Section 25 Removal of Obstruction, Nuisances, and Unsanitary Conditions.**

~~(a)~~

~~In addition to the power to impose fines and penalties for the maintenance of obstructions, nuisances, and unsanitary conditions, as those terms may be defined by the Commissioners, if the Commissioners either upon their own inspection or upon information obtained from the Town Manager or Police Force, shall deem that such obstruction, nuisances, or unsanitary condition ought to be removed or abated as the case may be, the Commissioners shall enact an ordinance or adopt a resolution or both, to that effect and thereupon shall direct the Town Manager to forward, to the person or persons continuing or causing such obstruction, nuisances, or unsanitary condition, or to the person or persons who are responsible for its existence or continuance, by the mails of the United States, in a sealed wrapper addressed to his or their last and best known post office address, a notice to remove or abate the same as soon as may be possible. If such person or persons refuse or neglect, for the space of five (5) days after such notice is mailed, to remove or abate the same, the Commissioners may have a warrant issued in the name of the Commissioners of Dewey Beach. The warrant shall command him forthwith to remove or abate such obstruction, nuisance, or unsanitary condition. The Town Manager shall forthwith proceed to remove or abate the same and, to that end, he shall have full power and authority to enter into and upon any lands and premises in the Town. He shall likewise have the authority to take with him such assistants, implements, vehicles or other things as may be necessary and proper to do and perform all matters and things in connection with the removal or abatement of such obstruction, nuisance, or unsanitary condition.~~

~~(b)~~

~~At the meeting of the Town Commissioners next succeeding the delivery of the warrant to him, the Town Manager shall make a return to the Commissioners of his proceedings upon the warrant and shall specify the costs and expenses of all necessary work, labor, and proceedings incurred by him in the abatement or the removal of the same.~~

~~(c)~~

~~At such meeting, the Commissioners shall determine, from the return of the Town Manager, the costs and expenses of all necessary work, labor, and proceedings in reference to the abatement or removal of such obstruction, nuisance or unsanitary condition. The Commissioners shall issue or have issued a warrant, containing an itemized account of that information, together with the name and last and best known address of the person from whom the Commissioners shall determine the amount to be due and shall deliver such warrant to the Town Manager. The warrant shall command him forthwith to collect the amount stated to be due thereon from the person or persons designated therein. The Town Manager shall forward to such person or persons, in a sealed wrapper, a true and correct copy of the warrant by depositing the same in the United States mails and addressed to such person's or persons' last and best known post office address. If such person or persons shall refuse or neglect to pay the same to the Town Manager for the use of the Town within thirty (30) days from the date of the mailing of such true and exact copy of the warrant, the Town Manager shall then be authorized and required to collect the same in any of the manners hereinbefore provided. **(70 Del. Laws, c. 191, 7/10/1995)**~~

The Town Council is authorized to define, prevent, abate, and remove all nuisances, obstructions, unsanitary conditions, or any other condition detrimental to the public safety, health or welfare, whether in the street, squares, lanes, alleys, sidewalks, or in any other public or private property within the limits of said Town; and to cause the cost of such abatement or removal (including, but not limited to its reasonable attorney's fees incurred in enforcement and/or litigation, filing fees, and court costs) to be paid by the property owners, legal entity, or individual causing or permitting the same to exist. The Town may enact ordinances or adopt resolutions to define what constitutes a nuisance, to provide responsible parties due process and rights of remedy, and to enforce the provisions of this section, which may be enforced by imposing such fines and penalties as shall be necessary and proper in the judgment of Council. The remedies authorized by this section shall be in addition to any other applicable remedies available in the Charter.

## **Section 26 Borrowing Money and Issuance of Bonds.**

(a)

The ~~Commissioners of Dewey Beach~~ Town Council may borrow money, which in the aggregate shall not exceed ~~three~~<sup>one</sup> million five hundred thousand dollars (\$~~31~~<sup>1</sup>,500,000) unless approved by referendum., ~~and t~~ To secure the payment of the same, the Town Council is hereby authorized and empowered to issue bonds or other kinds or forms of certificate or certificates of indebtedness pledging the full faith and credit of the Town of Dewey Beach, or such other security or securities as the ~~Commissioners~~ Town Council shall elect, for the payment of the principal thereof and the interest due thereon. **(69 Del. Laws, c. 45, 6/25/1993)**

(b)

All bonds or other kinds or forms of certificate or certificates of indebtedness issued by the Commissioners of Dewey Beach in pursuance hereof shall be exempt from all State, County or municipal taxes.

