

**Print****Town Charter Revision Commission - Town Administration, Staff, Board/Commission Chairs - Submission #327****Date Submitted: 4/25/2024****First Name\***

David

**Last Name\***

Mann

**Town Department or Board/Commission\***

Design Review Board

**Email Address\***

ondamann@gmail.com

**The following questions are optional:****Are you a resident of Bloomfield?**☒ Yes☐ No**Proposed Recommendation to the Town Charter**

The Bloomfield Town Charter is available

at: [https://library.municode.com/ct/bloomfield/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=CH](https://library.municode.com/ct/bloomfield/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=CH)**What section number of the Charter does your change affect?\***

Sec 501 Department of Public Safety

**Proposed Recommendation \***

Our fire districts operate under legislation from an older time. They have taxation powers and perform administrative services that duplicate that of the town. Management has come under public attack in recent years due to budget and expense policies and the town has no legal oversight. If it is legislatively possible to reassign this function to the town, it would seem beneficial.

**Brief description of the issue addressed by the proposed change:\***

There are three "governments" in Bloomfield: Town, Center Fire District and Blue Hills Fire District. Each have taxation powers and administrative responsibilities. One has to question the benefits of this arrangement.

**Impact of Proposed Change****What benefits will be realized by the citizens and/or government of Bloomfield?\***

Consolidation of fire services under the town department of public safety could reduce costs of any duplications of staff in areas of taxation, finance, personnel, and district management.

**What potential impacts may be associated with the proposal change?\***

Historically, these fire services have mainly consisted of volunteers, although there are many paid firemen. Maintaining service levels with volunteers has become more challenging in recent years and it may be time to restructure and consolidate.

**Can you provide data to assist in validating the impact of the proposed change?**

Recent public dissatisfaction with excessive tax rates and questionable benefits

**Describe any obstacles, costs, or cost savings associated with the proposed change, if any?**

The public acts establishing our fire districts need to be repealed in order to consolidate. The cost/benefits of consolidation should be studied before any action is taken.