

**TOWN OF CHARLOTTE
SELECTBOARD MEETINGS
JANUARY 28, 2008**

APPROVED

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charles Russell, Chairperson; Jenny Cole, Winslow Ladue, Ed Stone, Frank Thornton.

ADMINISTRATOR: Dean Bloch.

OTHERS: Hugh Lewis Jr, Ellie Russell, Robert Mack Jr, Carrie Spear, Alex Cox, Dan Jones, Dorothy Pellette, Linda Hamilton, Larry Hamilton, Dick St George, Chris Davis, Ker Walker, Eliza Plantella, Gary Pittman, Rachel Gill, Charlotte Citizen; and others.

(NOTE: the agenda was heard out of order, but appears in order for continuity)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Russell called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. ADJUSTMENT TO AGENDA

None.

3. HIGHWAY BUDGET FOR FY08-09

Hugh Lewis Jr, Charlotte Road Commissioner, reviewed proposed Highway budget line items that included extraction of material from the shale pit for road improvements, fuel use, and an addition of \$75,000 for gravel roads for a total Highway budget of \$974,000.

Robert Mack Jr, resident, asked if the budget included cutting brush and trees from Meadowside past the Sweeney property, or widening the roadway in the same area. Mr. Lewis explained that some brush and overhanging limbs would be cut, but the bigger trees would be left. The Sweeney barn/shed located close to the roadway prevented widening the road, stated Mr. Lewis.

The Selectboard thanked Mr. Lewis for his input and recommendations.

4. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

None.

5. MINUTES: 07/16/2007, 12/10/2007, 01/14/2008, 01/22/2008, 01/24/2008

MOTION by Ms. Cole, seconded by Mr. Thornton, to approve the minutes of 07/16/2007 as written with corrections/additions as presented.

VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

MOTION by Mr. Ladue, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve the minutes of 01/14/2008 as written with the following corrections:

Page 1, Heading, change the date to read "January 14, 2008", globally correct the names "Mary Mead" and "Carol Miklos";

Page 3, 7th paragraph, change to read "...high hazard/vulnerable sites...".
VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

6. ALEX COX – UVM BICYCLE RACE – 04/19/2008

Alex Cox, UVM Bicycle Club representative, explained a proposed bicycle race and course starting and ending at Mount Philo on Saturday, 04/19/2008, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Resident notification issues would be addressed via flyers and advertisements in the local newspapers.

There was brief discussion regarding a proposed donation to the Charlotte Fire and Rescue departments for providing first aid; traffic enforcement provided by the Chittenden County Sheriff department; the number of racers anticipated at 250-300; and a fee of \$13.00 per race participant, which was used to pay for holding the event and supporting the UVM bike team.

MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve the use of the Charlotte roads for a UVM Bicycle race on Saturday, 04/19/2008, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Cox noted that a Two-rider Abreast Rule permit was applied for.

Mr. Ladue asked what the cost was to the Charlotte Fire and Rescue departments for providing service, and if first aid was a required service. Should the Charlotte Recreation Department receive a fee in the range of \$50-100 for the use of a town asset, suggested Mr. Ladue. Mr. Cox replied that a donation was written into the bike race budget. It is a question of whether a bill was presented, or a donation accepted.

Mr. Mack Jr asked if the bike club would provide insurance.

AMENDMENT by Mr. Stone, seconded by Ms. Cole, to require a Certificate of Insurance naming the Town.

VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

7. DAN JONES – Renewal of flea market lease

Dan Jones reviewed that the previous lease amount was \$2,000 and he also pays for Port-a-Potties and electricity at the flea market.

Mr. Russell noted that the town budgeted \$2,500 for the flea market lease.

It was noted that a lease would be sent to Mr. Jones for signature and that Mr. Jones would return the signed lease with a check for \$2,500.

8. TOWN PLAN – 2ND Public Hearing for readoption of Town Plan with update/amendments

Mr. Russell opened a warned second public hearing for consideration of readopting the Town Plan. A Planning Commission letter was received with comments on proposed changes to the Town Plan.

Linda Hamilton expressed strong support for the Planning Commission comments and suggested that the Selectboard consider a third public hearing in order to fully review the written comments.

Ellie Russell spoke in support of the Planning Commission comments. Scheduling another hearing would be valuable, said Ms. Russell.

There was discussion regarding the timing of warning for a third public hearing, which could be held 10 days before the March Town Meeting 2008; the date that the Town Report would be mailed out to residents (February 22); and if the Planning Commission comments were substantive changes, or not.

The Board reviewed Planning Commission comments.

MOTION by Mr. Stone seconded by Mr. Thornton, to approve the Town Plan to put before the Charlotte Town voters at the March Town Meeting 2008.