(c)

This power or authority to borrow money may be exercised by the ~~Commissioners of Dewey Beach~~ Town Council to provide funds for, or to provide for the payment of, any of the following project or purposes:

1.

Refunding any or all outstanding bonds or other indebtedness of the Town at the maturity thereof or in accordance with any callable feature or provision contained therein;

2.

Meeting or defraying current annual operating expenses of the Town in an amount equal to but not in excess of currently outstanding, due and unpaid taxes, water rents, license fees, or other charges due the Town and available, when paid, for meeting or defraying current annual operating expenses of the Town;

3.

Erecting, extending, enlarging, maintaining, and repairing any plant, building, machinery, or equipment or purchasing of any lands, easements and rights-of-way which may be required therefore;

4.

Defraying the cost to the Town of any other municipal improvement provided for or authorized or implied by the provisions of this Charter.

(d)

In those cases where the power or authority hereby vested in the ~~Commissioners of Dewey Beach~~ Town Council is sought to be exercised for the purpose of

refunding any or all outstanding bonds or other indebtedness of the Town at a rate of interest equal to or less than the indebtedness thereby sought to be refunded and in all instances provided for in subparagraph 2 above, it shall not be necessary for the ~~Commissioners of Dewey Beach~~ Town Council to call a special election of the individuals registered to vote in the Town's Annual Municipal Election ~~taxables of the Town~~ to secure their approval of such borrowing.

~~(e)~~

~~In all other instances the power to borrow money and to secure the payment thereof by the issuance of bonds or other kinds or forms of certificate or certificates of indebtedness for any other purpose or purposes above specified shall be only exercised in the following manner.~~

### **Section 27 Contracts.**

(a)

All contracts for the purchase of materials or for the furnishing of services authorized or permitted by this Charter shall be awarded to the bidder submitting the lowest ~~and best~~ responsible bid; provided, however, that competitive bidding shall not be required in any of the following circumstances:

1.

The aggregate amount involved is not more than ~~Two-Five~~ Five Thousand Dollars (~~\$2,000.00~~ \$5,000.00); such aggregate limit shall be adjusted each year by the change in the All Items Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) from March of the previous year to March of the current year.

2.

The purchase or contract is for personal or professional services;

3.

The purchase or contract is for any service rendered by a university, college or other educational institution;

4.

The purchase or contract is for any service to be rendered by the State of Delaware or any political subdivision thereof;

5.

The purchase or contract is for property or services for which it is impracticable to obtain competition;

6.

The public exigency as determined by the Town ~~Council Commissioners~~ will not permit the delay incident to advertising;

~~The materials to be purchased are to be used to complete a project under the supervision of the Town Mana~~ 8.

7.

The purchase or contract is for property or services for which the Town Council Commissioners determine the prices received after competitive bidding are unreasonable as to all or part of the requirement or were not independently reached in open competition;

9.8.

A public emergency as determined by the Town Council Commissioners exists.

### **Section 28 Limitation of Actions.**

No action, suit or proceeding shall be brought or maintained against the Town of Dewey Beach for damages, either compensatory or punitive, on account of any physical injury or injuries, death or injury to property by reason of the negligence of the Town ~~Council Commissioners of Dewey Beach~~ or any of ~~its~~the departments, officers, agents, or employees ~~of the Town of Dewey Beach thereof~~, unless the person by or on behalf of whom such claim or demand is asserted within ninety (90) days from the happening of such injury or the suffering of such damage, shall notify the ~~Town Manager Commissioners of Dewey Beach~~ in writing of the time, place, cause, character and extent of the injuries sustained so enrolled or damages suffered. Any suit brought against the individual Town Commissioners of Dewey Beach shall be against them only in their capacity as representatives of the Town Government and not as individuals.

