

Chapter VII. Merit System

Sec. 7.1 Merit System Established.

All officers and employees in the classified service of the town as described in Section 2 below shall be appointed or promoted on the basis of merit and in conformity with recognized principles of public personnel administration. The merit system shall be administered under the supervision of the Mayor by the Director of Human Resources. Until personnel policies have been adopted under this Chapter the ordinances presently in effect shall be operative.

Sec. 7.2 The Classified Service.

(a) The classified service shall include all appointees to all positions now or hereafter created except the following: Elective officers and persons appointed to fill vacancies in elective offices; members of the boards and commissions; officers appointed by the Council; employees of the Board of Education; the Director of Finance; the Director of Human Resources; the Director of Development; the Corporation Counsel and any part time assistant; the Town Clerk; the Director of Inspections and Permits; the Director of Public Works; the Director of Parks and Recreation; the Director of Youth Services; the Director of Libraries; the Director of Health and Social Services; and an assistant and a personal secretary to the Mayor; persons employed in a professional capacity to make or conduct a temporary and special inquiry, study or investigation; the Judge and any personnel of the Probate Court; and persons employed for a temporary period not exceeding three months.

(b) It shall be the duty of the Mayor to cause to be prepared a statement of the duties and responsibilities of each position in the classified service and of the minimum qualifications for appointment to such positions. These statements shall comprise the classification plan of the town, which shall become effective upon approval by resolution of the Council and which may be amended, upon recommendation of the Mayor, by resolution of the Council. New or additional positions in the classified service may be created and changes in the duties and responsibilities of existing positions may be made, by resolution of the Council upon the recommendation of the Mayor.

(c) A pay plan for all positions in the classified service shall be similarly prepared, adopted and amended.

(d) No later than July 1, 1968 the Mayor shall also cause to have prepared a set of personnel rules which shall provide, among other things, for the method of holding competitive examinations, administration of the classification plan, probationary periods of employment, hours of work, vacations, sick leaves and other leaves of absence, removals, and such other rules as may be necessary to provide an adequate and systematic procedure for the handling of the personnel affairs of the town. Such rules and any amendments thereto shall become effective upon being filed by the Mayor with the Town Clerk. Copies of such rules and any amendments thereto shall be distributed to all members of the classified service.

(e) Any member of the classified service may be removed only for the good of the service and any officer desiring to remove, or otherwise discipline, an employee shall notify the employee in writing of the reasons for the proposed removal or other disciplinary action. The employee charged may request a hearing before the Personnel Appeals Board, which shall within ten days grant such hearing. The Personnel Appeals Board shall make a public finding as to whether or not

the charges are true and as to whether they constitute grounds for removal. The final action in the matter, subject to any statutory rights of the employee, shall be made by the officer having powers of appointment and removal.

Sec. 7.3 Political Activity.

No person holding a position in the classified service of the town shall be required to make any contribution to the campaign funds of any political party or candidate for public office or take any part in the management, affairs, or campaign of any political party further than in the exercise of his or her rights as a citizen, to register as a member of a political party, to express any opinion and to vote. Violation by any such person of the provisions of this section shall be grounds for removal.

Sec. 7.4 Personnel Appeals Board.

(a) There shall be a Personnel Appeals Board, the number of members and terms of which shall be determined by ordinance. The Mayor shall appoint one-third of the members and the selection of the remainder shall be determined by ordinance.

(b) When an employee brings a matter to the Board, the Board shall have the power to require officers and employees of the town to appear and give testimony and present evidence and may hear testimony from other sources.

(c) The Board shall seek to assure that the employment system of the town is fair and equitable and serves the interests of the town while respecting the proper claims of the employees. The Board shall make findings and recommendations in individual cases brought before it and may make recommendations to the council or to the mayor for improvements in the employment system.