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Russell asked if the Board would make a decision to consider the written Planning Commission comments. Mr. Stone pointed out that the draft Town Plan could be approved as is and could be amended later.

VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

9. APPROVE CERTIFICATE OF HIGHWAY MILEAGE

MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Ladue, to approve the Certificate of Highway Mileage for the year ending February 10, 2008 with no amendments.

VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

10. FIRE AND RESCUE – Article for deposit into Fire and Rescue Capital Reserve Fund

Dick St George, Assistant Fire Chief, Chris Davis, Charlotte Fire Chief, and Ker Walker, President of the Fire and Rescue departments, were sworn in.

There was lengthy discussion regarding a proposed March Town Meeting 2008 article related to a Fire and Rescue Capital Reserve Fund request of \$162,000; a suggestion to consider two cents on the tax rate in place of a firm amount of \$162,000; ambulance replacement schedule; and a purchase of a pumper truck via a bond.

There was further discussion regarding the EMT line item (page 2 of the budget), which was changed from \$222,000 to \$214,000

11. BUDGET DISCUSSION; INCLUDING FERRY ROAD SIDEWALK, SALT SHED, REVISION OF PLANNING & ZONING FEES

Following discussion, the Board recommended the following Expenses reductions:

- Selectmen – Legal Expense reduce from \$50,000 to \$30,000
- Town Clerk – P/T Assistant Clerk eliminate
- Planning & Zoning – Planning Consultants reduce from \$12,000 to \$10,000
- Highway – gravel road upgrade reduce by \$75,000
- Town Lands reduce by \$9,900
- Miscellaneous – Charlotte Land Trust reduce to \$5,000, Recreation Path reduce to \$5,000

The total municipal amount to be raised was recalculated to \$2,410,700 for a tax rate of \$0.2105.

12. APPROVE BUDGET FOR FY08-09

MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Ladue, to approve a draft FY08-09 Budget of \$2,410,700 with a tax rate of \$0.2105.

VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

13. APPROVE WARNING FOR TOWN MEETING 2008

MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve a draft Warning for the March Town Meeting 2008 as presented and pending review by the Town Attorney.

Following review and discussion related to proposed articles the article changes suggested included: Article #6 (delete the section "...replacing the 1973 Brush Fire Truck."); Article #7 delete; re-number Article #8 as Article #7 and so on; (new) Article #7 change to read "...will the town vote to raise \$12,000 by taxes for a Senior Center purchase, installation, and direct wiring, of a generator".

Mr. Stone and Ms. Cole withdrew their motion.

Change the word "gymnasium" to "multi-purpose room."

MOTION by Ms. Cole, seconded by Mr. Thornton, to approve a draft warning for the Charlotte Annual Town Meeting 2008 as amended and to be reviewed by the Town Attorney.

VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

14. THOMPSON'S POINT LEASE FOR THE CARE-TAKER'S COTTAGE TO THE THOMPSON'S POINT ASSOCIATION

MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Thornton, to approve a Thompson's Point lease for the Care-taker's cottage to the Thompson's Point Association for a 20-year lease as presented.

VOTE: 4 ayes, 1 nay (Mr. Ladue); motion carried.

15. APPROVE THE HUMANE SOCIETY'S 2008 ANIMAL CONTROL HOUSING AGREEMENT

MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Ms. Cole, to approve a Humane Society 2008 Animal Control Housing Agreement as presented, and to authorize the Charlotte Selectboard Chairperson to sign the agreement on behalf of the Town of Charlotte.
VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

16. APPOINT BOB HYAMS TO THE CHARLOTTE PARK AND WILDLIFE REFUGE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Ms. Cole, to appoint Bob Hyams to the Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge Oversight Committee as presented.
VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

Ms. Cole noted that Jack Pilla was the Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge Oversight Committee Chairperson.

17. APPOINTMENTS TO THE CHARLOTTE HOUSING TRUST FUND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE: John Owen, Allan Jordan, Carrie Spear, Ted Montgomery and Ellie Russell

MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Ladue, to appoint John Owen, Allan Jordan, Carrie Spear, Ted Montgomery and Ellie Russell to the Charlotte Housing Trust Fund Oversight Committee as presented.
VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

18. BILLS AND WARRANTS

The Board signed Bills and Warrants.

19. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Thornton, to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Real Estate Negotiation Matters, and to invite the Selectboard Clerk to attend.
VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

The Board recessed the regular meeting and entered Executive Session at 11:50 p.m.

MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Thornton, to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene the meeting.
VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

The Board adjourned Executive Session and reconvened the meeting at p.m.

20. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Ladue, to adjourn the regular meeting.
VOTE: 5 ayes; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Kathlyn L. Furr, Recording Secretary.

These minutes are subject to correction by the Charlotte Selectboard. Changes, if any, will be recorded in the minutes of the next meeting of the Board.