### **Section 29 Compendium.**

It shall be the duty of the ~~Commissioners~~Town Manager, at reasonable times, or time, to compile the ordinances, codes, orders, and rules of the Town Commissioners of Dewey Beach. ~~The Town Manager They~~ shall have a reasonable number of copies printed for the use of the officials of the Town and for public information. From time to time, upon the enactment of new ordinances or resolutions, codes, rules and regulations, or upon the enactment of amendments to the same, the ~~Town Manager Commissioners~~ shall enroll the same in the minutes of the Town ~~Council Commissioners~~ and shall keep copies of the same in a book to be provided for that purpose so that the same may be readily examined. ~~The Town Manager They~~ shall furnish to the Mayor and Town Commissioners of the Town of Dewey Beach copies of such new ordinances or resolutions, codes, rules and regulations, or amendments thereto thereof as they are enacted; and therefrom may cause supplements to be compiled and printed to any compendium thereof heretofore printed as above provided. ~~The Commissioners may provide for indemnification of elected and appointed official from liability arising out of acts performance in good faith on behalf of the Town.~~

### **Section 30 Investigations and Indemnification.**

(a)

The Town Council shall have the power to inquire into and investigate the conduct of any office, officer or employee of the Town and to make investigations of all municipal affairs, and, for any such purpose or purposes, shall have the power to subpoena witnesses, administer oaths or affirmations and compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, papers or other evidence. The Commissioners may establish policies and procedures governing the potential suspension of officers and employees being investigated by the Town Council.

(b)

Any investigation involving a certified police officer shall be conducted in accordance with the Police Officer Bill of Rights.

(c)

The Commissioners may provide for indemnification of elected and appointed officials from liability arising out of their actions so long as such actions were conducted in good faith on behalf of the Town.

### **Section 31 Survival of Powers and Validating Section.**

(a)

All powers conferred upon or vested in the Town of Dewey Beach or the ~~Commissioners~~ Town Council of Dewey Beach by any Act or Law of the State of Delaware not in conflict with the provisions of this Charter, are hereby expressly conferred upon and vested in the Town of Dewey Beach and/or the ~~Commissioners~~ Town Council of Dewey Beach precisely as if each of said powers was expressly repeated in this Charter.

(b)

Excepting as may be herein provided expressly to the contrary, every and all Sections or parts of Sections of this Act shall become effective immediately upon its approval.

(c)

The authority vested by Section I of this Act in the ~~Town Commissioners~~ of Dewey Beach and the individuals qualified to vote in taxables ~~of~~ the Town of Dewey Beach ~~by Section I of this Act~~ shall apply with equal force and effect to all loans which may be required to raise funds necessary to replace and/or repair all such public property or estate as might have been so destroyed or damaged at a time or times preceding the enactment and approval of this Act as well as at a time or times after the date of the enactment and approval hereof.

(d)

All acts or part of acts inconsistent with or in conflict with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency only.

(e)

If any part of this Act shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, such holding shall not, be deemed to invalidate the remaining provisions hereof.

(f)

This Act shall be taken as and deemed to be a public act of the State of Delaware.

### **Section 32 Effective Date of Act.**

This Act shall become effective on being signed into law by the Governor of the State of Delaware.

### **Section 33 Prohibition on Gambling.**

**(76 Del. Laws, c. 273, 6/30/2008)**

Except for lotteries as conducted by the State and nonprofit charitable gaming as permitted by State Law, gambling shall be prohibited within the Town limits.

Approved June 29, 1981.

**(63 Del. Laws, c. 59, 6/29/1981; 65 Del. Laws, c. 255; 68 Del. Laws, c. 354; 69 Del. Laws, c. 45; 70 Del. Laws, c. 191; 72 Del. Laws, c. 425; 74 Del. Laws, c. 369, 7/19/2004; 74 Del. Laws, c. 370, 7/19/2004; 76 Del. Laws, c. 273, 6/30/2008 77 Del. Laws, c. 29, 5/18/2009; 77 Del. Laws, c. 42, 6/16/2009, 78 Del. Laws, c. 232, 5/1/2012; 78 Del. Laws, c. 346, 7/18/2012)**