

**TOWN OF CHARLOTTE  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
MARCH 1, 2011**

**APPROVED**

**SELECTBOARD MEMBERS:** Charles Russell, Chair; Edward Stone, Jennifer Cole, Winslow Ladue, John Owen.

**MODERATOR:** Jerry Schwarz.

Mr. Schwarz, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. in the Charlotte Central School Multi-Purpose Room. The polls were open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Article 1:**     **To hear the reports of the Town officers and to act upon the same.**

MOTION by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Illick, to hear the reports of the Town officers and to act upon the same.

VOTE on Article 1 carried by voice vote.

**Article 2:**     **Will the Town vote to have Property Taxes payable on or before November 15, 2011 and to have payments made to the Town Treasurer under 32 VSA § 4773?**

MOTION by Mr. Krasnow, seconded by Mr. Reynolds, to have Property Taxes payable on or before November 15, 2011 and to have payments made to the Town Treasurer under 32 VSA § 4773.

VOTE on Article 2 carried by voice vote.

**Article 3:**     **Will the Town adopt the Selectboard's budget of \$2,700,420 for the fiscal year July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012 less anticipated revenues?**

MOTION by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Jamieson, to adopt the Selectboard's budget of \$2,700,420 for the fiscal year July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012 less anticipated revenues.

AMENDED by Mr. Rosen, seconded by Mr. Rosenthal, to reduce the line item for Traffic Enforcement from \$40,000 to \$15,000, a \$25,000 difference.

A Call the Question to cease debate was made and seconded.

VOTE on the Call the Question to Cease Debate was carried by voice vote.

VOTE on the Amendment failed by voice vote.

AMENDED by Mr. Blanchette, seconded by Mr. Hughes, to reduce the line item, Trails Reserve Fund, from \$5,000 to zero dollars.

VOTE on the Amendment failed by voice vote.

AMENDMENT by Mr. Brooks, seconded by Mr. Limanek, to add \$5,000 to the Trails Reserve Fund and to restrict the original \$5,000 as a 5 to 1 grant match.

AMENDMENT by Mr. Brooks, seconded by Mr. Limanek, to change "5 to 1" to "4 to 1" grant match.

VOTE on the Amendment failed by voice vote.

VOTE on Article 3 carried by voice vote.

**Article 4: Will the Town vote pursuant to 32 VSA Sec. 3840 to exempt property owned by the Friendship Lodge #24 F & AM located on Church Hill Road from education and municipal property taxes for a period of five years commencing with FY11/12.**

MOTION by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Jamieson, pursuant to 32 VSA Sec. 3840, to exempt property owned by the Friendship Lodge #24 F & AM located on Church Hill Road from education and municipal property taxes for a period of five years commencing with FY11/12.

AMENDED by Mr. Rosenthal, seconded by Ms. Kete, to change the exemption period from five years to one year, and for the Selectboard to investigate what the justification is for exempting the Friendship Lodge, how many Lodge members there are, and what benefits the Town of Charlotte receives from the Lodge.

A Call the Question to Cease Debate was made by Ms. Bradley, and seconded by Mr. Murphy.

VOTE on the Call the Question to Cease Debate was carried by voice vote.

VOTE on the Amendment by voice vote was too close to call per the Moderator. A vote by Division of the House: 99 ayes, 62 nays; vote on the Amendment carried.

Amended Article 4 - will the Town vote pursuant to 32 VSA Sec. 3840 to exempt property owned by the Friendship Lodge #24 F & AM located on Church Hill Road from education and municipal property taxes for a period of one year commencing with FY11/12.

A Call the Question to Cease Debate was made by Mr. Pittman, and seconded.

VOTE on the Call the Question to Cease Debate was carried by voice vote.

VOTE on Article 4 as amended failed by voice vote.

Ms. Bassett called for a vote by Division of the House: 97 ayes, 64 nays; Article 4 as amended carried.

**Article 5: Will the Town vote pursuant to 32 VSA Sec. 3840 to exempt property owned by the Charlotte Grange 398 located on Spear Street from education and municipal property taxes for a period of five years commencing with FY11/12.**

MOTION by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Swennerfelt, pursuant to 32 VSA Sec. 3840 to exempt property owned by the Charlotte Grange 398 located on Spear Street from education and municipal property taxes for a period of five years commencing with FY11/12.

VOTE on Article 5 carried by voice vote.

**Article 6: Will the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenues for the next fiscal year?**

MOTION by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Ms. Rosenthal, to authorize the Selectboard to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenues for the next fiscal year.

VOTE on Article 6 carried by voice vote.

**Article 7: Will the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to use not more than \$405,000 from the Fire & Rescue Capital Reserved Fund for the purpose of purchasing a replacement for the 1990 Fire Dept. Heavy Rescue Truck?**

MOTION by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Mr. Schermerhorn, to authorize the Selectboard to use not more than \$405,000 from the Fire & Rescue Capital Reserved Fund for the purpose of purchasing a replacement for the 1990 Fire Dept. Heavy Rescue Truck.

VOTE on Article 7 carried by voice vote.

**Article 8: To transact any other business proper to come before said meeting.**  
An Advisory MOTION was made and seconded to have the Selectboard investigate using mechanical vote counting machines versus hand counting votes for next year.  
VOTE on Advisory Motion failed by voice vote.

An Advisory MOTION by Ms. Perkins, seconded by Ms. Hughes, to install friendly signage along Ferry Road and Route 7 warning motorists that pedestrians and bikers use the roadways.

VOTE on Advisory Motion carried by voice vote.

Town Meeting was adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Kathlyn Furr, Recording Secretary.